

**PENDLETON  
BREAKS GROUND  
ON FIRE STATION**  
REGION/3A



**LOCALS HIT  
THE PODIUM AT  
STATE TRACK**  
SPORTS/1B

# EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2018

142nd Year, No. 151

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## Your Weekend



- Mix it up with Oregon East Symphony
- BMCC athletics surplus sale Saturday
- Hermiston Horse Sale Sunday at EOTEC

For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

## Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
65/52	72/50	76/56

## PENDLETON

Kind Leaf and city talk pot business at chamber panel

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

Two years ago, selling marijuana in Pendleton was illegal.

On Wednesday, cannabis business owners sat with the police chief and the city planner on a panel sponsored by the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce to talk about the city's nascent marijuana industry.

Brandon Krenzler and Erin Purchase of Kind Leaf Pendleton were joined by Police Chief Stuart Roberts and City Planner George Cress at Oregon Grain Growers Brand Distillery, where they talked about the current state of cannabis rules and regulations and the industry as a whole.

Krenzler addressed an ongoing trend that has affected dispensaries across the state — a massive oversupply in marijuana.

Oregon growers logged more than 1 million pounds of cannabis into the state database, according to state officials. Demand is not keeping up with supply, and with Oregon growers only allowed to sell their products to Oregon dispensaries, Oregonians consumed less than a third of that amount last year.

See PANEL/8A

## PENDLETON

# Methadone clinic prepares to open

Clients to arrive each morning for daily dose

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

The local battle against opioid addiction is ramping up.

A methadone clinic will open in Pendleton as soon as regulatory hurdles are cleared. The Pendleton Treatment Center will offer methadone and Suboxone — two medications used to combat

addiction to prescription painkillers and heroin.

The clinic won't start receiving clients until the complicated regulatory process wraps up and staff members are hired, an undertaking that could take a couple of months or more.

"The state, the feds and the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) — they all have to sign off," said Matt Owen, managing director of associated clinics in Bend and Grants Pass. His company, ORTC, LLC, also opened a facility in Spring-

field about a month ago.

Someone dies from prescription opioids every 20 minutes in this country. The Oregon Health Authority reports that more Oregonians die from prescription opioids than any other drug — including alcohol, methamphetamines, heroin and cocaine. Some users eventually switch to heroin, another opioid which is cheaper and easier to procure. Opioid withdrawal is a notoriously nightmarish process.

See CLINIC/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
The Pendleton Treatment Center will offer methadone and Suboxone to recovering opioid addicts, once regulatory hurdles have been cleared.

# A COTTONWOOD FLOW



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
Swallows fly through a cloud of cottonwood seeds as they float over the Umatilla River Thursday in Pendleton. According to The Weather Channel, grass and tree pollen will be moderate to very high through the weekend and into next week.

## UMATILLA COUNTY ELECTIONS

# Support in east county enough to push Shafer past Givens

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
East Oregonian



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
John Shafer answers a question during a forum of Umatilla County commissioner candidates on April 12 at Armand Larive Middle School in Hermiston. Shafer defeated incumbent Larry Givens in the Tuesday, May 15 election.

John Shafer earned a little more than 52 percent of the vote in Tuesday's election to defeat three-term incumbent Larry Givens in a two-way race for county commissioner. He will take the Position 2 seat in January.

Shafer, the mayor of Athena and a Umatilla County Sheriff's dispatch supervisor, lives about 15 miles south of Givens' hometown of Umapine in the northeastern corner of Umatilla County.

A closer look at precinct data reveals that Shafer won the majority of votes in their shared corner of the county as well as in Pendleton, while Givens gathered the support in much of Hermiston and a few other rural areas.

Of 45 voting precincts in Umatilla County, Shafer won 28 and Givens took 17.

Shafer won handily in his hometown of Athena, with a 177-vote lead in one precinct, the largest margin in any precinct for this race. But Shafer also took the lead in

precincts in and around Milton-Freewater, just a few miles east of Umapine, and inside Pendleton city limits.

Givens won over voters in the city of Hermiston as well as north of the city and in and around Stanfield. He also led by a few votes on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, as well as in the southernmost part of the county.

County Elections Manager Kim Lindell said Umatilla County precinct lines are largely based on school district lines or city boundaries. Within the larger cities — Pendleton, Hermiston and Milton-Freewater — she said the cities are broken up into wards, and precinct lines are drawn based on those boundaries.

A total of 13,157 people voted in this race, out of 42,490 registered voters in the county. Shafer won by 587 total votes.

Shafer said he had not yet had a chance to study the results by precinct, but said he did not tailor his message to any specific group or area.

See ELECTION/8A



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