

**FIRE CHIEF LISTS SIX POSSIBLE STATION SITES**  
REGION/3A



**CAVS STAY ALIVE IN GAME SIX**  
NBA FINALS/1B



**Philadelphia approves soda tax**  
NATION/9A

# EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2016

140th Year, No. 175

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## Your Weekend



- Pendleton Relay for Life at Sunridge track
- 'Milton' at McLoughlin High School auditorium
- Louis Romanos Jazz Quartet at PCA

For times and places see Coming Events, 6A

## Catch a movie

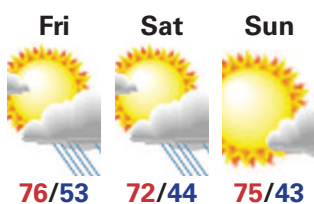


Pixar/Disney via AP

Everyone's favorite blue fish returns to the big screen in "Finding Dory."

For showtime, Page 5A

## Weekend Weather



## Home visit between Courtney, Brown a mystery

By HILLARY BORRUD  
The Oregonian

SALEM — Two weeks before Gov. Kate Brown unveiled her plan for spending billions of dollars in new revenue, assuming a controversial corporate tax measure passes this fall, she did something unusual. On a Sunday, she dropped by Senate President Peter Courtney's home for an informal meeting.

Did they discuss Brown's spending plan for the tax measure, known as Initiative Petition 28? What about a special legislative session meant to provide an alternative to the union-backed measure? Neither camp will say yes. Or no.

"We talked about life, and I'm gonna leave it at that," said Courtney, D-Salem,

See MEETING/10A

# SCHOOL DISTRICTS DECIDE IT'S TIME TO CHECK THE LEAD



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

No area school districts were testing for lead in the water, until recent news reports from Portland.

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Eastern Oregon schools will test their water taps for lead, joining a scramble of other Oregon districts who are doing the same.

How long it will take and how much it will cost is unknown — as is the presence of lead in the water.

Federal law does not require schools test for lead, and Oregon law only requires schools with their own water supply to do so. Most districts in Oregon use city water systems, which handle their own testing.

On June 8 the *East Oregonian* asked Blue Mountain Community College and 12 school districts in Umatilla and Morrow counties for test result records and policies. The response was almost universal: with no law requiring on-site testing, there have been no tests nor policies.

Mark Mulvihill, superintendent of the InterMountain Education Service District, said a state law is coming and schools will test this summer.

"It isn't a good answer to say it wasn't a state requirement, but that is what the answer is," he said. "This is all new for us, and we have to do it right ... and we have to be transparent with those results."

Schools are hurrying to test in the wake of large amounts of lead found in the Flint, Michigan city water supply and, more recently, in Portland public schools. The ESD in a written statement Tuesday reported the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority in mid May requested that all school districts that get drinking water from public systems test for lead in school buildings. While public systems test on a regular basis and treat water to help reduce corrosion, lead in pipes and fixtures can enter the water at the tap and later into anyone who drinks from it.

"As a parent, I think, 'Why didn't they have their act together?'" Mulvihill said. But before Flint and Portland "were any of us thinking about lead levels?"

Now local districts will test every tap, he said, from drinking fountains in hallways to the faucets in cafeterias and teacher lounges. Outdoor school sites also are on the list, and the districts might have to check places such as the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds, which hosts school events.

Umatilla School District already

See LEAD/10A

## Pendleton without Peterson

Superintendent retiring after 26 years in district

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

When Jon Peterson wakes up July 1, it will be the first time in 26 years he won't be employed by the Pendleton School District.

Peterson announced his retirement as superintendent more than a year ago, and with a successor now in place, his seven-year tenure atop the district is drawing to a close. But Peterson's hiatus won't last long — a newly created position with the InterMountain Education Service District is waiting for him at the start of the new year.

While Peterson is now an influential voice in Oregon education, it's a far cry from his original ambitions. The son



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Pendleton schools superintendent Jon Peterson, who will retire June 30, stands near the entryway for the brand new Hawthorne Early Learning Center.

of a Pendleton superintendent, Peterson said his main professional ambition as a young man was to become a teacher.

He realized that ambition in 1983, and after a few years in Gresham, he returned to Pend-

leton in 1990 and taught math at the high school.

Although Peterson began to ascend the administrative ladder, he was a reluctant climber.

See PETERSON/10A

## ODOT asks for moratorium on oil train traffic

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Transportation has asked the federal government to put a moratorium on oil trains in the Columbia Gorge and certain other parts of the state over concerns about inadequate inspections.

The request follows the oil train derailment in Mosier June 3, which sparked a fire, forced the evacuation of 100 people and spilled oil into the ground and the city's sewer system.

Union Pacific officials have concluded that the metal fastener system that connects the railroad tie to the rail failed, causing the railway to break apart and derailing 16 oil tanker cars. The federal railroad administration is conducting its own investigation into the cause.

Inspections and tests by the state and Union Pacific in the days leading up to the

See TRAINS/10A



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