

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018

142nd Year, No. 128 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

Ed tour headed out east

Legislative committee to bring discussion to Hermiston High

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

A legislative committee tasked with improving the state’s public education system will visit Eastern Oregon April 24 and 25 as part of its statewide tour.

Baker City and Hermiston are the second and third stops of the Joint Committee on Student Success. The first stop was March 22 at Sheldon High School in Eugene.

Public hearings are scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, at Baker High School and 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, at Hermiston High School.

Lawmakers said they want to hear from students, parents, teachers, administrators and other community members about what is and isn’t working in their schools and in the broader public education system.

“We want to hear from Oregonians about what they want in their K-12 schools. We want to know where we’re succeeding, where we are falling short and how we can bridge the gap,” said committee Co-Vice Chairman Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend. “With that vision, the Legislature can work in partnership with our school districts to create an efficient education system that best serves our students.”

The 14-member bipartisan committee is charged with learning about successful educational practices around the state and coming up with legislative strategies to address the state’s chronically low four-year high school graduation rate. The state’s on-time graduation rate is 74.8 percent, the third worst in the nation.

That could include legislation to reform educational funding or accountability measures that tie educational funding with certain measures of performance, said Rep. Barbara Smith Warner, a Portland Democrat.

“We are not here to reform education because education already suffers from a lot of flavor of the month,” said Rep. Barbara Smith Warner, a Portland Democrat who is

See **TOUR/10A**

SWEET VICTORY



ABOVE: Inmate and baker Michael Hoffman uses a piping bag to squeeze chocolate mousse into ring moulds Friday in the EOIC bakery. **BELOW LEFT:** Two inmates at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution and their supervisor made chocolate mint julep treats for Saturday’s Chocolate Derby at the Oregon Grain Growers Brand Distillery in Pendleton. The entry took first place. **BELOW RIGHT:** Inmate and baker Juan Dedios Cruz-Rojas smiles Friday after tasting some chocolate he was stirring over a double boiler in the EOIC kitchen. Overseeing the chocolate making is food service manager Liza Emory, who formerly worked as a baker at Churchill Downs.



Executive chef from Churchill Downs brings baking prowess to EOIC

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

Liza Emory knows her mint juleps.

Emory worked at Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby, where mint juleps are downed by the thousands. Emory, executive pastry chef at six restaurants at the iconic horse track in Louisville, Kentucky, often used elements of the bourbon cocktail in her recipes. Diners at the race track’s famed Millionaires Row sampled her creations. Chocolate was a favorite ingredient.

Six years ago, Emory moved 2,000 miles away from bourbon country. Instead of catering to horse race enthusiasts, the food services manager at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution cooks in bulk for 1,700 inmates.

About two weeks ago, EOIC Superintendent Brigitte Amsberry showed Emory a flier advertising a baking competition called the Chocolate Derby. The Saturday event benefits Dream Catcher Therapeutics, a local nonprofit that uses horses to help people with emotional, physical and mental challenges.

“What do you think?” Amsberry asked Emory.

Emory liked the idea. No reason her baking team couldn’t whip up the winning chocolate concoction inside prison walls. They would lack certain ingredients such as bourbon, but that wouldn’t keep them from producing something delectable.

She selected a recipe, put her own twist on it and enlisted the help of her two top bakers, inmates who

See **SWEET/10A**

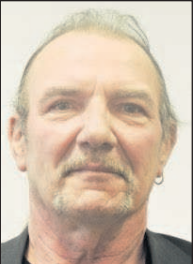
PENDLETON CITY COUNCIL ELECTION



Jake Cambier



Carol Innes



David Chorazy



Linda Neuman



Rex Morehouse



Chuck LeValle



McKennon McDonald

Voters have choices in two races

Council candidates make pitch for May 15 election

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The Pendleton City Council was headed toward a sleepy election season, despite the prospect of a couple open seats.

But several filings in the final two weeks before the March filing deadline created competitive races for the Ward 1 and at-large seats, while uncontested races in Ward 2 and Ward 3 means those election are all but decided.

At-large

By design, city councilors get

more opportunities to speak at public meetings than members of the public. But it’s not unusual for at-large challenger Rex Morehouse to spend more time talking during the public comment section than Councilor Jake Cambier will during an entire meeting.

Morehouse said Cambier doesn’t ask enough questions before voting on various issues, but the incumbent said his relative stoicism on the council dais is a byproduct of his childhood and development as a public official.

When he was in high school,

Cambier said a teacher caught him daydreaming and asked him what he thought about the Cuban missile crisis. When he told her he didn’t know, Cambier said his teacher congratulated him for knowing more than the average voter.

Cambier took that to mean that many people form opinions without knowing the facts, and he’s used that story as inspiration to get involved in and knowledgeable about his community ever since.

See **COUNCIL/9A**

Your ballot

In accordance with the city charter, Pendleton residents will vote May 15 to elect one councilor from one of three wards and an at-large councilor. Only residents from Ward 1 (downtown, South Hill, Riverside), Ward 2 (North Hill, Westgate and airport) and Ward 3 (McKay Creek, Southgate, Tutuilla Road) will be able to vote in those races while all voters can cast a ballot in the at-large race. If no candidate takes more than 50 percent of the vote, the top two will proceed to a runoff election in November.

The candidates will speak at a forum Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Pendleton High School.

For more on the candidates, see **Page 9A**.

