



EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2016

141st Year, No. 34

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- **Hermiston Christmas Concert Friday night**
- **Pilot Rock Winterphest Saturday at 10 a.m.**
- **Saturday Spin-In at Pendleton arts center**

For times and places see **Coming Events, 6A**

Weekend Weather

| Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-------|-------|-------|
| | | |
| 47/41 | 51/42 | 46/29 |

Watch a game



Hermiston vs. Wilsonville
Dec. 2, 7 p.m.,
Hermiston Dawghouse

HERMISTON Farm Fair talks stock

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

Grazing livestock responsibly is not only a necessity for ranchers, but can be a plus for the environment when it comes to managing increasingly large wildfires on the open range.

That was the thrust of two presentations given Thursday during the newly revived livestock seminar at the 43rd annual Hermiston Farm Fair, which focused on how livestock can be used for ecological, as well as economic, benefit.

Eva Strand, assistant professor at the University of Idaho, led the first half-hour talk where she outlined how grazing cattle in some cases can reduce the amount of dead grassy fuel that catches and spreads massive fires — such as the Buzzard Complex in 2014 that scorched more than 395,000 acres southeast of Burns.

"It's not the silver bullet, but (grazing) can be helpful at times," Strand said.

Of course, grazing is nothing new on rangeland. But overall, Strand said the

See **GRAZING/10A**

Brown proposes cuts, tax hikes

Governor's plan maintains spending for K-12 education and tuition assistance

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown Thursday proposed a 2017-19 budget that cuts spending across most areas in state government, while keeping whole K-12 education and programs assisting low-income students with college tuition.

The \$20.8 billion budget plan uses a potpourri of cuts and tax increases to fill in a \$1.7 billion state revenue hole, caused largely by increases in negotiated salaries and benefits and a loss of federal funding for subsidizing health insurance for low-income residents.

"I present this budget as a short-term solution," Brown said. "It is the starting place for a broader conversation about how best to align our resources with our shared values and vision to move Oregon forward."

She unveiled her budget proposal

at an event Thursday in her ceremonial office at the Capitol.

Brown proposed funding to maintain existing services at the K-12 level, while boosting allocations for two college tuition assistance programs — the Oregon Opportunity Grant and Oregon Promise.

Despite Brown's claim that the plan would maintain K-12 funding, the Oregon School Boards Association issued a statement saying the proposal falls short by about \$500 million "of what schools are telling us they need just to maintain current services."

The budget for higher education will remain flat despite increases in costs for existing services, which could mean colleges and universities will have to consider program cuts or tuition hikes. Brown's budget plan also preserves the number of clients who receive subsidies for health insurance under the Affordable Care



Gov. Kate Brown speaks about her proposed 2017-2019 budget at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem on Thursday.

Act.

Proposed cuts are less severe than the 10 to 15 percent across-the-board reductions Brown had predicted before the Nov. 8 election. State agencies face cuts averaging 4.2 percent, but the cuts vary according

to the agency.

Education at the K-12 level faces no cuts, while health care could sustain 16 to 25 percent reductions in general fund revenue, said George Naughton, chief financial officer at

See **BUDGET/10A**

HERMISTON

'Tis the season to light the tree

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Five thousand LED Christmas lights and one Santa Claus brought hundreds of people to downtown Hermiston on Thursday for the kickoff of the Winter Festival.

The lights were draped around a 32 foot spruce tree, surrounded by food vendors, a cookie decorating booth, a fire and a stage featuring the sounds of Hermiston-grown brass band BBPD.

"Isn't this a great event?" mayor David Drotzmann asked the crowd to cheers. "How awesome is this?"

He said the city was excited to bring life and vitality to the downtown area during the holiday season. The Parks and Recreation Department put up a tree and light show last year, but after its inaugural run, Drotzmann said, they listened to feedback that it needed to be more impressive.

"This year we made sure to put more lights," he said.

The festival area, located on the corner of Main Street and Southeast Second Street, will feature a light show and live music each Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening starting at 6 p.m. until Christmas.

The tree was donated by Larry and Marjorie Davidson, whom Drotz-



Five thousand LED Christmas lights illuminate the 32-foot tall spruce tree that is the centerpiece of the Winter Festival in Hermiston.

mann invited up to share the story of how Larry first found it as a sapling in the Blue Mountains before bringing it with him as he moved from Milton-Freewater to Pendleton to Hermiston.

"I'll be honest with you, I miss it," Larry said. But he said he was glad the

community could find good use for it.

"Thank you for sharing a piece of your life with us," Drotzmann responded.

After Drotzmann's remarks came a visit from Santa, who came in on a fire truck and settled in to greet a long line of youngsters after the official tree lighting.

Jamie Littrell said she braved the cold so that her children could see Santa and the tree, and she liked what the city had done with the street.

"The tree looks really good," she said.

Will and Courtney Keeler also brought their family

See **WINTER/10A**

"Isn't this a great event? How awesome is this?"

— **Dave Drotzmann,**
Hermiston mayor

PENDLETON

Students get crash course in careers

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

Instead of selling themselves to prospective employers, Pendleton School District students found some employers selling their companies and their industries to them.

During a tour of Cayuse Technologies for the district's career day on Thursday, Mark Jones, the company's executive vice president of delivery, asked how many students were interested in working for the tech support business.

Jones started querying the

students who raised their hands about why they would want to work there, and a few responded that they were interested in the programming aspect of the career field or the career's generous benefits package.

Led by CEO Billy Nerenberg, several company employees told the students that tribally-owned Cayuse Technologies separated itself from other tech companies because of its community-mindedness and its commitment to developing its employees, experience or not.

See **CAREERS/6A**



Executive sous chef Jose Gutierrez talks about running the large kitchen at Wildhorse Resort & Casino to a group of Pendleton High School students during a career day tour of the facility Tuesday in Mission.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris



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