



EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Grillin' and chillin' at the fair

Karlos Oneal piles grilled veggies on a BBQ beef sandwich at the Piggly's BBQ stand at the Umatilla County Fair on Wednesday in Hermiston. **For more on fair barbecue and the annual barbecue contest see page 8A.**

\$2.7B hike expected for state services

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The cost to maintain existing state services in the next two years will climb by 14.3 percent, or \$2.7 billion, according to budget projections released Wednesday.

The state faces an estimated budget shortfall of \$1.35 billion, according to the report by the Legislative Fiscal Office and Department of Administrative Services.

Personnel and pensions, the state's increasing share of the cost of the Affordable Care Act, rising human services case-loads and inflation are driving the costs, the report states.

The projected cost of maintaining state services in 2017-19 is about \$21.75 billion compared with \$19.03 billion in 2015-17.

Personnel costs alone are projected to increase by 9 percent, according to the report. That includes raises in collective bargaining agreements and salary packages, health benefits and an increase in the rate for the Public Employees Retirement

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Lambs long for liberation, while pigs plot to pilfer

Fair animals keep owners busy thwarting mischief

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Blue the lamb seemed content to lay quietly in his pen at the Umatilla County Fair on Wednesday, but his owner wasn't taking any chances.

"He's had a record of jumping," Olivia Warner, 15, said by way of explanation for the latticework she had added over the top of the three-foot-high pen. "I know he can at least clear five feet."

Warner, a member of the Pilot Rock FFA, had been up since 5:15 that morning in order to clean Blue's pen, feed him, bathe him and put him in a fabric sleeve that will keep him clean until his turn in the spotlight during conformation on Thursday. It's all part of the life of an FFA or 4-H member who is showing an animal at the fair — including keeping them from escaping.

Thanks to the lattice added over Blue's pen, he hasn't escaped at the fair yet — but Warner said he did have a habit of jumping the fence at home.

More inside

Fair announces parade results
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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Lattice fencing is used as a makeshift lid on a pair of lamb pens at the Umatilla County Fair on Wednesday in Hermiston.

"He sticks around, though, because he knows the pen is where food is, and water," she said.

Not everyone has been so lucky. Carly Hoeft, 11, of Pilot Rock, watched her lamb Lenny escape on Tuesday.

"I came in here, and a friend was in the stall, and he jumped the fence and took off running," she said. "I made my friend go get him."

See **ANIMALS/8A**

Irrigation district seeks buy-in for water project

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

The first project seeking to capitalize on new mitigated irrigation water from the Columbia River is taking shape, though its success will ultimately hinge on whether enough farmers buy into the plan.

It's a complicated scenario with many moving parts, but the basic framework would allow patrons of the Westland Irrigation District to buy additional water supplies in order to grow more high-value crops such as potatoes and onions.

A subscription agreement was recently sent to district members, giving them the choice to purchase available water from the Columbia River at a rate of \$1,800 per acre-foot. Payments will be used to install pipes and infrastructure needed to deliver water from the river to the district south of Echo. The subscription deadline is Sept. 1.

Patrons quizzed the Westland board about the project's cost, individual risks and benefits at a special meeting Tuesday. The district is trying to pounce on mitigated Columbia River water through the Northeast Oregon Water Association as part of a region-wide effort to boost agriculture in the basin.

Westland Irrigation District Manager

See **WATER/8A**

PENDLETON

For the love of rock

In 11th year, Rock & Roll Camp adds recording

By **WILL DENNER**
East Oregonian

Pendleton Center for the Arts is vibrating this week with kids congregating around music.

Nearing the end of lunchtime, a band that calls themselves "Lamps and Tables" warms up their instruments to the tune of "The Pink Panther Theme." Upstairs, a gallery of guitarists, bassists, drummers and singers jam together. In a basement nook, counselors and campers brainstorm ideas during a rock journalism course centered around drawing.

These are just a few of the sights and sounds found around the center's

See them perform

The Rock & Roll Camp XI concert is Friday, 7 p.m. on Main Street, between Emigrant and Frazier Avenue.

Rock & Roll Camp, now in its 11th year. Teenagers come from near and far, looking to carve out a niche in a camp that offers many choices to aspiring musicians and rock and roll fans.

This year's camp has 19 counselors and 95 campers, according to Pendleton Center for the Arts

See **CAMP/8A**



Staff photo by Will Denner

Lamps and Tables members Cody Sherman (drums), Hans Muller (bass), Aaron Luke (saxophone) and Landon Thornburg (trumpet) practice at Rock and Roll Camp. More photos online at www.eastoregonian.com



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