



**MILLIONS TO LOSE COVERAGE UNDER BILL**  
ACA REPEAL/7A

**T-WOLVES WIN THE WEEKEND**  
SPORTS/1B

Two bills aim to prevent, mitigate oil train disaster  
NORTHWEST/2A

# EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017

141st Year, No. 106

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



A semi-trailer pulls out of the United Grain McNary terminal on Monday in Umatilla.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Growing grain infrastructure

Old PGG terminals, elevators to get upgrades before next harvest

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**  
East Oregonian

When United Grain Corporation stepped in for Pendleton Grain Growers last year, purchasing all of the co-op's old grain infrastructure, the company promised to invest \$9 million toward making the facilities more modern and efficient.

Those upgrades are now underway. Among other things, United Grain plans to add two new ground piles near Mission and Helix, and has already installed automated kiosks at the McNary river terminal to help trucks weigh and unload cargo faster.

Jason Middleton, region manager for United Grain, said they are also working to buy 20 more acres from the Port of Umatilla to expand at McNary along the Columbia River, boosting storage capacity by 3-4 million bushels. As for upcountry elevators, Middleton said they will provide space for specialty crops other than wheat, such as beans, canola and barley.

The projects were laid out during a series of grower's meetings last week in Pendleton, Hermiston and La Grande, giving local farmers an idea of what to expect come next harvest.

"Speed, space and service is what our goals are here," Middleton said. "We're trying to repair our infrastructure, and keep up with the grower."



Wheat falls into a grate as operator Pete Veliz opens the bottom of a grain hopper at the United Grain McNary terminal on Monday in Umatilla.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

For 86 years, members relied on PGG for fuel, agronomy, marketing and more. After PGG dissolved on May 2, 2016, the Board of Directors voted to sell its grain assets to United Grain, including the McNary terminal, Alicel rail terminal and upcountry elevators.

United Grain took over the business on June 10, just weeks before wheat harvest began. That didn't allow much time to focus on improving buildings, though Middleton,

See **GRAIN/10A**

**PENDLETON**

## PHS track, auditorium get majority of surplus

Board opts for simple demolition of district office

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
East Oregonian

The Pendleton School Board voted Monday to spend the last \$1.9 million from its capital improvement bond to renovate the Pendleton High School auditorium and track and demolish the old school district office.

Dave Fishel of the Wenaha Group, the bond project manager, said a combination of cost savings and new revenue left the district with more than he projected, but the board would still have to prioritize the remaining projects.

Fishel presented the board with several options, all of which included \$517,627 spent at the auditorium for

See **PENDLETON/10A**

## Poll: Voters want cuts to state spending

Would support corporate tax hike for K-12 education

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A new poll shows that a majority of voters would like to see the state curb spending to make up a \$1.6 billion revenue deficit but also would support a corporate tax hike if the proceeds were dedicated to K-12 education.

The poll of 600 registered voters by Portland-based DHM Research sheds light on voters' preferences as legislators work on the 2017-19 budget and craft proposals to raise more money. The Oregon School Boards Association commissioned the poll to help guide lawmakers in policymaking this session.

The results provide "a path forward for legislators when they look at the budget issues," said Jim Green, OSBA executive director.

About 28 percent of respondents said lawmakers should balance the budget

See **BUDGET/10A**

**PENDLETON**

## Kind Leaf welcomes customers on first day

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
East Oregonian



Kind Leaf co-owner Brandon Krenzler shows off a sampling of the merchandise for sale on the Pendleton dispensary's first day of business.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Business was booming on opening day for Umatilla County's first legal marijuana store.

Kind Leaf officially opened its doors in Pendleton on Saturday, and after lunch people were bunched up just inside the front doors, trying to avoid the rain outside as the line to show identification grew longer.

Erin Purchase, who was checking driver's licenses, said as of 1 p.m. she had 94 customers visit the store. Some were already lined up when staff opened at 8 a.m.

**"I'm really surprised Pendleton allowed it, but I think the tax money will be awesome."**

— **Sandra Doherty**, Kind Leaf customer

"It's really great," she said. "We're really excited to have this opportunity to serve Pendleton with legal medical and recreational marijuana."

After showing their identification and signing in, customers briefly sat on couches, surrounded by mellow instrumental music and the sound of a running fountain, until it was their turn to pass through the doors to

where the product was kept.

Inside, a wide, well-lit room featured long wooden counters where customers could browse and ask questions about the different strains featured behind the counters. Signs on the wall warned customers to remember to keep their purchases out of reach of

See **MARIJUANA/10A**

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