

HERMISTON

Siblings team-up for terrific costumes

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Plenty of kids wouldn't be caught dead matching clothes with their brother or sister, but sometimes the sibling rivalry is suspended in the name of Halloween.

During the Treats on Main event in Hermiston on Friday there were plenty of examples of siblings in coordinated costumes.

Riley Campbell, 9, was gathering candy dressed as Princess Leia, complete with the Star Wars character's signature "cinnamon roll" hairstyle. Her brother Tyler Campbell, 7, accompanied her as Darth Vader.

Riley said it was her

idea to dress as rival Star Wars characters, because Star Wars is "really cool." She and her brother have come up with coordinated Halloween costumes from movies before, including the Wizard of Oz.

"We were Scarecrow and Dorothy," she said.

Sometimes the coordination is the parents' idea. Twins Zoey and Avery Timmons, age two, were dressed as a chicken and an egg, with Zoey sporting yellow chicken feet improvised from a pair of rubber gloves.

"They were in vitro, so you don't know which came first, the chicken or the egg," Karen Timmons



Staff photo by Jade McDowell
Evelyn Christensen, left, and Landry Christensen dressed as peanut butter and jelly for Hermiston's Treats on Main.

said, explaining how the two costumes went together.

Lindsey Hector said she dressed Evelyn Christensen, 4, and Landry Christensen, 3, up as peanut butter and jelly because the two of them are best friends, the kind that go together "like peanut butter and jelly."

"Last year they were presents. This year I thought 'I should dress them up as peanut butter and jelly because they do everything together,'" she said.

JaCory Harris, 4, and his brother JaQuan Harris, 2, were dressed as Mario and Luigi, representing their favorite video game characters. And real-life sisters Hailey and Whitney McKay,

ages 5 and 7, were dressed as sisters Elsa and Anna from the movie Frozen.

In some cases mom and dad got in on the act. Jacob, Hannah and their son Jaden Galbraith were a family of minions from the movie Despicable Me because Jaden loves the movie.

"I got him the minion costume and then thought, 'Why not have us all be minions?'" Hannah said.

As they passed another small minion accompanied by her own parents someone shouted "Look, I found your family!"

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Staff photo by Jade McDowell
Twins Avery and Zoey Timmons, 2, dressed as "the chicken and the egg" for Halloween.

PENDLETON

Former councilor opposes ban on pot sales

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

Steve Taylor no longer has a vote on the Pendleton City Council. But if he did, he would vote to allow marijuana sales.

As a member of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission's Recreational Marijuana Rules Advisory Committee, the former Pendleton city councilor is the committee's lone representative from Eastern Oregon.

Ironically, the Pendleton City Council could vote to ban the sales of marijuana at a meeting Tuesday, which would render the rules and regulations Taylor has spent the past several months working on irrelevant in Pendleton.

Taylor said he went into the committee appointment with an open mind and has come to find many of the perceptions about legal marijuana sales untrue.

Taylor said he spoke with marijuana retailers and local officials in Gold Hill and

North Bonneville, Wash., neither of which reported public safety issues.

With their state mandated security systems, early closing times and off-site consumption, Taylor said marijuana stores posed a much lesser threat to public safety than bars or taverns.

If he was still on the city council, Taylor said he would support opting into the state regulated sales system. In the event that there was a groundswell of resistance to the idea, Taylor would advocate for the referral of a ban to the ballot, where voters could take their time to research the issue.

Taylor didn't buy the argument that a local ballot measure would be a simple rehash of Measure 91, which 55.7 percent of Pendleton voters rejected. While Measure 91 was a vote to legalize marijuana, Taylor said a city ballot measure would cover a totally different issue. Under Oregon law, cities and counties can ban sales, but consumption, possession

and personal grows can't be prohibited.

The last time the city council voted on marijuana, it voted 5-3 to direct City Attorney Nancy Kerns to draft a ban of recreational and medical marijuana sales.

Councilor Al Plute voted against the ban and has been vocal in his support of finding new sources of revenue for the city, which he thinks could include marijuana sales.

Taylor said Plute's unwavering support for locating new revenue streams has created some common ground between Taylor and the man who beat him in a council race in 2010.

"I haven't always agreed with Plute, but he now holds the position I had for 16 years (on the city council)," said Taylor.

The council will also enable system development charges for water, sewer and stormwater drainage, which is the next procedural step for the city to create a one-time charge for developers based on the building's impact on

utilities.

The charges won't be implemented until the council adopts rates at a later date.

The meeting will be at the council chambers in city hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Avenue, Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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Wyden to address solar tax credit

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
East Oregonian

After Congress passed a two-year budget deal early Friday morning, Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden said he is shifting focus to fixing tax breaks for renewable energy.

That work includes revisiting a potentially vital provision for the federal solar Investment Tax Credit, which would allow solar companies to qualify once they have started construction. As it stands, projects are only eligible for the credit if they are finished and in operation.

Wyden, who serves as the ranking democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, said it is extremely important to address the solar ITC, which was not included in a tax extenders bill that passed the committee in July.

However, Wyden said there is still time to get something done before the bill makes it onto the Senate floor. He expects negotiations will take place in the next few days.

