



**PENDLETON  
ON A  
STREAK**  
LITTLE  
LEAGUE  
PAGE 1B



**OIL TRAINS BACK  
ON TRACKS IN  
GORGE**  
NORTHWEST/7A

# EAST OREGONIAN

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## If you grow it, they will come

Agritourism workshop focuses on 'Oregon's Rugged Country'

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**  
*East Oregonian*

Umatilla and Morrow counties are home to a sweeping variety of agriculture, from rolling wheat fields to colorful orchards and rugged cattle ranches.

State tourism officials say those same farms could become a major selling point for visitors wanting to see (and taste) the authentic Oregon experience.

Travel Oregon, along with the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association and Northeast

Oregon Economic Development District, hosted a pair of workshops Tuesday and Wednesday to teach farmers ways they can attract tourists while sustaining their normal operations.

The melding of agriculture and tourism, or "agritourism," is not a new concept. Activities can include things like U-pick fields, farm stands and horseback riding. Alexa Carey, destination development specialist for Travel Oregon,

See **AGRITOURISM/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
**A kindergarten student picks out a pumpkin while on a 2015 field trip with his classmates from Sunset Elementary School to the Bellinger Farms pumpkin patch in Hermiston.**

## UMATILLA COUNTY

# Homicide upsurge worst in at least a decade

Five cases since August not connected; arrests have been made in all

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
*East Oregonian*

Five people were victims of homicide in Umatilla County in the last year, four this year alone, and three in Milton-Freewater.

The cases are not related. Umatilla County usually has one or two murders a year. FBI crime statistics, local police data and a search of *East Oregonian* records show this is the biggest spike of murder in the county in at least a decade.

Three cases are in the Umatilla County Circuit Court and the other two are in federal court.

•Guadalupe Jose Diaz, 20, died Aug. 1 in Milton-Freewater from what police called a gang-style drive-by shooting.

The district attorney's office charged George Rodriguez Cantu, 23, of Walla Walla, with the murder in Diaz's death, as well as unlawful use of a weapon against another, unlawful discharge of a weapon against another and unlawful possession of a firearm. He had a hearing in court Monday in Pendleton, where defense attorney Robert Klahn said he was still looking for a Spanish-speaking investigator and trying to obtain reports and other relevant documents from the state.

Circuit Judge Christopher Brauer told Klahn to not delay and work with the district attorney's office to go through the documents. Klahn said he should be ready to set due dates for motions — requests of the court — by mid-August.

Brauer kept Cantu's trial on the docket for Dec. 5-16 and set a hearing for Aug.

See **HOMICIDE/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
**McKenzie Brogoitti, 11, Gage Brogoitti, 13, both of la Grande, and Justin Keeney, 16, of Stanfield work on reconstructing computer towers on Wednesday at the InterMountain Education Service District's STEP Summer Tech Camp at Sunridge Middle School in Pendleton.**

## Tech happy campers

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

For the duration of an idyllic summer week, a few dozen kids elected to spend much of it indoors, back at school.

That's the central conceit of the InterMountain Education Service District's STEP Summer Tech Camp at Sunridge Middle School, Pendleton, where district staff hoped to foster the next generation

of technology sector workers in Eastern Oregon.

While the nature of the camp meant attendees spent a lot of time inside the school, good weather on Tuesday allowed campers to participate in a computer assembly activity out in the sun.

Samuel Kerns of Pilot Rock and Gabe Corwin of Athena-Weston only took their eyes away from their project for a few seconds to watch a man operate a remote control heli-

copter before they returned their attention to reassembling a desktop computer.

Both boys had experience taking apart computers, and although they had already put together most of the unit, they were having trouble reinstalling the hard drive.

"Complicated, but entertaining," Corwin mused.

Matthew Miltenberger also

See **TECH CAMP/8A**

## OREGON'S OVERTIME OVERHAUL

# New rules could hit nonprofits hard

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
*Capital Bureau*

Noel Mickelberry, executive director of Oregon Walks, often works weekends when she organizes a fundraiser for the nonprofit organization or works on projects to advocate for protecting Oregonians' "right to roam."

During one such event Nov. 20, Mickelberry led a crew of 30 volunteers in setting up white silhouettes along roadsides to commemorate World Day of Remembrance for Traffic Victims.

Mickelberry's long hours will have to end or be reduced under new federal rules requiring mandatory overtime pay for many

salaried workers who work more than 40 hours.

New rules, effective Dec. 1, require both for-profit and nonprofit employers to pay overtime to salaried employees who receive less than \$47,476 per year, up from a threshold of \$23,660.

Both of Oregon Walks' employees, including Mickelberry, earn less than \$47,476. With a budget of about \$150,000 per year, the nonprofit will have to be careful about keeping employees' hours down, Mickelberry said.

"Fundraising events are a lot of work and require staff to put in a lot of hours leading up to them," Mickelberry said. "We will need to look at either paying overtime

or reevaluating how we run those events. We are very supportive of the changes, but it is affecting the way we think about how we do our work to make sure we are compensating and supporting staff through those times."

The new rules by the U.S. Department of Labor could give up to 4 million Americans a raise, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

President Obama first proposed the changes in 2014 with a memorandum directing the labor department to update the Fair Labor Standards Act overtime regulations. The department received more than 270,000

See **OVERTIME/8A**



Rep. Chellie Pingree via AP  
**Democrat members of Congress, including Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., center, and Rep. Elizabeth Esty, D-Conn. participate in a sit-down protest seeking a vote on gun control measures Wednesday.**

## Democrats take a seat in protest

By **MATTHEW DALY**  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Rebellious Democrats staged an extraordinary all-day sit-in on the House floor Wednesday to demand votes on gun-control bills, shouting down Speaker Paul Ryan when he attempted to restore order as their protest stretched into the night.

The stunning and unruly scene was broadcast live to the world from Democrats' cell phones, feeds picked up by C-SPAN after Republicans shut down the network's cameras.

The sit-in was well into its 10th hour, with Democrats camped out on the floor stopping legislative business in the House, when Ryan stepped to the podium to gavel the House into session and hold votes on routine business. Angry Democrats chanted "No bill, no

See **PROTEST/8A**



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