



Obamacare repeal one vote short NATION/6A

# EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2017

141st Year, No. 204

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

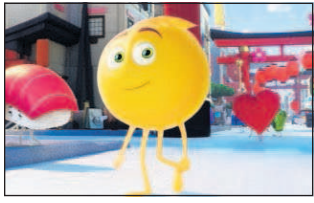
## Your Weekend



- Yoga Round-Up at the Round-Up Grounds
- Ruckus in the Boonies
- Music Fest in Heppner
- Arlington car show at Earl Snell Park

For times and places see Coming Events, 6A

Skip a movie



Sony Pictures Animation via AP

**DO NOT go see "The Emoji Movie."** It's little more than just product placement marketed toward children. Stay home and watch Pixar's "Inside Out" or go outside and build a birdhouse, or anything else.

For showtime, Page 5A

## Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
93/61	97/63	97/61

## BOARDMAN State won't reconsider permit for mega-dairy

By GEORGE PLAIVEN  
East Oregonian

Despite concerns of water pollution and contamination, the agencies responsible for permitting a 30,000-cow dairy farm in Morrow County will not be reconsidering their decision.

Lost Valley Farm, located on a portion of what used to be the Boardman Tree Farm, was issued a controversial wastewater handling permit March 31 from the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Department of Environmental Quality, which together administer the state's confined animal feeding operations, or CAFOs.

Opponents of the dairy filed what's known as a

See DAIRY/10A

# The indomitable Terry Prouse

Long-time Pendleton coach and teacher Terry Prouse is retiring and moving to Beaverton. Prouse spent three decades coaching softball, volleyball and golf.

Staff photo



Pendleton coach retires after kid-centric career

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

When Terry Prouse started Pendleton High School's first softball team, she seemed unfazed by the lack of bats, balls, bases, playing field or even a league.

Prouse arrived at the Pendleton School District in the mid-1980s to teach elementary physical education and coach both junior varsity basketball and freshman volleyball.

Some of her volleyball players had played softball in middle school and lamented that the high school had no team.

That wouldn't do, Prouse decided.

In 1987, she started a softball team. Prouse already owned a collection of balls, bats and helmets she had purchased as a softball coach at Beaverton High School. The team held fundraisers to pay for a pitching

See COACH/10A

## HERMISTON

# BMCC unveils new ag center

Will focus on precision irrigation

By GEORGE PLAIVEN  
East Oregonian

Before Preston Winn took over as chair of the agriculture department at Blue Mountain Community College, he began his teaching career at Hermiston High School in 1978. At the time, he said local farmers used flood irrigation to grow famous Hermiston watermelons, producing around 3-5 tons per acre.

Today, Winn said those same farmers are now using one-third the amount of water to grow 10 times as many melons, thanks to advances in precision irrigation — the fine art of watering crops in just the right place at just the right time.

"Water is very, very valuable, second only to the value of human life," Winn said as BMCC cut the ribbon Thursday on its new Precision Irrigated Agriculture Center. "The need is there for having an educated workforce that can utilize water appropriately."

That's precisely what the Precision Irrigated Agriculture program is designed to do, teaching students how to operate and maintain technology such as soil moisture monitors, variable rate sprinklers and drones capable of surveying fields with infrared cameras to detect where and how much water is needed.

"What they learn is how to manage our precious resource of water, and place that resource where it needs to be, when it needs to be," Winn said.

The Precision Irrigated Agriculture Center is one of three new facilities paid for by the \$23 million BMCC capital construction bond



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

BMCC Agriculture Director Preston Winn, second from left, gives a tour of one of the new classrooms to some guests at the new Precision Irrigated Agriculture Center on Thursday at HAREC in Hermiston.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Debbie Pedro, with the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, holds the ceremonial ribbon as Kathleen Cathey signs it before a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new BMCC Precision Irrigated Agriculture Center on Thursday in Hermiston.

approved by voters in 2015. The building is located on the campus of Oregon State University's Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, which is home to 15 center-pivot systems. Classes will begin at the

"I can see, with a little bit of effort, that this can become a global center for teaching irrigation technology. There's no place like this."

— Fred Ziari,  
IRZ Consulting

new building in the fall, Winn said, and students will have the chance to work hands-on with equipment at the experiment station through the college's partnership with OSU.

"There's no other program like this that I'm aware of in Oregon," Winn said.

In fact, there may be no other program like this in

See BMCC/10A

# Fire at Stanfield dehydration plant injures one

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
East Oregonian

The 3D Idapro Solutions dehydration plant in Stanfield caught fire Wednesday night, injuring one employee, who was sent to Good Shepherd Medical Center for treatment. According to a press release by Umatilla County Fire District, the fire was started by an explosion in the "bag house," but the cause of the explosion is still under investigation.

The plant has had at least two other fires in the past few months,

including one in February that burned some of the facility's scrubbers, or air purification equipment.

Residents have been complaining about the smell from the plant for the last several months. But last week, the complaints culminated in a heated city council meeting where the council directed the city manager to start seeking the plant for the smell, and to file a court order for shutting the plant down.

Fire Marshal Tom Bohm said in the latest fire, two of the scrubbers and bags were burned.

The smell, which residents have

said hurts their noses and makes it nearly impossible to sit outside, gets worse if the wind is blowing toward the town. Residents described it as a smell of rotting or burnt potatoes, and one even said it smells like "dead flesh."

A representative for the Department of Environmental Quality said they had been in communication with the plant's operators, who had been responsive to their requests for a plan to mitigate the odors.

But citizens are not convinced, and many are concerned about the

company, which has had a lawsuit brought against a factory it operates in Burley, Idaho.

Citizens were also upset at city manager Blair Larsen for not prohibiting the plant from opening in Stanfield in the first place.

But at the most recent council meeting, Larsen said he did not feel the city was legally allowed to prevent a business from opening there.

Attempts to reach 3D Idapro representatives were unsuccessful.

The plant is located at 405 Hoosier Lane in Stanfield.



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