

# FARM: EOTEC space allows for more programming

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controlling garden pests such as slugs and snails. Chris Schachtschneider, livestock extension agent for OSU in Umatilla and Morrow counties, led the discussion on poultry while Andony Melathopoulos, with OSU's Pollinator Health Extension Program, talked about basic beekeeping with the group.

The overall goal of the small farm seminar, Sanders said, was to provide something for people who may have felt left out of the Farm Fair in the past.

"A lot of the aim of the Farm Fair is those large producers," she said. "We wanted to target those people with smaller acreages and more diverse production."

Other additions to this year's Farm Fair lineup include a livestock management seminar led by Schachtschneider, and a second session on growing cereal crops such as wheat and canola. Both are slated for Thursday afternoon from 1-5 p.m.

Along with more room for experts to share research, EOTEC has made way for more vendors to showcase their wares at the trade show. Sixty businesses are on hand to discuss the latest in farm technology, and tools to increase yield.

Richard Scott, with Elmer's Irrigation in Hermiston, said it seemed like more people were checking out the booths than in previous years.

"It's been pretty positive," Scott said. "I think they've done a nice job on this



BMCC freshman Jonathan Macias of Hermiston talks with Bruce and Dixie Holomon of Hermiston about potato pyllids, a small insect that can damage potato crops, at an Oregon State University extension office booth Wednesday at the Hermiston Farm Fair.

building. It fits the bill quite nicely."

Kalie Davis, manager of the SAGE Center in Boardman, noticed that with more space, people were more inclined to stop and have longer conversations without feeling like they were in the way or being herded around the room.

"It's definitely easier to navigate in here," Davis said.

Kevin Cochrane, retail account manager for DuPont in Kennewick, said this is his first year attending the Farm Fair. And though he never experienced the event in the Hermiston Conference Center, he said plenty of people were excited about the new setup.

"It's a comfortable spot to



Juan Salamanca, left, and Antonio Echeverria, both of Hermiston, look at the front bucket on a Case tractor Wednesday at the Hermiston Farm Fair.

be," Cochrane said. "It's a lot larger, with room to grow."

The Hermiston Farm Fair continues Thursday and Friday. EOTEC is located

1705 E. Airport Road.

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# STREET: List will be updated for next season

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to detail and clean-up work through mid-December.

Utility fee revenue also helped pay for a \$216,149 crack seal package that covered 64 streets, which Patterson said is almost complete. The city is also doing some pavement work in relation to replacing a water line under Southeast Byers Avenue, which is also almost finished.

Despite some of the shortfalls, Patterson said he was happy with the new process and the work that was done.

The next time around, Patterson said he wants staff to do a better job of informing homeowners to check their utility laterals while the road is torn up for repairs, rather than

have them request a street cut after the repairs are finished.

Patterson said employees are already updating the rolling list for next year, when the needs of underground utilities might complicate the next batch of streets up for repair.

Patterson also said he's going to keep an eye on Salem, where the Legislature could pass a transportation package that includes a state gas tax increase.

Although Pendleton will get a share of any increase in the state gas tax, Patterson warned that it will be produce a much smaller amount of revenue compared to a local gas tax.

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# FAIR: Driscoll hired as sponsorship coordinator

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and said gate sales for CCR were \$58,000.

"In my mind it is difficult to argue we made money," Pahl said.

Though "parallel sales," such as beer and food, make a difference, he said those sales also may have occurred if a different act was on the stage.

The county fair as a whole, though, made about \$40,000 in 2016. Commissioners want to make sure that doesn't change, even though many other things will next year when the fair moves to EOTEC.

The county board voted last week to provide the fair with a "sponsorship/activity coordinator" to oversee advertising, marketing and sponsorships. The new job pays a salary of \$44,026 a year plus benefits.

The board appointed Cindy Driscoll to fill the role. She most recently handled advertising for the Hermiston auto dealer Tom Denchel Ford and used to work in advertising at the *East Oregonian*. She will have an office at the fair's new home in the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, Hermiston.

Creating the new position bumped the county fair's paid staff from 1.5 to two full-time employees.

**"In my mind it is difficult to argue we made money."**

**— Robert Pahl,**  
Umatilla County chief financial officer

However, the county in September cut the fair manager and grounds maintenance worker positions when the fair moved into the event center. The manager's salary was about \$62,200 a year and the maintenance lead made about \$35,200 a year.

Pahl said the county could see some savings in the restructuring, particularly without the annual cost of maintaining the old fairgrounds.

Commissioner George Murdock said while the fair no longer needs a manager, the sponsorships bring in "north of \$150,000" and are critical to the fair's economic sustainability. He said he remains nervous about the county's obligations if EOTEC fails to break even, and he does not want to have similar concerns about the fair.

The county, he said, needs both to cover their costs.

## SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS

Submit information to: [community@eastoregonian.com](mailto:community@eastoregonian.com) or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

# TEST: Trump can reverse Obama approach to pot

Continued from 1A

Oregon has 18 laboratories accredited to test marijuana, but just four are able to test for pesticides.

Other marijuana traits that are tested for include microbial contamination, solvents and potency.

Potency testing has also encountered problems since it became mandatory on Oct. 1, said Rhoades.

