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One dollar

Governor: Tax, spending options in the works



By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

PORTLAND — Gov. Kate Brown plans to propose tax overhaul and cost-containment measures in the coming months to address the state's ongoing revenue deficit, she told the annual Oregon Leadership Summit Monday.

Without revealing details of the proposals, Brown said her office is developing policy options that could be presented in time for the Oregon legislative session in February.

Her office is examining "a handful of options to solve the structural deficit issues Oregon faces, not just for the short-term but for the long-term,"

Brown said. "It is time that we quit kicking this can down the road."

But the Legislature's ability to consider such proposals could hinge on potential policy changes at the federal level, Brown said.

The federal tax reform bill being worked out by Republican lawmakers has Oregon

revenue experts and state economists scrambling to come up with an analysis showing how the proposals could impact Oregonians' finances and the state's budget and services.

"Certainly, what is happening at the federal level makes it really hard for us to have a detailed conversation about (state) tax policy right

now," she said.

Also distracting from negotiations toward a state tax overhaul is a statewide referendum Jan. 23 to repeal a health care funding bill passed by state legislators earlier this year. The bill was intended to maintain health insurance for

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Gregg Carter signs a list of ground rules during registration at the Pendleton Warming Station after volunteer KaSandra Williams read them out loud.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Shelter from the storm

Improved warming station opens for winter

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

Gregg Carter took a drag off his cigarette and smiled happily.

In five minutes hence, the Pendleton Warming Station would open for the season. Carter and two others who waited with him on Saturday looked forward to escaping the winter chill.

Carter wore practical attire — a stocking cap, heavy canvas coat, jeans and sturdy boots. A beard buffered his face from the chill. The Marine Corps veteran and former cabinet maker said he has slept under

the stars for several years. At night, he finds a wooded area and "sleeps in the shadows," nestled in two mummy bags, one nested inside the other. During the day, he walks, reads at the library and volunteers at the Salvation Army. To clean himself, he finds a restroom and does the best he can with the squirt gun and washcloth he keeps in his backpack.

The warming station's front door opened at 6:30 p.m. sharp and the trio headed inside, where several volunteers chorused a greeting. Carter sat down at a desk and listened as

See SHELTER/8A



Chris Clemons, chairman of the Neighbor 2 Neighbor board that oversees the warming station, uses a power drill to assemble a new bunk bed recently while getting the Pendleton Warming Station ready to open.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Trump takes step to reduce two national monuments

By **CATHERINE LUCEY**
and **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — President Donald Trump on Monday took the rare step of scaling back two sprawling national monuments in Utah, declaring that "public lands will once again be for public use" in a move cheered by Republican leaders who lobbied him to undo protections they considered overly broad.

The decision marks the first time in a half century that a president has undone these types of land protections. Tribal and environmental groups oppose the decision and began filing lawsuits Monday in a bid to stop Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Trump made the plan official during a speech at the State Capitol, where he signed proclamations to shrink the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments. Both monuments encompass millions of acres of land.

State officials said the protections were overly broad and closed off the area to energy development and other access.

Environmental and tribal groups say the designations are needed to protect important archaeological and cultural resources, especially the more than 1.3 million-acre Bears Ears site featuring thousands of Native American artifacts, including ancient cliff dwellings and petroglyphs.

Trump argued that the people of Utah know best how to care for their land.

"Some people think that the natural resources of Utah should be controlled by a small handful of very distant bureaucrats located in Washington," Trump said. "And

"I've come to Utah to take a very historic action to reverse federal overreach and restore the rights of this land to your citizens."

— **Donald Trump**, president of the United States

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HERMISTON

Christmas centerpiece planted downtown

Tree-lighting ceremony is Thursday evening

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

It may look a little strange in its current form, but the towering cedar sticking out of the middle of a street in Hermiston is expected to draw hundreds of people downtown on Thursday for its official unveiling.

In what has become an annual tradition, the city — with the help of Umatilla Electric Cooperative and their subcontractor Trees, Inc.

— dug a six-foot-deep hole in the middle of Northeast Second Street near city hall on Monday morning and placed a roughly 40-foot-tall Christmas tree inside. The tree will be lit up every evening during the holiday season, starting with a tree-lighting festival Thursday. Food vendors and live entertainment will start at 5:30 p.m., with the official lighting and a visit from Santa at 6 p.m. Downtown businesses will also be offering special deals for December's First Thursday event from 4:30-7 p.m.

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The city of Hermiston's Christmas tree is raised from the trailer that brought it from Victory Square Park on Monday.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

