

**MCBEE
TAKES
A SEAT**
REGION/3A



**MANCHESTER
STRESSES
UNITY**
FATIH/7A



**Kick in the
pants to Senate
Democrats**
OPINION/4A



EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2017

141st Year, No. 159

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- Century Ride of the Centuries in Pendleton
- Ballet production at Bob Clapp Theater
- Ugandan Kids Choir in Hermiston Sunday

For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

Catch a movie

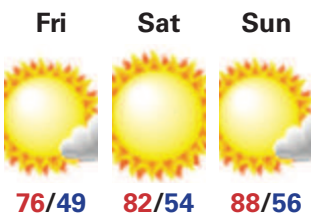


Disney via AP

Everyone's favorite aquatic criminal is back for more swashbuckling adventures in "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales."

For showtime, Page 5A

Weekend Weather



Oregon had no plan for checking Medicaid eligibility

By CLAIRE WITCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — When Oregon expanded access to Medicaid in 2014, it had no system in place to perform the annual checks on recipient eligibility required by federal law.

That was one of the many flaws of Cover Oregon, a state health care exchange also intended to handle patient registration for Medicaid. Medicaid is the federal government's health care coverage for the poor and other qualifying groups. In Oregon, about a quarter of the state's population — approximately 1 million people — receives it.

More than three years after the expansion was launched under the Affordable Care Act, the state is scrambling to finish verifying whether

See MEDICAID/10A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

City of Pendleton employees Dean Harrison, left, and Mike Hoefft paint lane lines on the bottom of one of the pools Thursday at the Pendleton Family Aquatic Center.

Bide the pool tide

Aquatic centers prepping for summer swim season

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Hot weather has people itching to hit the pool, but they'll have to wait at least a couple more weeks.

Although the weather is ripe for swimming, lifeguards have to finish up their school year, pools need repainted and water slides buffed before municipal aquatic centers are ready to open for the season.

"There's a lot of cleaning up we have to do," Hermiston parks and recreation director Larry Fetter said.

Hermiston's aquatic center opens June 10. A long checklist of items, from boiler inspections to a software upgrade for the pool's chemical control system, have already allowed the center's lap swimming pool to be filled. It took 12 hours to fill the pool from a fire hose, but three days to warm it up to a comfortable temperature.

On the multi-use pool side, crumbling tiles have been replaced with a new cement lip, but the pool still needs power-washed and repainted, and the water slides need some work too. Layers of dust, which are particularly bad this year due to construction at Good Shepherd Medical Center next door, have to be scrubbed away.

"Sometimes we get a year, sometimes we get two years out of the paint," Fetter said. "On the slides, calcium deposits form and slow it down, so you have to buff them out,

See POOL/10A



EO file photo

Pool goers enjoy lazy river current portion of the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center in June, 2015.

Pendleton Family Aquatic Center

Open: June 16- Sept 5
Public swim: Noon to 8 p.m. daily
Rates: \$4 for age 3-17, \$6 for adults, children under 3 free
Season Passes: \$50 for youth, \$59 for adults and \$117 for families if purchased before June 15 (\$55, \$65 and \$130 after)
Additional information: The Til Taylor Wading Pool opens June 19 and is free admission. It is available Monday-Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Transportation to and from the pool is available via the Let'er Bus shuttle, which has stops at various schools and parks. For shuttle schedules, swim lesson schedules, special events and other information visit www.pendleton-parksandrec.com.

Hermiston Family Aquatic Center

Open: June 10 to Aug. 27
Public swim: Preseason June 10-16 3:10 to 8 p.m. then regular season 1:10 to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11:10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday.
Rates: \$4 for children under 13 and active military members, \$5 for teenagers and seniors, \$6 for adults and \$20 for families.
Season passes: \$50 youth and seniors, \$60 adults, \$150 families
Additional information: For swim lessons, cabana rentals and other information visit hermiston-pool.com.

For more aquatic centers and pools in the region see Page 10A

HERMISTON Water coalition addresses area's shrinking supply

Presentations focus on issues across basin

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

The reborn Oregon Water Coalition held its annual membership meeting Thursday morning at the Hermiston Conference Center, with presentations focused on water projects, laws and regulations that may impact local irrigators in the coming years.

Most questions were saved to the end, when Justin Iverson with the Oregon Water Resources Department discussed new

rules for the Walla Walla subbasin intended to curb declining groundwater levels in the region's deep basalt aquifer.

Iverson, who manages the OWRD groundwater division, reviewed the latest designation of the subbasin as a "serious water management problem area," which was approved by the Oregon Water Resources Commission on May 11. That means regulators will no longer approve new agricultural wells in the 300,000-acre subbasin, which includes Milton-Freewater and Weston.

See WATER/3A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Yogoat?

JoHanna Sanders of Richland does a plank with a Nubian goat kid on her back during goat yoga on Thursday in Boardman. The goat yoga was put on by Lauren Barth, owner of the Nourish Yoga Studio in Hermiston, as one of her "just for fun" yoga classes. For video from the event visit eastoregonian.com



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