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Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Soon after new CEO Tim Hoekstra came on the job in January, Lifeways received an ultimatum to change its ways or lose its contract to provide mental health services for Umatilla County's Medicaid patients.

Lifeways searches for identity

New CEO, local director lead mental health services

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Mental illness is no stranger in Umatilla County. Police officers deal often with mentally ill people on the streets. Health care workers treat them in emergency rooms. The county's jail and two prisons have become de facto mental health providers.

Lifeways is the agency tasked with providing mental health care in



Micaela Cathey

notice the name painted on the building, but not realize what Lifeways does.

On a recent day, the clinic's waiting room was hopping. A twenty-something woman stood at the counter setting her

Umatilla County, especially for the poorest residents who are members of the Oregon Health Plan. The job is huge. Motorists who pass the organization's nondescript clinic at 331 SE 2nd St, Pendleton, might

next appointment, her two young children clutching her hands and jiggling impatiently. Other clients sat in chairs waiting. One watched news on a flat screen mounted on the wall.

Back in the therapy rooms, therapists and clients worked on everything from anxiety to full-blown schizophrenia.

It was just another day at Lifeways. This first of ongoing stories will explore Lifeways, what it does, who the players are and how the organization is dealing with recent criticisms of its crisis services program.

The octopus

Lifeways is much more than what

See LIFEWAYS/11A

BOARDMAN

Dairy files Chapter 11, stalls cow auction

Mega-dairy facing financial, regulatory issues

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
and GEORGE PLAVEN
EO Media Group

A controversial Boardman dairy filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection at the 11th hour Thursday night, blocking an auction Friday to sell off its 14,500 cattle herd in Boardman.

The liquidation of Lost Valley Farm's 10,500 cows and 4,000 replacement heifers was ordered in Oregon state court at the behest of Rabobank, a major farm lender seeking repayment for \$60 million in defaulted loans.

However, the bankruptcy petition filed by Greg te Velde, the dairy's owner, in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California automatically stays all foreclosure actions by creditors, including the auction scheduled for Friday at 11 a.m.

Under Chapter 11 bankruptcy, companies typically develop reorganization plans to restructure their debt. Te Velde declined to comment on the bankruptcy case.

See DAIRY/12A

HOUSE BILL 4023

Governor signs broadband bill



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
TOP RIGHT: Gov. Kate Brown signs House Bill 4023, which increases broadband for rural schools, as education and technology leaders look on Friday at the Pendleton Technology and Trade Center. CENTER: Gov. Brown chats with Pendleton High School culinary students at the Pendleton Technology and Trade Center.

Kate Brown signs bill in Pendleton to help close state's digital divide

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

When the Elgin School District's internet signal fails during the winter, a technician from the district's internet service provider often hops onto a snowmobile, drives more than 10 miles up Mt. Fanny and repositions a microwave to restore service.

As classrooms continue to involve more and more technology, Gov. Kate Brown traveled to the Pendleton Tech and Trade Center to sign a bill that supporters touted as a way of closing the urban-rural digital divide.

House Bill 4023 allows the

Oregon State Chief Information Officer to provide broadband services to schools and other public bodies. It also establishes the Connecting Oregon Schools Fund to help schools access these services.

More inside

Gov. Brown visits Lamb Weston fry facility under construction in Hermiston.
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Joseph Franell, the CEO of Eastern Oregon Telecom in Hermiston and the chairman of the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council, spoke before Brown at the signing ceremony and told the audience that access to broadband can improve education, health care, economic development and access to government.

Although broadband is nearly

See BROADBAND/12A

Governor defends tax tweak special session

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

At a bill signing ceremony in Pendleton on Friday, Gov. Kate Brown defended her decision to convene the Oregon Legislature for a May 21 special session on business taxes.

Brown wants the Legislature to expand eligibility for a state tax break to owners of sole proprietorships, small businesses operated by one person that are not registered as a corporation, partnership or limited liability company.

Following the passage of the federal tax bill, the governor

signed a bill that disconnects a part of the Oregon tax code — a 20 percent deduction from qualifying business income for pass-through businesses — with the federal version.

Brown now wants to give sole proprietorships the option of the lower tax rate.

In various statements, Republican legislators called Brown's special session "political theater," over an issue that could have been solved during the short session in March.

State Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, did not attend the

See SESSION/12A

"The internet makes knowledge accessible ... whether they're in Elgin or Eugene"

— Gov. Kate Brown



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