

EAST OREGONIAN

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Barreto named No. 2 Republican in House



Former Pendletonian Jodi Hack appointed GOP's House whip

By **GEORGE PAVEN**
East Oregonian

Heading into his second term in the Oregon Legislature, local Rep. Greg Barreto has been tapped as the second-in-command among House Republicans.

Barreto (R-Cove), who represents District 58 which includes much of Umatilla County, was elected Tuesday by colleagues to serve as deputy leader of the Oregon House Republican caucus. His primary role will be to support Rep. Mike McLane (R-Powell

Butte) who was re-elected as party leader. McLane has been in the role since the 2013 session and was first elected to the legislature in 2011.

Barreto ran unopposed for a second term in the legislature Nov. 8. He also serves as a member of the House Agri-

culture and Natural Resources Committee, House Business and Labor Committee and House Education Committee.

Throughout his first term, Barreto said he focused on building relationships in the legislature, learning how to work bills and work in committees. He said he was honored to have earned the confidence of

his fellow House Republicans.

"It's about working with people, but still standing firm in your convictions," Barreto said.

Looking ahead to 2017, Barreto said the GOP is once again the minority party in both chambers of the legislature — though Democrats did lose

See **BARRETO/8A**

Measure failure leaves hole in budget

By **GORDON FRIEDMAN**
(Salem) Statesman Journal

SALEM — Since voters roundly rejected a corporate sales tax last Tuesday, legislators and the governor have been considering options for cutting the budget and raising revenue.

One plan may be to revive a commercial activity tax on businesses.

What's the difference between that proposal and Measure 97, the tax that failed Tuesday?

Well, about \$2.5 billion per year, for one thing.

Other options being floated by officials include raising already existing fees and assessments, bumping up personal income tax and property tax rates, or a so-called sin tax on unhealthy products.

Lawmakers caution, however, that no proposal is certain.

What is? A \$1.4 billion budget hole. Measure 97 would have more than plugged the hole. Now, officials face the reality of budget cuts and a need for revenue.

Finding a plan that will work is a conundrum with no easy solutions.

Compounding the problem is the fact that business and labor groups — which spent heavily on opposite sides of Measure

See **BUDGET/8A**

HERMISTON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A Umatilla Electric Corporation truck pulls a trailer down Main Street in Hermiston Tuesday. The 32-foot tall spruce tree will serve as the Christmas tree for Hermiston's Winter Festival. It was donated by Larry and Marjorie Davidson of Hermiston and was installed on Second Street in front of city hall.

Oh! Christmas tree

Hermiston spruces up downtown for holidays

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Christmas came early to downtown Hermiston on Tuesday, in the shape of a giant spruce tree now planted in the middle of Second Street near city hall.

The tree will be decked out with

lights and a giant star in time for a tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 1 at 5:30 p.m. that will kick off a month-long downtown Winter Festival.

The ceremony will include live entertainment, food vendors, pictures with Santa and a first look at the light show the city will put on each weekend through Christmas.

Last year was the first year the city blocked off a part of Second Street for the light show. Parks and recreation director Larry Fetter said while citizens appreciated the display and tree, some of them approached the city about helping make the display more impressive this year.

"We learned a lot last year when

we introduced the program and so we're taking it up a notch," Fetter said.

The tree-lighting ceremony will take place during Main Street's First Thursday event, and attendees will be encouraged to go check out downtown businesses that same night.

The 32-foot tree, now anchored in a hole in the asphalt, was donated by Larry and Marjorie Davidson.

PENDLETON

Home sweet home

Hospital provides new locations for warming station, relief nursery

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

St. Anthony Hospital is dispensing a little early holiday cheer to two local agencies — one that provides respite care for kids at risk of abuse and neglect and the other that shelters the homeless on cold winter nights.

St. Anthony is using profits from the 2015 Festival of Trees and this year's upcoming festival to remodel the hospital's former urgent care

clinic at 1312 S.W. Second St. into a new home for Pendleton Relief Nursery. The Pendleton Warming Station will move into the relief nursery's old spot on Court Street.

For now, St. Anthony owns both facilities. Later this month, the hospital will officially donate the one-story building near Til Taylor Park to the warming station. The facility is an upgrade from the city-owned building that was used as a warming station during the past four winters, said Chris Clemons, pastor at the Church of the Nazarene and executive director for Neighbor2Neighbor, which runs the warming station. Homeless

See **MOVE/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Pioneer Relief Nursery will be moving to the site of the former St. Anthony urgent care clinic at 1312 S.W. 2nd Street in Pendleton, starting Dec. 5.

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