



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

**Kara MacKenzie, who teaches first grade in Echo, stands in line at the faux hospital employment department and learns her employment status from HR person, played by Dr. Phil Mills, of the InterMountain Education Service District.**

## POVERTY: Day added perspective

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shoes.”

According to the latest U.S. Census Bureau data from 2013, 16.5 percent of Umatilla County residents live in poverty. Students who experience economic hardship without technically being below the poverty level are reflected by the percentage that receives free or reduced-price meals at school, which are offered to students whose families earn less than 185 percent of the poverty level. According to the Oregon Department of Education, 63.4 percent of students in Umatilla County qualified in the 2014-15 school year, including 49.4 percent in the Pendleton School District, 65.6 in the Hermiston School District, 70.8 percent in the Stanfield School District and 80 percent in the Umatilla School District.

Any way you slice it, a good percentage of students in any class in Umatilla County have financial challenges outside the classroom.

“There are certain strategies and things that we do that really don’t help (students in poverty),” Liscom said. “Part of it is because I think we don’t really understand what that feels like, what that means. The idea is, by having this simulation, we have a better understanding.”

Beamer said the simulation was based on actual experiences of people in poverty. The participants were assigned specific family roles and incomes and tried to fulfill their basic needs over the course of a simulated month. The exercise took about an

hour. Through interactions with people representing social service agencies, schools, mortgage companies, homeless shelters, police, businesses and other organizations, some of the staff members in the simulation experienced poverty for the first time.

“I thought it was good to let us see the perspective of people in poverty, the things they have to deal with on a regular basis,” Stanfield High School social studies teacher Brad Rogers said. “I guess I kind of understood some of the things that they went through, but I’ve never really thought to the extent of how difficult it is.”

Rogers said he plans to be more empathetic this year when students request additional time to complete an assignment when they had to care for siblings while parents were working.

Laura Eddy, who teaches fourth and fifth grades at Stanfield Elementary School, said she doesn’t often think about poverty. After the simulation, however, she said she could pinpoint students who were in her class last year that struggled because of economic issues. She said she plans to evaluate her classroom structure and homework policies.

“Last year, I had a lot of students who didn’t turn in homework,” she said. “Is there any way that I can do homework that’ll meet the needs of those students who that isn’t a priority for because they just want to get through? How can I find a way to compromise with them so they’re getting this skill while recognizing that there is a challenge?”

## ODOR: Implications in Pendleton unclear

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subjecting others to a “physically offensive condition.”

After the officer found graffiti supplies in his apartment, Lang was charged with four counts of criminal mischief and was eventually convicted of three counts in Benton County Circuit Court.

Lang appealed his case to the Court of Appeals, which sided with Lang and reversed the circuit court decision.

In the written ruling, a panel of judges delved into the minutia of how a smell could be considered “physically offensive.”

“Physical offensiveness is not established by the fact that the odor may be associated with substance abuse or criminal activity,” it states. “Although a person could be offended as a result of those associations, that offense is moral or intellectual in nature, not physical.”

The ruling states that while some smells are objectively offensive — like rotten eggs and raw sewage — other scents are more subjective.

Where the odor is experienced and its intensity were also factors that needed to be considered, the court wrote.

In a key passage, the court refused to declare marijuana odor inherently offensive.

While acknowledging that the odor entering the homes of Lang’s neighbors weighed in favor of concluding that the odor was offensive, the panel wrote that the affidavit to the officer presented to the court didn’t establish whether the odor was intense and persistent.

It is unclear whether the Court of Appeal’s ruling will invalidate Pendleton’s

marijuana odor ordinance or require significant changes to its language.

Police Chief Stuart Roberts and City Attorney Nancy Kerns were unavailable for comment. City Manager Robb Corbett declined to comment because he was unfamiliar with the ruling.

There are some differences between the particulars of the Lang case and the city ordinance.

The Philomath case dealt with the interpretation of a criminal statute, while Pendleton’s law is a noncriminal ordinance imposed by the city and not the state.

Additionally, the intent of the ordinance was to prohibit odors that arise from the drying of marijuana plants, although the text of the ordinance doesn’t distinguish between odors that are derived from marijuana drying and marijuana smoke.

The odor ordinance was passed by the Pendleton City Council May 19 after Roberts reported that several residents who were growing medical marijuana were drawing odor complaints from their neighbors.

One of those complaints was from Southwest Marshall Avenue resident Mike Arbogast, who said the marijuana scent emanating from his neighbor’s house was permeating his house and car.

At the time, Roberts said marijuana pungency was in the nose of the beholder.

“I’m not going to talk about the intensity,” he said. “It’s a very subjective standard in terms of whether people are offended by it or not.”

## FAIR: Music filled the afternoon at the county fair

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she was three years old and as a small child won the Oregon State Fair talent show with dance partner Liam Moore. She said she came to the Morrow County Fair because she wants a shot at another title, and because she loves a chance to tap dance onstage.

“I like the noise it makes,” she said.

The girls weren’t the only ones to utilize the Morrow County Fair stage on Thursday. A performance from a group of fiddle players kicked off the morning.

Bob Stevens of Hardman said the unnamed set of nine musicians jamming on a variety of string instruments was a loose-knit group from around Eastern Oregon that share a love of music and perform together in a variety of settings.

“When you need a group of people you start working



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

**Ireland Martin, 11, belts out “Heart of Dixie” with Briget Wizner on Thursday during a talent show at the Morrow County Fair.**

the phones and see who you can get,” he said.

Since they hail from everywhere from Pendleton to John Day they don’t really get together to practice, he said, but they’re good at winging it. On Thursday the players took turns choosing

songs to lead, rolling out renditions of “You Are My Sunshine,” “Blue Suede Shoes,” “Tom Dooley” and a variety of other songs.

Stevens said he taught himself to play various stringed instruments, starting with the old fiddle his uncle

gave him when he was 10 years old.

“I don’t read music. Most of us don’t,” he said. “We just have fun.”

Fiddle player Bill Myers of Hermiston agreed about having fun.

“It’s a great social atmosphere,” he said. “Music is therapeutic. Music is fun. Did you notice everyone joking and smiling and teasing one another?”

Emma Miller, Oregon’s state dairy princess, handed out Tillamook ice cream later in the afternoon.

Miller, who is originally from Independence, has been in Morrow County for events before and said she hopes some of the girls she spoke with at the fair consider applying to be a dairy princess.

“Morrow County produces the most milk in all of Oregon,” she said. “We thought it would be great to have a princess from Morrow County.”

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