



PENDLETON
SOFTBALL WINS
IN WALK-OFF
SPORTS/1B



WHAT PARKS
TAX MEANS
FOR VOTERS
MILTON-FREEWATER/3A

EAST OREGONIAN

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One dollar



A pair of excavators work on replacing a water main near the intersection of Main Street and Frazier Avenue on Tuesday in Pendleton. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Main closed for water work

May take weeks to finish after pipe's location surprises crews

By PHIL WRIGHT
and ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Waterline work on the south end of Pendleton's Main Street is pinching off customers from nearby businesses. Bob Patterson, Pendleton's public works director, said the project is going to last at least a couple of weeks and involves closing all of the 400 block of South Main. The project stretches south from the middle of the 500 block of South Main near the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce to the intersection of Main and Emigrant Avenue. The city has blocked parking on both sides of Main through the work zone and along several spots on Emigrant Avenue at Main. That includes all the immediate parking to the The Great Pacific Wine And Coffee Co., the popular establishment at 403 S. Main St. Addison Schulberg with the restaurant said business took a nose dive when the construction project started Monday. The work was "crazy loud" outside the restaurant and filled the air with dust, making outdoor dining impossible. On Tuesday, the city's machines tore up the road near the Pendleton Chamber, 503 S. Main St., but commerce at the Great Pacific remained down. Schulberg said the construction has already cost the business a few thousand dollars. "We're only a day-and-a-half into it," he said.



Patrons purchase fruit at a booth at the Pendleton Farmers Market. Due to construction to replace the water main on Main Street the market will have to temporarily move one block north. EO file photo

Patterson said the original plan was to complete the project in two to three weeks, intermittently closing one side of the street as the line was replaced and service restored to customers. But as work crews located the water line in question on Tuesday afternoon, they discovered it was empty. The pipe they needed to

See DOWNTOWN/12A

"We're a little nervous, but we think we'll be all right."
— Hal McCune, president of Pendleton Farmers Market

Labor commissioner election touted as 'most important race you've never heard of'

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

The campaign for Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries commissioner may be "the most important race you've never heard of," said Val Hoyle, former majority leader for the Oregon House of Representatives who is seeking the office. The labor commissioner oversees state workforce development through certifying apprenticeship programs and sealing partnerships with government and the private sector. The position also is charged with encouraging and enforcing compliance with wage and hour and civil rights laws, such as equality in the workplace, housing



Val Hoyle



Lou Ogden

and public accommodations. Hoyle, who works as a policy fellow at the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics at the University of Oregon, is pitted against Tualatin Mayor Lou Ogden for the position. Union County Commissioner Jack Howard also filed for the office but

did not submit the fee and paperwork required to be included in the Voters' Pamphlet, which was mailed out last week. The winner of the May 15 election will succeed Brad Avakian, who is not seeking another four-year term. Hoyle, who ran for secretary of state in 2016, said if elected as labor commissioner she would use her connections in state government and the private sector to make sure that apprenticeship programs are "feeding out the workforce that the private sector needs." That involves fostering strong relationships with the business and communicating their needs to the state Legislature and schools, she

See BOLI/12A

Session called to tweak tax law

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Legislature will meet May 21 for a special session on business taxes. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said Tuesday she wants legislators to meet that day to resolve an "obvious inequity in Oregon's tax system" by expanding eligibility for a state tax break to owners of sole proprietorships. Current Oregon law holds that some owners of certain types of pass-through businesses — whose business income "passes through" to their personal income taxes — can take a lower tax rate. Sole proprietorships can't take the lower rate under current law.

The Legislative Revenue Office found that about 9,000 Oregon sole proprietorships would be eligible for the rate if lawmakers tweaked the law, initially passed as part of a 2013 legislative package, to include them.

Oregon largely connects to the federal tax code. During the short legislative session, lawmakers passed Senate Bill 1528, which disconnected Oregon from part of the recent federal tax overhaul — specifically, a 20 percent deduction from qualifying business income for pass-through businesses. Brown signed the bill. Allowing that deduction critics of the disconnect bill argue. "This so-called 'emergency' See SESSION/12A

HERMISTON Food plant agrees to new rules on odor

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

The Hermiston City Council on Monday settled on a new way to handle the odor coming from a fruit and vegetable storage facility off Highway 207 that has been the source of complaints in the past few months. The agreement will allow the city to inspect the property more quickly, and dismisses the existing case against the company. After an executive session to discuss a settlement, the council voted unanimously to enter a judgment with the Hermiston company Carter and Wyatt Holdings, and Luke Dynes, a member of the company and owner of the plant. Dynes said in November 2017 that the plant keeps around 1.6 million tons of food out of landfills each year, taking fruit and vegetable byproduct and selling it to dairies and feedlots around the U.S. The plant, located at 78227 Highway 207, has faced fines for violating Hermiston's nuisance code.

See ODOR/12A

