

EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

PENDLETON

Lead found at three schools

East Oregonian

The Pendleton School District reported elevated lead levels in three drinking water sources at school buildings.

The district commissioned an initial batch of 27 samples, which indicated that the McKay Creek Elementary School staff room (27.4 parts per billion), Lincoln Primary School staff room (41.4 parts

per billion) and the Pendleton High School concessions stand faucet (24.3 parts per billion) all tested for high levels of lead.

The Environmental Protection Agency states that action should be taken if lead levels exceed 15 parts per billion, and emphasizes there is no safe level of lead in drinking water.

The district has submitted an additional 154 samples for

testing and is closing those drinking water sources until the plumbing and faucets are replaced and retested.

According to the EPA, exposure to lead can cause a variety of health problems, ranging from stomach distress to brain damage.

There are no state or federal requirements for lead testing, but the state recently established guidelines for water

testing, which the district states it followed.

Pendleton Superintendent Andy Kovach said in a statement that the samples cost \$25 each, meaning the initial round of samples cost \$675 and the next round will cost \$3,850.

Kovach said reimbursements from the state could be available this fall for districts that conducted water tests over the summer.

Quick fix offered to keep rural coverage

By ALEXA LOUGEE
East Oregonian

The state of Oregon has sought to suture rural Oregon's growing health care coverage wound.

The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services announced an agreement between the state and several health insurance companies last week. As part of the agreement, some companies will continue providing coverage in counties they had originally planned to leave in 2017.

In exchange, the state will allow the carriers to increase health care premiums even more than initially planned.

Umatilla County currently has access to coverage from seven companies. Four companies, Lifewise, PacificSource, Providence and Regence, had all planned to withdraw coverage from the county and several neighboring counties next year.

The agreement with the state will see two of those companies, Providence and Regence, remain in Umatilla County along with Bridgespan, HealthNet and Moda.

The county will now have five options, instead of three, for individual health care coverage in 2017.

"We are concerned about the shrinking number of options in certain areas of the state, and we asked insurance companies to reconsider their decisions to withdraw," said Patrick Allen, director

See INSURANCE/8A



Olivia Warner of Pilot Rock rests on the back of her market lamb, Blue, while preparing the animal for the youth livestock auction Saturday at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Smiles and tears at youth livestock auction

By ALEXA LOUGEE
East Oregonian

For many Umatilla County youth, a year's worth of planning and work come down to one day — the youth livestock auction at the county fair.

The auction began Saturday at 10 a.m. and continued non-stop until the last animal sold at 3:42 p.m.

The morning started off with the auction of 168 market hogs, followed by rabbits, sold together in two groupings.

After the rabbits came the 43 head of market steers.

"Once you get to my age, it's not cute to cry anymore."

— Olivia Warner, of Pilot Rock

Hermiston FFA member Brady Linnell's steer won grand champion at this year's fair, and Linnell won the championship for steer showmanship. His 1,323-pound steer was the first auctioned and went for \$3.30 a pound.

Then there were the turkeys, the chickens, 13 market goats, and finally 61 market lambs.

See LIVESTOCK/8A



Olivia Warner of Pilot Rock washes her market lamb, Blue, and he protests his bath Saturday before the youth livestock auction Saturday at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

PENDLETON

Turner's panel to provide list of priorities for incoming council

First new mayor in 12 years to be joined by new look council

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

When the Pendleton City Council convenes Jan. 3, 2017, it'll look very different from the one that sat behind the dais a year ago.

Since January 2016, four new people have either been appointed or elected to seats on the council, meaning half the council will have turned over by the beginning of the year.

The city also will get its first new mayor in 12 years when former Blue Mountain Community College president John Turner takes office.

In anticipation of a new era on the council, Turner put together a committee to create new goals for 2017-2019, which met for the first time Monday.

The city has goals in place for 2013-2015, but they range from definitive (increase quality housing by 100 units) to broadly generalized (create a vibrant business and community environment). During the opening of the meeting, Turner said he wanted to create tangible goals with measurable outcomes and wanted to involve a wide variety of people to help create them.

While the committee is comprised of many people already involved with city government, some of the new faces invited to the group tended to reflect their areas of expertise.

One of those new faces is Ben Buchert, a financial adviser from Edward Jones Investments, who wanted the committee to consider increasing office space as one of its goals.

Buchert said the area around Edward Jones' has declined in recent years, but there isn't much

Turner

More inside

For an initial list of the committee's goals for 2017-19 See page 8A

See GOALS/8A

Stanfield teen dies after collision

East Oregonian

A 17-year-old girl from Stanfield died Monday morning at the Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland after her car was struck head-on Friday while she was on her way to work in Walla Walla.

Raychel J. Campana was headed westbound on U.S. Highway 12 near milepost 316, at Nine Mile Hill just west of Touchet, at about 10:59 a.m. when a 1997 Cadillac Seville traveling east crossed the centerline and struck her car, according to the Washington State Patrol.

Walla Walla resident Kasey R. Parsons, 25, was driving the east-bound vehicle, and 27-year-old Brandon J. Bultman-Lowe of Walla Walla was in the passenger seat.

Walla Walla Fire District 6 and ambulances from the Walla Walla city Fire Department responded. Parsons and Bultman-Lowe were taken to Providence St. Mary Medical Center and were discharged Saturday, officials said.

Campana had to be cut



Campana

from the vehicle at the scene and was taken by helicopter to Kadlec.

All three were wearing seat belts, according to State Patrol. What caused the Cadillac to swerve into on-coming traffic was still under investigation and charges remained pending on Saturday.

The teen graduated from Stanfield Secondary School in June.

A GoFundMe page has been set up by friends to help support Raychel's family.