Marijuana growers were receiving greatly variable results from different labs, and so were flocking to those providing the highest potency ratings, he said.

"Lab shopping was happening all over the place," he said.

Regulators are now trying to create a standardized testing protocol for potency so growers can expect uniform results, Rhoades said.

Taxes from marijuana sales in Oregon are expected



Jeff Rhoades, senior adviser on marijuana policy to Gov. Kate Brown, speaks to the Oregon Board of Agriculture at its Nov. 30 meeting in Wilsonville.

to be a boon to state coffers, but first the Oregon Liquor Control Commission must be repaid for its extensive work in creating a regulatory system for the crop, he said.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has also been heavily involved in regulations involving pesticides, food safety and accurate scale systems,

additional issues, Rhoades said.

"It's an all-cash business at this point, which creates public safety concerns and tax collection concerns," he said.

Regulators in Oregon and the seven other states where recreational marijuana is now legal were hoping for clarity from the federal government that would enable more banking involvement, he said.

With the recent election and upcoming change in administrations, there's great uncertainty about federal policy, Rhoades said.

The Obama administration's approach — which allows recreational marijuana as long as it's kept out of the black market and away from children, among other measures — can be immediately reversed by the Trump administration, he said.

# FBI: Islamic State group might have inspired Ohio State attacker

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A Somali-born student who carried out a car-and-knife attack at Ohio State University might have been inspired by the Islamic State group and a former al-Qaida leader, investigators said Wednesday.

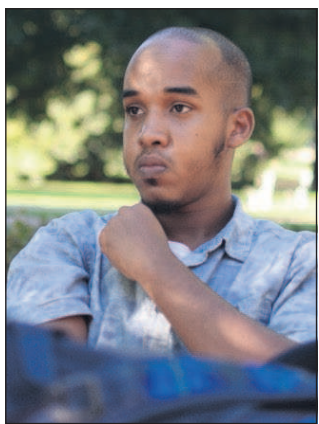
Law enforcement officials said that it's too soon to say the rampage that hurt 11 people on Monday was terrorism. They said they aren't aware of any direct contact between the Islamic State group and the attacker, Ohio State student Abdul Razak Ali Artan.

"We only believe he may have been inspired" by the group, said Angela Byers, the top FBI agent overseeing federal investigations in the southern half of Ohio.

Artan also might have been influenced by Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S.-born cleric who took a leadership role in al-Qaida before being killed in a 2011 U.S. drone strike in Yemen, Byers said.

Al-Awlaki has been cited as inspiration by numerous terror suspects over the years, including the brothers who bombed the Boston Marathon, the Army psychiatrist who killed 13 people at Fort Hood, Texas, and, more recently, the man charged in bombings in New York and New Jersey.

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said investiga-



Abdul Razak Ali Artan

tors are still going through Artan's electronic devices, but it seems clear he was radicalized online.

He also said there doesn't seem to be much time between the onset of Artan's apparent radicalization and the attack, a period known in law enforcement and intelligence circles as "flash to bang." That trend has disquieted law enforcement officials, who fear disaffected individuals are being inspired to violence after being only briefly exposed to radical ideology.

"As long as you have disaffected or alienated young people who are searching for something to belong to, the lure of this radical propaganda will continue to be very dangerous," Schiff said.

Artan did buy a knife the morning of the attack, but police don't know if that was the weapon he used.

# DECEMBER EVENTS

*St. Mary's*  
**HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

**December 10, 2016 at the St. Mary's Catholic Church from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

There will be brunch, lunch and desserts.  
Vendors will be selling a variety of handcrafted items.  
All proceeds will go to support the needy in our community.

A \$1.00 fee gives admission and a raffle ticket.  
Vendor space is available for \$60.00.  
**For more information call 541.276.2751**

**CHRISTMAS TRAINS**  
*on the historic narrow-gauge*  
**SUMPTER VALLEY RAILROAD**  
**DECEMBER 10 AND 11, 2016**

Take a steam-powered trip back in time through a winter wonderland!  
Visit with Santa at the Sumpter depot, warm up with free cocoa, coffee, or cider, go shopping at the Sumpter Christmas Bazaar, and much more! Christmas Trains on the Sumpter Valley are fun for the whole family!

[sumptervalleyrailroad.org](http://sumptervalleyrailroad.org) 541-894-2268

**ICE AGE DAYS**

DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE REACH WINTER BREAK ACTIVITY SESSION!  
DECEMBER 27-29 10AM-12NOON

**REACH MUSEUM**

CURRENT KIDS PROGRAMS  
**LITTLE EXPLORERS STEAM**

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES CONTACT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT 509-943-4100 EXT. 113

**The Center at the Park**  
Fundraiser

**Senior Citizens Center Christmas Bazaar**

Saturday, December 3rd • 9am to 3pm

Raffle: 48" TV • 24" TV with DVD Player  
Computer Tablet • Gifts Baskets

**Hand Made Crafts (36 Tables)**  
**Bake Sale**  
**Turkey Dinner (Served 10:30-2:00)**

**See you at the Bazaar!**  
at Jefferson Park  
720 Sprague, Walla Walla  
509.527.3775