

EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2016

141st Year, No. 12 **WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD** One dollar

HERMISTON



Belinda Smith visits with a pair of Jersey cows that she and her husband, Bob, will use to help start a creamery at their farm outside of Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

SMALL CHEESE



The Smith's milking parlor and creamery facility is nearing completion. The cheese-making equipment is due to arrive this month.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Local couple starting their own creamery

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

It took a little push to get Red, a six-month-old miniature Jersey calf, into the back of a trailer bound for Woodland Park Zoo near downtown Seattle.

"I'm so excited he gets to live out his life on the zoo," said Belinda Smith, who has raised Red from birth on her

10-acre property in Hermiston. Woodland Park staff arrived Tuesday morning to pick up the animal, which will be featured in the zoo's "Family Farm" exhibit where kids can get up close with cows, chickens, donkeys, goats, sheep and pigs.

Smith and her husband, Bob, began raising Jersey cattle about seven or eight years ago. Jerseys are smaller than Holsteins, and known for their high butterfat content in milk. Calves like Red typically sell for at least \$500, Smith said, and she was happy for the zoo to make the 250-mile trip.

See **CHEESE/8A**

PENDLETON

City council rehashes marijuana zoning rules

Restores 1,000-foot buffer between parks, dispensaries

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

If Pendleton voters pass measures Nov. 8 legalizing marijuana sales, there won't be many places retailers can set up shop.

Already confined to the central mixed use and service commercial zones, the Pendleton City Council on Tuesday voted unanimously to restore a 1,000-foot buffer zone between public parks and recreational or medical marijuana dispensaries.

The council also approved the marijuana zoning ordinance as a whole, meaning marijuana retailers could not be located within 1,000 feet of parks, schools and other dispensaries.

City Attorney Nancy Kerns recommended the council adopt the ordinance before the election because the state started accepting marijuana retail applications Oct. 1 and didn't want the city to be left with no regulations if the measures passed.

Even if the measures failed, Kerns said adopting the ordinance wouldn't create a loophole for prospective marijuana business owners to open a dispensary.

Kerns also explained that although staff originally wrote the law with a park buffer included, the planning commission recommended it be stripped because it would be overly onerous on marijuana retailers.

The council adopted zoning regulations for medical marijuana dispensaries in April 2015, including the three 1,000-foot buffers, but kept a ban in place.

See **MARIJUANA/8A**

DHM RESEARCH POLL

Measure 97 losing support

Republican Richardson making gains

By **JIM REDDEN**
Capital Bureau

A corporate sales tax measure is continuing to lose support as the Nov. 8 general election approaches, according to a new poll commissioned by FOX-12.

The poll also shows Kate Brown is on track to be elected Oregon governor, so the likely defeat of the Measure 97 corporate tax increase means she'll face a big state budget deficit next year.

The poll, conducted by Portland's DHM Research, shows that 53 percent of voters oppose Measure 97, while just 40 percent now support it. The level of support had been as high as 60 percent in a DHM poll conducted in September, but it had declined to 45 percent by early October.

Measure 97 would impose a 2.5 percent tax on corporations with more than \$25 million a year in Oregon sales. It would raise \$6 billion per biennial budget cycle. Oregon is facing a \$1.4 billion deficit in the next two-year budget.

The fight over the corporate sale tax measure already has broken state campaign spending records. With more than a week to go before Election Day, supporters had reported raising over \$13 million this year, mostly from public employee unions. Opponents had raised over \$25 million, primarily from corporations. The fund-raising record was previously set during the fight over GMO labeling in 2014, when opponents and proponents raised a combined \$29 million.

In another closely watched race, the poll shows Republican Dennis Richardson has an opportunity to break the streak of Democratic dominance in statewide elections dating back to 2002 by defeating Brad Avakian for secretary of state.

