



VIKINGS BEATS PILOT ROCK
FOOTBALL/1B



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CEASEFIRE **WORLD/11A**

EAST OREGONIAN

SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2016

140th Year, No. 236

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Volunteer Steve Hart, left, and Happy Canyon Director Corey Neistadt take trees off of a forklift Friday while decorating the Happy Canyon Night Show set in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Sawing to set the scene

Night show uses trees from Blue Mountains for authentic backdrop

By **WILL DENNER**
East Oregonian

The scent of pine mixed with chainsaw exhaust Friday as tree after tree fell in the Blue Mountains.

A group of 10 people — and one dog — gathered early on a chilly morning in Meacham to cut down Douglas firs and haul them back to Pendleton.

A lesser-known tradition leading up to Round-Up week, Happy Canyon volunteers go to the Blue Mountains to find trees to fill the arena's backdrop during the pageant.

Lately, volunteers have



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gone to land owned by the Corey family in Meacham, 30 miles east of Pendleton.

Doug Corey said because many of trees on the family property grow too close together, they often don't grow to their full potential. There's plenty of useful thinning to be done, Corey said, are trees that are ideal for the Happy Canyon set.

The hardest part? Finding
See **TREES/12A**



Greg Johnson saws the base of the tree as it falls into the truck bed Friday in the Blue Mountains near Meacham.

Staff photo by Will Denner

Westland farmers hesitant thus far on Columbia water plan

Initial subscriptions come in under minimum required

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

The Westland Irrigation District isn't giving up on a proposal to deliver mitigated irrigation water from the Columbia River, despite a lukewarm commitment from farmers.

The district board voted at

a special meeting Thursday to spend up to \$120,000 on additional plans and permits to keep the Central Project on schedule for the 2017 irrigation season. Patrons were already charged \$30 per irrigated acre a year ago to pay for \$326,000 in engineering studies.

But after nearly half a million dollars spent, the fate of the project is still very much in the air. Initial signups are well below the minimum

See **WATER/12A**

Federal government halts work on part of pipeline

NEAR THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX RESERVATION, N.D. (AP) — The federal government stepped into the fight over the Dakota Access oil pipeline Friday, ordering work to stop on one segment of the project in North Dakota and asking the Texas-based company building it to "voluntarily pause" action on a wider span that an American Indian tribe says holds sacred artifacts.

The government's order came minutes after a judge rejected a request by the Standing Rock Sioux to halt construction of the \$3.8 billion, four-state pipeline.

The tribe, whose cause has drawn thousands to join their protest, has challenged the Army Corps of Engineers' decision to grant permits for the pipeline at more than 200 water crossings. Tribal leaders allege that the project violates

"There's never been a coming together of tribes like this."

— **Judith LeBlanc**, member of the Caddo Nation in Oklahoma

several federal laws and will harm water supplies. The tribe also says ancient sites have been disturbed during construction.

The tribe's chairman, Dave Archambault II, spoke at the state Capitol in front of several hundred people, some carrying signs that read "Respect Our Water" and "Water Is Sacred." He called the federal announcement "a beautiful start" and told

See **PIPELINE/12A**



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