

# EAST OREGONIAN

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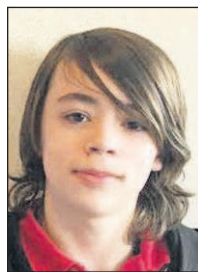
## PENDLETON

### Fireworks show ready to re-ignite

East Oregonian

Devan Driskell, an eighth-grader at Sunridge Middle School, handed over a \$1,000 check Monday at the Pendleton Rotary Club meeting to help revive the city's Fourth of July fireworks display.

Gwen Fjeld, vice president of the Rotary Club, thanked Driskell for the contribution but handed the check right back, saying he had done enough and should instead save it for his education.



Driskell

After all, Driskell's willingness to put nearly a year's worth of his own income toward bringing back the show was what inspired Rotarian Jerry Imsland to get involved. The pair — a 14-year-old newspaper delivery boy who recently lost his job because of circulation layoffs at the *East Oregonian* and a veteran Pendleton real estate appraiser and Port of Umatilla commissioner — have spearheaded the effort to bring back the display that flamed out in 2017.



Imsland

The committee has raised more than its \$10,000 goal and will produce a bigger show than in the years prior, Imsland said. The event will be the night of July 4 and the fireworks will be launched from the property west of Wal-Mart.

See FIREWORKS/2A



The Pendleton Rotary Club has raised their goal of \$10,000 to put on this year's Fourth of July fireworks display.



Staff photos by Kathy Aney

Students lead the way during the March for Our Lives on Saturday in Pendleton.

## Pendleton students lead march for change

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

About 160 people marched through downtown Pendleton Saturday afternoon chanting "We want change!"

They were led by two dozen high school students wearing orange armbands — the color signaling "Don't shoot!" in the hunting world — and joined by millions across the country participating in a national March for Our Lives.

Some of the adults carried signs with politically focused messages, calling the GOP "guns over people" or mentioning the NRA. But the students stuck with simpler messages, holding posters proclaiming "Never Again" and "Enough is Enough."

"We wanted it to be more about student safety than anything political," Pendleton High School junior Daphny Chen said.

The purple-haired teen stood on a wall at Brownfield Park as marchers arrived Saturday, welcoming them enthusiastically and asking if they were registered

See MARCH/8A



Two protesters listen to Congressional candidate Jamie McLeod-Skinner Saturday during the March for Our Lives in Pendleton.

### Political force or fad? Young voters clout uncertain

By STEVE PEOPLES  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — They have walked out, marched and demanded action across America to stop gun violence. But it's far from certain that the young people behind the "March for Our Lives" movement will be a political force at the ballot box this fall.

Republicans are skeptical. Democrats are hopeful. And outside groups that favor gun control aren't taking any chances.

Organizations aligned with Democrats on gun control are spending tens of millions of dollars to ensure that young voters' passion and enthusiasm doesn't fade before the

See YOUNG VOTERS/8A



George Plaven/EO Media Group

Ethan Akers, left, and Zachary Ferguson, of the Heppner High School FFA chapter, practice welding patterns using crackers and spray cheese as part of an activity hosted by Blue Mountain Community College at the 2018 Oregon FFA State Convention in Redmond.

## BMCC takes FFA program on the road

Attendees use downtime at state convention to test skills

By GEORGE PLAVERN  
EO Media Group

Beau Ditmore had never saddled a horse before, but was willing to give it a try Sunday morning at the 2018 Oregon FFA State Convention in Redmond.

Granted, it wasn't an actual horse, but rather a white plastic barrel fastened to a metal stepladder. Still, Ditmore learned the proper way to cinch a saddle around the makeshift steed while Anne Livingston, advisor to Blue Mountain

Community College Collegiate FFA, provided basic instructions.

"It was nerve-wracking," Ditmore admitted when he was finished. "If it was a real horse, it probably would have bucked."

Ditmore, a freshman at Culver High School in central Oregon, was on hand to support fellow members of his FFA chapter at the state convention, held this year at the Deschutes Fair & Expo Center in Redmond.

BMCC Collegiate FFA from Pendleton was also on hand, bringing along a variety of hands-on activities for the high schoolers to try when they

See BMCC/2A



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