According to the poll, Richardson leads Avakian by a margin of 32 percent to 27 percent. Richardson is favored by nonaffiliated voters by a margin of 30 percent to 22 percent. He also has slightly more support from Democrats than Avakian has from Republicans — 12 percent

See **POLL/8A**

Birds of a feather visit each other

Pair of eagles converge near wildlife rehabilitation facility

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

As Blue Mountain Wildlife Director Lynn Tompkins crossed the compound Monday morning, the dark shape of a large bird caught her eye.

A bald eagle — no, two of

them — soared overhead.

The sight brought an astonished smile to Tompkins' face. Though McKay Reservoir is only a hop, skip and a jump away, she'd never before seen bald eagles in the direct vicinity of the wildlife rescue and rehabilitation facility.

The pair of eagles hung around the compound the entire day, centering their attention on a flight pen that houses two bald eagles, along with a vulture, a crow and a magpie.

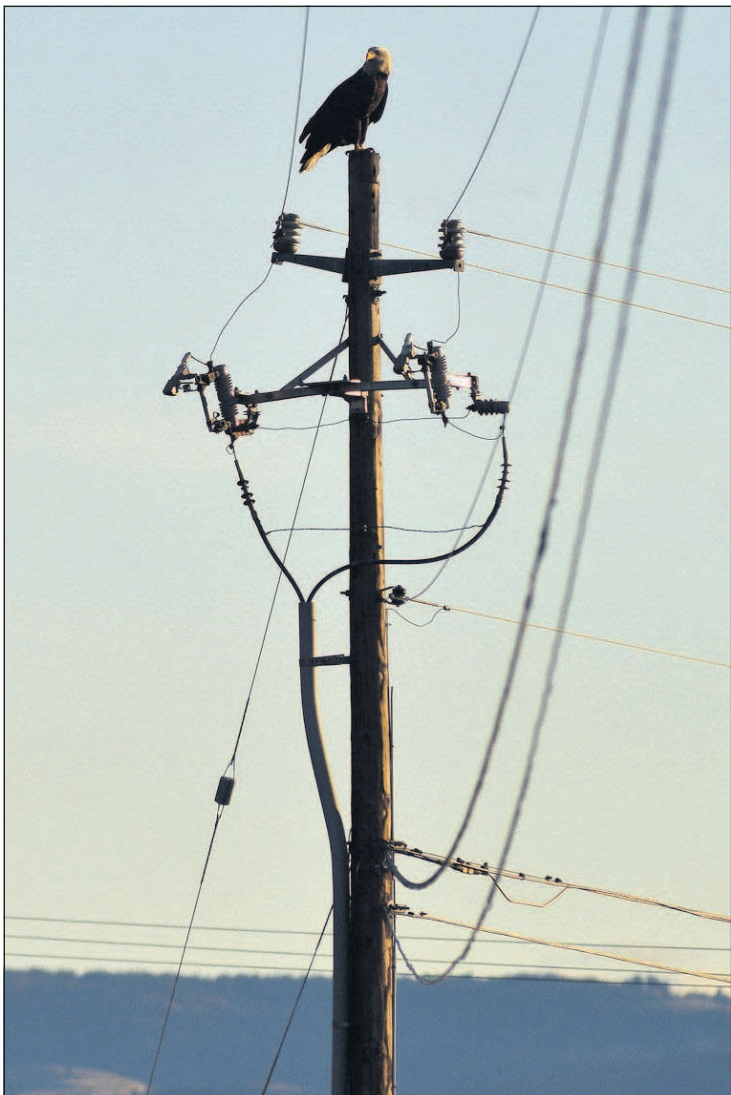
"They were squawking back and forth," Tompkins said. "They spent the entire day here. Every time I went outside, I saw them."

The pair of captive eagles "were bouncing off the walls," she said. They had a good view of their visitors through a mesh shade cloth that serves as the pen's roof.

The visit also roused a red-tail hawk, housed in another building. The hawk vocalized whenever the eagles flew near.

Biologist Carl Scheeler, wildlife program manager for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian

See **EAGLES/8A**



A bald eagle perches on top of a utility pole near Blue Mountain Wildlife on Tuesday south of Pendleton. The eagle is one of a pair of birds that has taken up residence near the wildlife rehabilitation facility.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

