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 Left to right, Democratic Sens. Sara Gelsler, Chuck Riley and Ginny Burdick talk about the mood at the Oregon Capitol on the first day of the 160-day legislative session Wednesday.

Trump fuels anxiety as state legislature commences

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — President Donald Trump was omnipresent as state lawmakers commenced their 160-day legislative session at the State Capitol Wednesday.

Outside the Capitol, hundreds of protesters stood on the building's steps to rally against Trump's executive order last week temporarily banning refugees and visa holders from several predominantly Muslim countries from entering the country.

Inside, state lawmakers began the process of policymaking as they face uncertainty about what policy changes could still come from the Trump administration, including a likely repeal of the Affordable Care Act and others that could affect the

state's federal funding. "My sense of it is with what is going on in Washington, D.C., especially on issues like the Affordable Care Act, there is a growing sense that we are on our own," said Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland. "There is so much confusion back there, so much that is

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HERMISTON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Former Hermiston Fire chief Pat Hart speaks after being named Man of the Year at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet on Wednesday.

Tribal members petition against gas plant expansion

PGE applying to build two new units at Carty Station

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

More than 100 members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have signed a petition opposing expansion of the natural gas-fired Carty Generating Station on Tower Road near Boardman.

A volunteer group of local tribal members began circulating the petition Saturday, condemning "extreme fossil fuel infrastructures that undermine our clean air, sacred water and land, and public interest of health and safety."

Portland General Electric finished construction of the 440-megawatt Carty gas plant last year, right next door to the Boardman Coal Plant which is slated to close or possibly convert to another source of fuel by 2020.

Now, PGE is applying to build two new gas units at Carty to potentially recoup power that will be lost after the coal plant is retired. That's not sitting well with some tribal members who would rather see more investment in clean wind and solar energy.

"So here we are, trying to garner community support through these petitions," said Cathy Sampson-Kruse, an enrolled CTUIR member.

Sampson-Kruse, along with her sisters Linda and Sandy Sampson, mother Arleta and father Carl Sampson — also known as Peo-Peo-Mox-Mox, head chief of the Walla Walla Tribe — are part of a core group of volunteers on the front lines of several fossil fuel developments across the Columbia Basin.

In 2013, Linda Sampson was involved in protests that delayed the first of three "megaloads" hauling oil refinery equipment through Eastern Oregon to Alberta, Canada. In 2014, Carl Sampson spoke out against the Morrow Pacific Project, which sought to ship 8 million tons of coal annually down

"We're speaking from a very strong tribal point of view. But it's not just our tribal community. It's the entire community we live in. It's not just our children. It's everyone's children. It's everyone's land, air and water."

— **Cathy Sampson-Kruse**, CTUIR member

Citizens embody compassion, selflessness

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

In an evening of honoring some of Hermiston's most compassionate and dedicated community members, the emotion in the room was most palpable when Charlie Clupny took his turn at the microphone to accept the Award of Merit at the Distinguished Citizens Awards banquet.

"I was back there crying because I just thought I came here to dinner," Clupny said, wiping his eyes. "I said I wanted to make a difference in the world but I didn't think I'd get recognized along the way. I just thought that's what you're supposed to do in life."

Jesus Rome, a coordinator for Court Appointed Special Advocates, said Clupny was the "poster child" for advocating for foster children in the court system with integrity and passion. He also serves others through the prison ministry at Two Rivers Correctional Institution, Meadowbrook Springs camp for children with learning disabilities, the Lions Club, Relay for Life, the Catholic church and as a Parkinson's support group co-facilitator.

"He has devoted his time, his energy and his love to these organizations," Rome said.

Clupny responded with the selflessness Rome had just

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Charlie Clupny wipes a tear from his eye while accepting the Award for Merit at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Citizens Banquet on Wednesday.

Report looks at children's health

A third of children under 12 are overweight

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

A recently released children's health report reveals interesting facts about the nearly 20,000 children who live in Umatilla, Morrow and Union counties.

They sleep an average of 10.1 hours a night. Each day, they spend on average 1.84 hours watching television, 1.33 hours reading, 0.84 hours on the computer and 0.84 hours playing video games. They miss an average of 3.9 days of school a year because of illness or injury. A third of children are overweight, with a fifth classified as obese.

This is a glimpse into health

data gleaned from the Umatilla-Morrow-Union Counties Children's Health Assessment Report 2016, which can be found at <http://ucohealth.net/>.

The survey is a companion to a 2015 survey done of the general population in Umatilla and Morrow counties. The children's survey narrowed the focus to children, aged 0 to 11.

"The children's health report is a chance to make sure we're not missing anything with a key subset of the population that might get glossed over when you look at all ages combined," said Umatilla County Public Health Director James Setzer. "We worry specifically about kids. They're

the most vulnerable. They're the most at risk."

Survey questions addressed children's health, health insurance, secondhand smoke, prenatal care, breastfeeding, preventative care, bullying, dental care, eating meals together as a family, parent's health and many other topics.

Eight organizations funded the study — the Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub, the Center for Human Development, Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, InterMountain Education Service District, Morrow County Health Department, Umatilla County Public Health, the Oregon Community Foundation and the

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