



**LEGAL TOBACCO  
AGE RAISED TO  
21 IN OREGON**  
NORTHWEST/2A



**FARM-CITY  
BREAKS IN  
NEW ARENA**  
SPORTS/1B

# EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2017

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WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
**Krista Gannon and friends Lisa Youncs and Jacob Ramirez leads her three horses and a mule away from a fire that sparked near Weston on Wednesday afternoon and threatened the barn where the animals are kept.**

**WESTON**

## Fire burns barn, 250 acres

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Firefighters curtailed two wildland blazes Wednesday that burned a barn and about 250 acres near Weston.

The first emergency call came at 1:10 p.m., according to Suzy Pyle Reitz, spokesperson for the East Umatilla County Rural Fire Protection District.

Crews got that burn under control early, according to some onlookers. But the fire torched scrub and grass-

land along with standing wheat fields on Weston Mountain. Police closed Highway 204 and evacuated homes on some rural roads north and east of Weston. Reitz said there were two separate fires that together burned about 250 acres.

“Both the state fire marshal and the Umatilla County fire investigator are working together to find the causes of both fires,” Reitz said.

Robert Pardee rushed to the scene, still in his work clothes from the Pendleton Walmart’s auto center, to find

two Oregon State Police cars blocking access on Kirk Road. Pardee said he rents a trailer up the draw with his roommates, one of whom was home and called him about the emergency.

“Police came to the door and said you need to go,” Pardee said.

The fire burned less than a mile from the double-wide, he said, but his roommates were safe, along with their cat and two dogs. Pardee said he was only a couple of days away from

See FIRE/8A

# ALL THE RIGHT MOO-VES

## FFA student develops her own cattle program

By GEORGE PAVEN  
East Oregonian

The livestock barns at the Umatilla County Fair are a cacophony of mooing cows, bleating sheep, squealing pigs and crowing roosters as students with FFA and 4-H prepare their show animals for final confirmation and judging.

Yet all the activity Tuesday did not seem to bother Wyoming, the lumbering, mellow steer, as he was led around the show ring by his owner, Isel Tejada Urenda.

“He started off with a poor attitude, but then he and I really formed a bond,” said Tejada Urenda, 16, who will be starting her junior year at Hermiston High School. “Now, he’s like my little puppy dog.”

Judging for market steers will not begin until Thursday morning at the fair, but practice makes perfect for Tejada Urenda and her half-ton “puppy dog.” She tugs gently on Wyoming’s halter and uses her show stick to maneuver the animal into profile stance, front legs parallel and back feet slightly staggered.

After practice, it’s back to the stall where Tejada Urenda gives Wyoming a brushing and checks in on her two yearling heifers, Boons and Miss America. Both heifers have already been bred, and will give birth to calves sometime next March.

The herd is like a big, happy family, Tejada

See CATTLE/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
**Hermiston junior Isel Tejada Urenda leads one of her FFA breeding heifers in the crossbreed class while showing the animal Wednesday at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston.**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
**Pendleton sophomore Ethan Russell washes adhesives off his Hereford steer after showing the animal Wednesday at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston.**

## Animals require constant care to beat the heat

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
East Oregonian

At this point, everyone has heard the tips for keeping cool during the scorching heat at the Umatilla County Fair. But keeping animals safe and comfortable in the high temperatures is its own special skill.

It’s more than just dousing animals with water every few hours — the animals require a lot of time and attention.

“When you’re washing the animals, you want to make sure the water’s cool, but you can’t just spray them or they’ll go into shock,” said Kennidy Baker, a Hermiston High

**“With the pigs, there’s a lot of skincare needs. Their skin’s like ours, so we use gentle soap. We also put sunscreen on them.”**

— Kennidy Baker, Hermiston High School sophomore who shows beef, lambs and pigs

School sophomore who shows beef, lambs and pigs and has been showing at the fair for six years. “You start at the feet, and work your way up.”

It’s also important to make sure the animals have clean, fresh water, and keep them cool in between showings.

In addition to wetting down the animals’ bedding, competitors will

also sprinkle water on the animals’ skin, or wipe them down with cloths.

“When they’re hot or overheated, you put water in their armpits or put a cloth on them,” said Tali Leetch, 19, from Pendleton who shows a market lamb named Wilma. Leetch said she

See CARE/8A

**BOARDMAN**

## Defunct tire recycling plant goes to auction

### Reclaim shut down facility in 2016

By GEORGE PAVEN  
East Oregonian

A \$25 million former tire recycling and energy manufacturing plant at the Port of Morrow is set to hit the auction block.

The facility, run by Seattle-based Reclaim Inc. until it was shut down last year, is located on eight acres within the port’s East Beach Industrial Park. An on-site auction will take place Sept. 20 at 71722 Columbia Blvd., Boardman.

Reclaim originally commissioned the facility in 2008, using specialized technology to recycle end-of-life tires. Thomas Redd, the company’s president, said the U.S. generates more than 300 million scrap tires every year, about half of which are either burned or sent to landfills.

“It’s a market that really needs good recycling,” Redd said.

That’s where Reclaim hoped to find its niche in Boardman. The company built a plant at the Port of Morrow initially capable of handling roughly 700,000

See RECLAIM/8A



Photo contributed by Maas Companies  
**The \$25 million Reclaim manufacturing plant at the Port of Morrow will be sold at auction later this summer.**

