



EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

139th Year, No. 233

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

HERMISTON

New flag ties largest in state

Oh say, you can see it from the interstate

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Drivers entering Hermiston via Westland Road are being greeted by a massive American flag visible from the interstate after Cathy and Lawrence Pedro added a 100 foot pole to their yard last Thursday.

The flag is 30 feet by 60 feet and weighs 90 pounds. It ties the ones flown at the Erickson Aircraft Museum in

Madras and the Forest Grove memorial flagpole as the biggest flag flown in the state of Oregon.

Cathy said it was the biggest one her husband could find for sale. It towers over several other large flags in town, including the 18 by 25 foot one owned by Glenn and Erin Chowning that has become a landmark on Orchard Avenue.

"You can see it for miles, especially at night when it's all lit up," she said. Supporting such a large flag is no

easy task. Cathy said the family had to hire an engineer and then hire contractors to dig a 20 foot deep hole and install a wide culvert full of cement and rebar to create the base for the pole before using a crane to erect the 100-foot rod.

They plan to complete the project by adding permanent spotlights and a circular cement driveway that pulls around the pole, and Cathy said Lawrence wants to add a plaque and landscaping to turn the flagpole into a memorial tribute to his grandparents.

See **FLAG/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Cathy and Lawrence Pedro are flying one of the largest U.S. flag that money can buy at their home Monday on Westland Road west of Hermiston. The flag measures in at 60 feet by 30 feet and can be seen from Interstate 84.

"It's like feeling lost in a familiar place."

— **Shawna Kirk**, stroke survivor



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Stroke survivor **Shawna Kirk** demonstrates a sitting leg exercise at a meeting of the Rebounders on Thursday in Pendleton.

Bouncing back after a brain injury

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

They call themselves the Rebounders.

Most of the people sitting in the circle last week had all suffered strokes or traumatic brain injuries. Like fingerprints, no two brain injuries are the same, but many of the Rebounders struggle with similar challenges — foggy memory, balance issues and clunky cognitive functioning.

The gathering began with the usual mantra.

"I am better than I was yesterday, and I will be better tomorrow than I am today," they intoned.

Two survivors — Shawna Kirk and Larry Salina — led the meeting this day. They started with physical movement. Together, the members circled their arms, twisted their torsos, gyrated their hips and shared a huge belly laugh. They chatted about music therapy, brain games, goals and the importance of social

See **REBOUNDERS/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Speech pathologist Ailea Villanueva asks the Rebounders group if they know any celebrities with traumatic brain injuries during a meeting in Pendleton.

Bass anglers give cold response to warmwater regs

Bag limits to end on three rivers

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

Bud Hartman can sense 55 years of progress beginning to unravel.

As one of the original members of the Oregon Bass and Panfish Club in 1958, Hartman, of Portland, fought for the state's first ever bag limits on bass fishing to protect the species from overharvest.

On Sept. 4, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved sport fishing regulations for 2016 that includes removing bag limits on all warmwater fish — including bass, walleye, crappie, panfish and catfish — in the Columbia, John Day and Umpqua rivers, leaving Hartman deflated.

"I've been at the forefront of making sure these fish have the right to exist in Oregon," he said. "As of last Friday, I felt like all of these efforts we put in have all been in vain."

Hartman, who attended the commission's meeting in Seaside, said he felt his arguments against ending bag limits on warmwater fish fell on deaf ears. He isn't worried the fisheries will become overly degraded, but said it simply sends the wrong message to anglers.

"To me, it devalues the resource," Hartman said. "It says to the angling public that (these fish) don't mean anything."

Eighteen percent of Oregon fishermen said they consider themselves primarily warmwater anglers, according to a 2006 survey by the state Department of Fish & Wildlife. Another 26 percent said they fished for warmwater species at some point during the past year.

When it comes to bass fishing, Oregon has become a world-class destination. Last year, Bassmaster Magazine ranked the Columbia River 14th in its list of top 100 places to fish for bass in the U.S., while Field & Stream Magazine also named the John Day River as the best smallmouth bass river in the West in its May 2015 issue.

Lonnie Johnson, conservation director for the Oregon Bass Angler Sportsman Society, or B.A.S.S., said most bass fishermen are catch-and-release only, removing bag limits

See **FISH/3A**



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Emery Kordatzky, 6, stands patiently as a strap is adjusted during the 5th Annual Kidz Pow Wow on Saturday at Tamastslikt Cultural Institute.

MISSION

Pint-size dancers find their rhythm

Event offers low-key introduction to powwow

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

Tiny dancers got their chance to shine Saturday at the fifth annual Kidz Pow Wow.

One-year-old Alex Allen clutched his older sister's hand and made his way slowly around the large room with the other dancers during the opening group circle dance. They moved in time to loud drumbeats and singing that pierced the usual quiet of the

Tamastslikt Cultural Institute. Little Alex seemed lost in wonderment, his eyes wide at the avalanche of sensory input.

Alex's dad, Leland Allen, watched with a smile. The single father of three had brought his children from their home in Lapwai, Idaho, to attend.

"They dance for fun," he said, of his children, Alex, Olivia and Lewis. "It makes me feel good to watch them. It makes me feel proud."

Organizer **Cassandra**
See **POW WOW/3A**



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Olivia Allen, 7, holds the hand of her little brother, Alex, during the 5th Annual Kidz Pow Wow on Saturday at the Tamastslikt Cultural Institute.

