



EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

142nd Year, No. 136 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

Your Weekend



- J.D. Kindie & Playboys release new album
- Yard sales, swap meets and flea markets
- 'Walk in her shoes' in Hermiston

For times and places see Coming Events, 7A

Catch a movie



Avengers assemble yet again for 19th movie in Marvel Universe
For showtime, Page 3A, 5A
For more, Weekend EO

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
80/48	62/45	61/44

PENDLETON
Main Street
work to be
cleared for
weekends
East Oregonian

Despite heavy construction work on South Main Street, the road will be clear for the Pendleton Farmers Market and other weekend events for however long the project takes.

Lauren Juzeler, a city engineering technician, said the waterline replacement project taking place primarily on the 400 block of Main Street will run on a Monday through Thursday schedule to minimize the impact on the downtown area.

On Fridays, work crews will remove all their equipment, clear away the signs and cones that block parts of the road and all the on-street parking spots, and infill and gravel the trench being dug to work on the waterline.

Juzeler said the biggest

See MAIN/8A



A pair of culverts jut out into the Umatilla Marina near the popular fishing spot where Juan Carlos Armenta Madrigal drowned while saving his son Wednesday in Umatilla.

River claims fisherman's life

Umatilla man dies after jumping into river to save son

By PHIL WRIGHT
and JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Juan Carlos Armenta Madrigal gave his life Wednesday evening to save his son from drowning in the chilly water of the Columbia River at the Umatilla Marina.

The boy survived but Madrigal, of Umatilla, did not. He was 35.

The boy is a second grader in the Umatilla School District, and has a sibling in the district in fifth grade.

Umatilla Police Chief Darla Huxel said an officer at 7:12 p.m. received the emergency call to respond to two people drowning at the marina.

Madrigal, his wife and 7-year-old son were fishing on the northeast



Life jackets hang on a rack at the Umatilla Marina where Juan Carlos Armenta Madrigal drowned while saving his son Wednesday. Neither Madrigal nor his son knew how to swim or were wearing a life preserver.

corner of the property, Huxel said, a popular spot where two culverts allow the Columbia River to flow into the marina.

"That's right in front where the current comes in the marina," she said.

The water there is too deep to

stand in, she added, and lately the McNary Dam, about a mile upriver, has released a lot of water, making for a swift current.

"You can definitely see the current going through there," she said after visiting the site again Thursday morning.

The boy slipped and fell into the water, and the father jumped in after him. Neither knew how to swim, Huxel said, and they were not wearing life jackets.

Madrigal tried to heft his son out of the water, but the flow moved them along the marina. Several other people nearby jumped into the river to help.

They dragged the father and son to nearby docks, where fire and rescue personnel worked to revive Madrigal, but to no avail. He died at the scene.

Huxel said the son went to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, for treatment of hypothermia. She did not have an update on his

See DROWNING/8A

Steelhead habitat gets \$1.4M for protection

\$3.1M invested in Mid-Columbia region

By GEORGE PLAVERN
EO Media Group

A nonprofit land trust based in Walla Walla plans to buy a conservation easement to protect three miles of steelhead spawning habitat at a working ranch near the Painted Hills in north-central Oregon.

Blue Mountain Land Trust recently received a \$1.42 million grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to purchase the easement at Canyon Creek Ranch, located along Bear Creek in the John Day Basin.

Jason Bulay, conservation director for the land trust, said the easement will ensure Canyon Creek Ranch stays in agricultural

production, while also protecting fish, wildlife, upland sage and grassland habitat.

"We all benefit, I think, from having healthy populations of fish and wildlife," Bulay said. "Some of these are very important species, from a cultural and economic standpoint."

In particular, Bulay said they intend to preserve healthy riparian habitat for Mid-Columbia steelhead, which are listed as a threatened species. The easement includes 3.1 miles of steelhead habitat in Bear Creek, adjacent to the Painted Hills Unit in the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.

Historically, Canyon Creek Ranch was owned by a land and cattle company that, according to the project application, caused

See STEELHEAD/8A

"We all benefit, I think, from having healthy populations of fish and wildlife."

— Jason Bulay, Blue Mountain Land Trust



Cecilia Espinoza checks printed product bar codes against their computer database at Avitas marijuana production facility in Salem.
AP Photo/Don Ryan

Tons of legal pot leave regulators awash in data

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM — To the beat of electronic dance music, men and women inside a slate-gray building harvested marijuana plants festooned with radio-frequency identification tags. In another room, an employee entered the tag numbers into a government database.

The cannabis tracking system used by Avitas, a marijuana company with a production facility in Salem, is the backbone of Oregon's regu-

latory system to ensure businesses with marijuana licenses obey the rules and don't divert their product into the black market.

A huge amount of data is entered into the system by Oregon's 1,800 licensees every day, a reality that means the state has a tremendous amount of information at its fingertips. But the reality also is the state doesn't have the manpower to monitor all that data.

The marijuana regulatory agency

See MARIJUANA/8A