



# EAST OREGONIAN

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141st Year, No. 49

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## Your Weekend



- **BMCC Christmas Eve Dinner in Pendleton**
- **"A Christmas Story: The Musical" in Elgin**
- **Welcome Santa Drive in Boardman**

For times and places see **Coming Events, 5A**

## Catch a movie



Universal Pictures via AP

A koala tries to save his theater with a singing competition in "Sing."

For showtime, **Page 5A**

## Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
33/28	32/24	30/14

## Trump: U.S. must 'greatly strengthen' nuclear capability

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday abruptly called for the United States to "greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability" until the rest of the world "comes to its senses" regarding nuclear weapons.

His comments on Twitter came hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin said strengthening his country's nuclear capabilities should be a chief military objective in the coming year. The president-elect's statement also followed his meetings a day earlier with top Pentagon officials and defense contractors.

Trump, who is spending the holidays at his palatial private club in Florida, did not expand on the actions

See **TRUMP/8A**

## Water deal reached for depot

Land likely to transfer to CDA in 2017

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
*East Oregonian*

One of the biggest hurdles to the transfer of the former Umatilla Chemical Depot land to local control has finally been cleared.

The Army's Base Realignment and Closure division sent an official letter to the Columbia Development Authority Thursday announcing the Army is "now in agreement with the division of water rights" worked out between the Oregon Military Department and the CDA.

"This is a major milestone in the transfer of the real estate," said CDA director Greg Smith, who is also a state representative.

Per the agreement, the National Guard will retain water rights to pump 1,186 gallons per minute for the training base it will maintain on a portion of the property, while the Columbia Development Authority will have the rights to the other 73 percent.

After the last of the depot's chemical weapons were destroyed in 2014 the plan was to return the

almost 20,000 acres to control by a local reuse authority — made up of a partnership between Umatilla County, Morrow County, Port of Umatilla, Port of Morrow and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation — as early as 2015.

The Columbia Development Authority always stressed, however, that it would only take the land off the Army's hands if it was free, clean and with enough water to support industrial development on the portions of property zoned as such. Negotiations over those three points have led to multiple delays, but Smith said with the water deal in hand he is optimistic that the land

will finally be transferred to the CDA in 2017.

Taking the time to do it right, Smith said, and get enough water to support a variety of industrial uses on the land was important. The final deal is "probably one of the biggest economic development wins for Umatilla County and Morrow County for the next 10 years," he said.

Large corporations have already been contacting the CDA office about when the industrial land on the depot will be available and even conducting tours of the property.

"This is going to be huge for our region," Smith said.

## PENDLETON



Randy and Sharon Bigot won the best classical residential display in the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce's Christmas lighting contest. The Bigots use classical incandescent bulbs and hard-shelled lawn ornaments in their decorations.

## A CHRISTMAS CLASSIC

By **DANIEL WATTENBURGER**  
*East Oregonian*

Randy Bigot is fan of the classics when it comes to Christmas decorations.

Randy moved his family to Pendleton 12 years ago and hauled with them a collection of decorations from their previous home in Troutdale.

While the world of Christmas decorating has changed over the years, Randy's tastes have not. He prefers blow mold plastic snowmen to their inflatable cousins, and incandescent lights over the in vogue (and cheaper) LED alternative. He also cringes when he sees shows like ABC's "The Great Christmas Light Fight" with gaudy displays that

See **LIGHTS/3A**



Harper and Kimberly Jones won the best contemporary residential display in the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce's Christmas lighting contest. The lights are timed to music that viewers can listen to on the radio.

## WINNERS

- CLASSIC**  
**First: The Bigots**  
1317 SW Gamma Court  
**Second: The Andersons**  
1851 SW 18th  
**Third: The Solomons**  
541 NW 21st Street

- CONTEMPORARY**  
**First: The Joneses**  
376 NE Owen Court  
**Second: The Grays**  
1819 SW 45th Street  
**Third: The McGirrs**  
1884 SW Runion Lane

- BUSINESS**  
**First: Hamley Steakhouse**  
30 SE Court Ave  
**Second: The Great Pacific**  
403 S Main Street  
**Third: Bella Cosa**  
133 S Main Street

## Eastern Oregon gets voice in legislative policy



**Smith**      **Barreto**      **Hansell**

## Representatives join 13 committees

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
*East Oregonian*

Umatilla County will have representation on 13 different legislative committees during the 2017 legislative session.

Committee assignments for the House and Senate

released on Wednesday show Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner), Rep. Greg Barreto (R-Cove) and Sen. Bill Hansell (R-Athena) serving on a total of 13 different committees that will help make policy and budget decisions for the state.

Committees, according to the Oregon Legislature's website, are where "the majority of the work to shape legislation and public policy is done." Small groups of legislators hear public testimony, study proposals in depth, craft budgets, make

See **COMMITTEES/8A**



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