

**ROCKETS  
FALL TO  
SCOTS**  
SPORTS/1B



**MAIN STREET'S  
MAYSON'S  
CLOSES UP SHOP**  
PENDLETON/3A

**RELIEF  
EFFORTS  
FAILING**  
PUERTO RICO/6A



# EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

141st Year, No. 249

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## Your Weekend



- Friday farmers markets in Heppner, Pendleton
- Wine & Swine at TERO in Milton-Freewater
- St. Peter's Church open house Sunday in Echo

For times and places see Coming Events, 6A

### Catch a movie



Universal Pictures via AP

Tom Cruise is back in the cockpit, but this time as an amoral opportunist working both Columbian drug kingpins and the CIA.

For showtimes, Page 5A

### Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
75/49	64/45	62/41

### Watch a game



Hermiston vs. Hood River

Friday, 7 p.m.,  
at Kennison Field

## Ontario approves a sales tax

By AMANDA PEACHER  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Ontario is the only Oregon city that will have a retail sales tax, after the city council approved a 1 percent general sales tax Tuesday.

City leaders estimate it will generate \$3.7 million each year toward the city's \$26 million annual budget. Ontario will use the revenue to fund street repairs, law enforcement, parks and other city services.

Two other Oregon cities — Ashland and Yachats — have sales taxes on food and beverages, but no other Oregon city imposes a general sales tax.

See TAX/8A

## STANFIELD

# State calls biodiesel plant plan a 'scam'

### Developer fined, says he will 'do battle' over project

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services is calling plans for a \$1.37 billion biodiesel plant in Stanfield a "scam," but Ontario developer Robert "Bob" Doughty says he fully intends to build the project. The state fined Doughty and his companies —

Inland Pacific Energy Center LLC and Global Alternative Energy Centers LLC — \$35,000 for violating Oregon securities law and ordered him to cease offering and selling unregistered securities.

According to the department, Doughty lied to investors about owning land in Stanfield and other aspects of the project,

convincing at least 12 people to invest a total of \$250,000 that he allegedly used on "extensive" food and travel expenses for himself.

"At various times since 2005, Doughty claimed to have \$120 million in equity funding committed, \$545 million in funding committed, and \$5.6 billion in pending financing; implied that local govern-

ments were involved with the project; and said he applied for permits to begin construction," the DCBS wrote in a news release. "None of these claims were ever true and Doughty continues to solicit investments via LinkedIn.com."

Doughty tells a different story. He said preparation for the Inland Pacific Energy Center was "off and going" when the 2008 financial crisis stalled investments. He said "some" funding

has now become available to move the project forward but did not elaborate on the source of the funds.

"We fully intend to pursue the project to the best of our ability," he said.

Doughty said he never lied to investors and told them only that he had right of first refusal on a property in Stanfield, not that he owned it. He called the state's investigation one-sided and said

See SCAM/8A

**"Renewable energy, gold, silver, oil, gas, new tech ventures, and legal marijuana are all buzzworthy industries that scammers like to use to take your money."**

— Jean Straight, Department of Consumer and Business Services interim director



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Classical music goes wild

Pianist Hunter Noack of Portland plays on a Steinway grand piano on Thursday at the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute in Mission. Noack's performance was part of his In A Landscape — Classical Music in the Wild concert series.

## PENDLETON

# BMCC bets the FARM on agricultural education

### New building adds to school's ag focus

By GEORGE PLAGEN  
East Oregonian

Inside the livestock lab at Blue Mountain Community College's new Facility for Agricultural Resource Management, or FARM, instructor Nick Nelson beamed as he showcased the high-tech Silencer hydraulic cattle chute.

Not only is the latest piece of equipment better for animal welfare and handling, but it is more likely what students can expect to find working on a large ranch operation, Nelson said during the FARM grand opening ceremony Thursday.

"It means easier employment when they know how to operate these things safely," Nelson explained.

FARM is the third and final construction project to be completed after voters in



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Instructor Nick Nelson explains the workings of a new hydraulic squeeze chute to Jennifer Pambrun and her daughter, Analie Carnes, on Thursday during an open house at the Facility for Agricultural Resource Management building in Pendleton.

Umatilla and Morrow counties passed a \$23 million capital bond for BMCC in 2015. Earlier this year, the college also debuted its new

Workforce Training Center in Boardman and Precision Irrigated Agriculture Center in Hermiston.

The two-story FARM

building in Pendleton combines classroom and lab space under one roof for the agriculture department, replacing an older, smaller

shop building. It is surrounded by a 100-acre working farm where BMCC students learn hands-on how to manage cattle and grow prominent local crops — such as alfalfa to feed those hungry cows.

"We essentially buy very little feed for the livestock here," Nelson said.

Though classes officially began Monday, guests gathered Thursday afternoon for a ribbon cutting and dedication by school leaders. BMCC President Cam Preus said it was a long road building the facility, and thanked voters for their support on the bond.

"This is a wonderful way to celebrate BMCC's nationally recognized agriculture program," Preus said.

Chris Brown, chairman of the BMCC Board of Education, said the school has fulfilled its promise to voters after completing all three bond projects.

"This is certainly a

See FARM/8A

