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EAST OREGONIAN

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One dollar

Ag trade gears up for fight against IP28

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon agricultural industry is gearing up for battle against a campaign to pass a corporate sales tax measure on the November ballot by shedding light on how the tax will affect individual companies and farmers.

Under Initiative Petition 28, the Mt. Angel-based Wilco farm supplies and fuel cooperative faces a 1,388-percent increase in its state corporate income tax bill, from \$168,000 to \$2.5 million per year, CEO Doug Hoffman said.

The tax would apply only to the \$100 million in sales at Wilco Farm Stores in Oregon; direct sales to the cooperative's 3,000 members are exempt, Hoffman said.

The ballot measure targets C corporations, imposing a 2.5 percent tax on their Oregon gross sales exceeding \$25 million. It's expected to raise about \$3 billion a year in new state revenue.

The nonpartisan Legislative Revenue Office says the tax will act largely as a consumption tax, raising prices for consumers and businesses.

The union-backed campaign A Better Oregon says the state needs that revenue to bolster support for education, health care and senior services. Proponents also note that corporations' income tax contributions to state revenue has declined as a percentage from 18.5 in the mid-1970s to 6.7 now, according to a study by the Oregon Public Policy Center.

While the campaign says the tax targets big out-of-state corporations, it also affects

See AG/8A



Enjoy a free trip to the Pendleton Underground Tours.



Bicentennial born

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Matilda Williams of Pendleton shares her birthday with the United States of America. She came into the world July 4, 1976, on the nation's bicentennial.

The *East Oregonian* even ran a small front page story about the birth on the July 5, 1976 edition.

Her parents, Robert and Ruth White of Pasco, were on their way to Hermiston's Good Shepherd Hospital at the time when the car broke down in Umatilla.

"Dad had to walk a mile-and-a-half to get help," Williams said.

The paper reported a nurse from the hospital delivered 6-pound Matilda at 10 a.m. in the car. An ambulance then took mom and baby to the Hermiston hospital.

Williams said her birth is still quite the story to her two daughters, ages 13 and 15, but she also feels a deep connection to the national holiday. She has grandparents that served in the military, she said, and her brother did two tours in Iraq as a member of the Army National Guard.

Significant birthday connection don't stop there in her family, Williams said. Her brother was born on Dec. 25, and a cousin who also has a Christmas birthday gave

See BIRTHDAY/8A



Staff photos by E.J. Harris
Matilda Williams, left, celebrates her 40th birthday with her family in a small backyard BBQ on the Fourth of July in Pendleton. Williams was born on the way to the hospital on the U.S. bicentennial.

More inside
For photos from today's Fourth of July celebrations, see page 8A.



BELOW: A 1928 Model A Ford Roadster Pickup owned by Jim Smootz drives underneath a U.S. Flag on Main Street during the Fourth of July parade in Pendleton.



PENDLETON

Couple celebrates platinum anniversary

By WILL DENNER
East Oregonian

Jim and Carolyn Hendricks have a marital philosophy they believe has kept them together for 70 years.

Jim calls their ability to compromise "rounding off the corners."

"When a situation comes up between (us), instead of being sharp, you have to round off the corners and be mellow," he said.

"But sometimes it helps if you get your way," Carolyn said.

The couple celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Thursday at the Sun Ridge Retirement Community in Pendleton with two of their three children, daughter

See PLATINUM/8A



Staff Photo By Will Denner
Jim and Carolyn Hendricks share a laugh while celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary Thursday

TSPC drafts rule change for teacher-student relationships

Would consider teens 'students' for 90 days after graduation

By ALEXA LOUGEE
East Oregonian

In the wake of increasing sexual misconduct complaints about Oregon teachers, including a former local educator, the line between appropriate and inappropriate student-teacher relationships may soon become better defined.

Since 1994, Oregon's Teacher Standards and Practices Commission has investigated 136 educators for sexual conduct with a student. Fifty-one of those cases have been instigated in the last six years. TSPC is Oregon's licensing agency for all educators, and also takes

See TSPC/8A



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