

EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2018

142nd Year, No. 156

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- Rodeos in Helix and Spray on Saturday
- Hear rare instruments at Pendleton Arts Center
- Tylor and Train Robbers rock Hermiston

For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

Catch a movie



Solo: A Star Wars Story
For showtime, Page 5A
For review, Weekend EO

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
		
81/51	73/48	78/54

Watch a game
Second-round baseball/
softball matchups in
Hermiston and Pendleton
Today

BOARDMAN

Standoff ends
with arrest of
shooting suspect

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A Boardman man, suspected in a recent shooting, is in custody Thursday after a long standoff with police. Local and Oregon State Police worked together to bring in Alex Luis Ahumada after he barricaded himself Wednesday inside a Boardman home. Police wanted to question Ahumada, 33, about the May 19 shooting of Carlos Ramirez. Hermiston



Alex Ahumada
See ARREST/5A



HERMISTON

MARKET
MAKEOVER



ABOVE: Hermiston Farmers Market vendor Teresa Engbretson, of My Garden Overfloweth in Paterson, Washington, gathers some flowers for a customer Thursday evening. BELOW: Vendors offer their wares Thursday evening at the first Hermiston farmers market of the season.

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Hermiston's new farmers market was buzzing with activity on opening day. The Maxwell Market — with a new name, new management, new date and new location — opened Thursday under a large shade canopy on the corner of South First Place and West Locust Avenue. About 16 vendors were there when it opened at 4 p.m., selling produce, flowers, crafts, jewelry, meat, cheese and other items. Some of them were first-time farmers market vendors. Teresa Horn of Eastern Oregon Mobile Slaughter, selling specialty smoked meats, said she had been thinking about coming for years but had never done it. "It's already been worth coming," she said about half an hour into the market. "We've sold several packages and people seem to like it."

See MARKET/3A



Tax-free grocery initiative inches
closer to state's November ballot

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Petitioners for an initiative to ban any future taxes on groceries have submitted nearly 180,000 signatures Wednesday, May 23, to place the constitutional amendment on the Nov. 6 ballot. If verified by the secretary of state's office, the number of signatures would exceed the 117,578 needed under statute. Joe Gilliam, president of the Northwest Grocery Association, called Wednesday a "major milestone." "Since statehood, Oregon has never taxed groceries, yet politicians in Oregon continue to push for a tax on grocery sales," Gilliam said. "This initiative will end these efforts and other future efforts by proactively prohibiting the taxing of groceries from farm-to-fork." Initiative Petition 37 would prohibit local or state taxes on all food for consumption,



Jaime Valdez/Portland Tribune

Quy Pham of Southeast Portland pushes a cart of groceries from Hong Phat grocery store on Southeast 82nd Avenue in Portland. A grocery company-backed campaign for IP 37 turned in nearly 180,000 signatures to the Secretary of State's Office Wednesday.

except for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. Personal hygiene products were excluded from the measure, based on the results of the campaign's internal polling, said Dan Floyd,

spokesman for the "Yes! Keep Our Groceries Tax Free!" campaign. "When we add in other products — even restaurant

See TAX/5A

Spill order to cost
Umatilla Electric
company \$204,000

East Oregonian

A recent ruling by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will cost Umatilla Electric company an extra \$204,000 for wholesale power this year. In April the court upheld an order from a federal judge for dams along the Columbia and Snake rivers to start spilling more water over the dams, potentially helping migrating salmon but reducing the amount of hydropower the dams can produce. The exact cost to utilities was initially unknown, but UEC member services administrator Steve Meyers said in an email that UEC will be charged approximately \$204,000 over the summer to make up for the added spill. Bonneville Power Administration, which provides half the electricity used in the Pacific Northwest, announced that the total spill cost is \$38.6 million in 2018, but BPA found cost reductions to make up for part of it, leaving \$10.2 million that the agency plans to recoup with surcharges of 71 cents per megawatt hour from June through September. Meyers said there will be a public comment period through June 7 before BPA issues its final decision, but UEC does not anticipate a significant change from what has been proposed.