"There is no question in my mind that important Eastern Oregon communities like Arlington would take a real hit if this doesn't get resolved," Wyden told the East Oregonian on Friday.

Columbia Energy Partners and PacifiCorp have proposed a 2,000-kilowatt solar project in Arlington. Gilliam County Judge Steve Shaffer spoke with Wyden about the importance of developing solar energy during the senator's town hall visit Oct. 11 at Arlington City Hall.

"I'm not sure how long we are going to be able to rely on hydro as our main source (of power)," said Shaffer. "I think if we can just help (solar) get off the ground, we can get a return

when we really need it."

The solar ITC covers 30 percent of the cost for homes and businesses to install solar panels, though it is slated to start phasing out at the end of 2016. Bryan Miller, co-chair of the Alliance for Solar Choice, said the credits have revolutionized the rooftop solar industry since they were passed in 2006.

Using data from Bloomberg New Energy Finance, the Solar Energy Industries Association predicts the U.S. would lose more than 80,000 solar jobs in 2017 alone without the ITC.

Wyden said the solar industry is primed for growth and could be a major jobs producer for Oregon. He threw his support behind the credit, as well as the "commence construction" provision.

"I'm committed to getting that in, too," he said.

In the long-term, Wyden is pushing for broader reform in clean energy tax incentives, taking 44 individual tax breaks now and boiling them down to three: incentives for clean electricity, clean transportation fuel and energy efficiency.

That comes as part of a joint energy bill sponsored by Sens. Maria Cantwell, D-Washington, Harry Reid, D-Nevada, and Chuck Schumer, D-New York.

"This bill is built around the proposition that the law ought to reward clean energy with incentives that spark innovation in the private economy," Wyden said.

Solar power remains relatively sparse in Oregon, accounting for just .02 percent of the state's energy mix. Hydroelectricity is the largest power source, at 44.7 percent.

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Demolitions could shake up Boardman bombing range

Residents may see dust clouds or feel the ground shake during explosive demolitions Tuesday Nov. 3 through Thursday Nov. 5 at the U.S. Navy's Boardman Bombing Range.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment Northwest from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington, will conduct explosive demolition operations at the range. The work will take place during daylight in the central section of the range, according to a statement from the Navy, and will not pose a threat to people or property.

Anyone with questions or concerns can contact the Whidbey Island public affairs office at 360-257-2286.

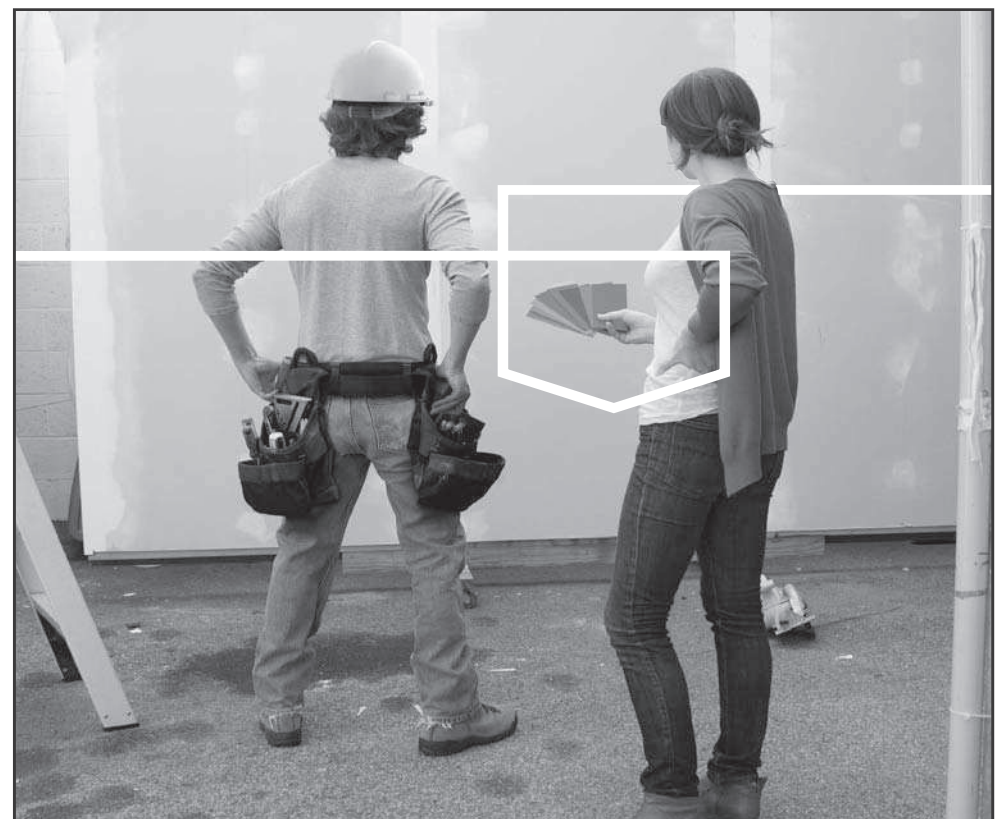
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