



LOCAL TEAMS SHINE
IN OPENING ROUND
STATE BASEBALL/SOFTBALL 1B

EAST OREGONIAN
THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2018

142nd Year, No. 155 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

Economist
says ‘kicker’
will return

Changes in tax law, booming
economy boost state revenues

By CLAIRES WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — State revenue projections have grown significantly since mid-2017, likely triggering both the personal and corporate income tax “kicker” in the next two-year budget cycle. The growth is due to recent changes in federal and state tax law and an improved economic outlook, state economist Mark McMullen told lawmakers Wednesday. Personal income tax projections are now about 3 percent higher than state economists’ close-of-session forecast, a difference that, if revenues hold steady or grow more over the next year, could trigger Oregon’s unique “kicker” law in 2019.

See KICKER/3A

Hammonds’
clemency
request hits
White House

Dwight and Steven Hammond
sentenced to five years for arson
conviction, used as rallying cry
for Malheur occupation



Dwight
Hammond



Steven
Hammond

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
EO Media Group

A decision may be imminent on presidential clemency for two Oregon ranchers serving five-year minimum mandatory sentences for arson, according to farm groups seeking their release. Dwight Hammond, 76, and his son, Steven Hammond, 49, were convicted in 2012 of setting fire to rangeland near their ranch in Harney County for which they were initially sentenced to prison terms of three months and one year, respectively. However, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned those more lenient sentences at the urging of the U.S.

See CLEMENCY/5A

UMATILLA

SIGN HERE

Three of every four graduating seniors
at Umatilla High commit to continued education



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Mayra Ortiz (middle), who will play soccer at Columbia Basin Community College after graduation from Umatilla High School, participates in signing day.

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
and JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Amid cheers and fanfare often reserved for student athletes, all Umatilla High School seniors who are pursuing post-secondary education signed letters of intent during the school’s third annual Signing Day. “This is a big step,” Principal Bob Lorence said, congratulating the students. “As you sign your name, just make a commitment to further your education.” Umatilla High School Dean of Students April Dirksen said this year, 72 students will be signing to post-secondary education of some kind, whether a four-year college, a two-year college, the military or trade school. That’s a jump of nearly 20 students from the previous year — something Superintendent Heidi Sipe noted when she challenged the underclassmen in the stands to “beat their record” when it was their turn to graduate. Sipe said this year’s senior class has 96 students, and 75 percent of them have committed to a college, trade school or the military. She said the district’s graduation rate last



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Trey Dohman, of Umatilla High School, announces his plans after graduation to the rest of the student body as part of signing day.

year was 82 percent, and she expects this year’s class to hit at least 86 percent. Before the ceremony, five students discussed their path to graduation and some of the obstacles they’ve encountered along the way. Some students said their biggest obstacle was the lack of financial support they’ll have, and having to navigate the world of higher education alone. “I’ve always known I was going to go

to college,” said Maria Moreno, who will attend the University of Oregon to study biology. She said while she has always been self-motivated, it was a little difficult because her parents had no experience with the system. “It would have been a little easier if they’d been to school, and understood how things work,” she said. For others, the challenges included the loss of a family member. Ayana Reyes, who will attend Blue Mountain Community College, lost her mother when she was a high school freshman. “That’s been the biggest thing,” she said. Reyes lives with her two siblings. She said while it has been a challenge, she has received support from the community. “My mom was a teacher in the district, so the whole district feels like family,” she said. “I have McNary moms always on me about my grades. It’s basically a second family for me.” Some students made their decision with the long-term picture in mind. Trey Dohman, who is joining the Navy, said being raised in a military family informed his decision.

See SIGNING DAY/3A

The cost of a vote in local county
commissioner race? A cup of coffee

Candidates’ campaigns
spent an average of \$2
per vote in May primary

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The five candidates running in last week’s primary for Umatilla County commissioner seats spent about as much per vote cast as a cup of coffee. Tom Bailor, Rick Pullen and incumbent George Murdock ran for Position 1 and received a total of 11,469 votes, according to unofficial elections results, while John Shafer and incumbent Larry Givens received 11,555 votes combined in the Position 2 race. The five spent about \$46,700 on their cam-

paings and received a total of 23,024 votes. That pencils out to a tick more than \$2 per vote across the board, with more than three times as much spent in the two-way race as in the other. Bailor, Murdock, Givens and Shafer spent \$45,399 collectively on their campaigns, according to ORESTAR, the Oregon Secretary of State’s public website for campaign finance activity. Pullen said he spent about \$1,300. Oregon election law requires political committees to maintain records of all contributions and expenditures, but committees only file those transactions with ORESTAR if they expect to receive or spend more than \$3,500 for a calendar year.

See COST/5A

Cost per vote

COST PER VOTE FOR CANDIDATES IN LOCAL RACES		
Candidate	Position	Cost
Michael Breiling	6th District Court	\$4.22
John Shafer*	Umatilla County	\$3.60
Larry Givens	Umatilla County	\$3.08
Rob Collins*	6th District Court	\$2.12
George Murdock	Umatilla County	96 cents
Tom Bailor	Umatilla County	61 cents
Rick Pullen	Umatilla County	37 cents
Don Russell*	Morrow County	8 cents

OREGON GOVERNOR’S RACE

Candidate	Party	Cost
Knute Buehler*	Republican	\$18.90
Greg Wooldridge	Republican	\$4.72
Sam Carpenter	Republican	\$3.77
Gov. Kate Brown*	Democrat	\$2.21
Patrick Starnes**	Independent	63 cents
Skye Allen	Independent	9 cents

*Won election
**Finished with most votes, but write-in results still pending
Analysis is based on unofficial election results and information in ORESTAR, the Oregon Secretary of State’s public website for campaign finance

