

INSIDE: YOUR GUIDE TO THE UMATILLA COUNTY FAIR



EAST OREGONIAN WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2018

142nd Year, No. 188 WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

USDA vows \$12 billion for farmers hit by tariffs

New programs to take effect around Labor Day By GEORGE PLAVER EO Media Group

When U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue visited farmers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho earlier this month, he promised the Trump administration

tion was working on a plan to compensate growers hurt by ongoing disputes with key trade partners, namely China. That emergency relief is now coming into focus. On Tuesday, Perdue announced \$12 billion for three new USDA programs during a conference call with reporters. The aid will include direct payments to farmers and ranchers, gov-

ernment purchases of some surplus commodities and helping to develop new export markets overseas. Perdue said the programs are a short-term solution giving President Trump time to work out long-term trade deals in the future. "It's clear to every-

one that President Trump has gotten China's attention like never before," Perdue said. Trump recently placed tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese goods, which prompted retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural products — everything

from soybeans to fresh fruit and meat. In response, the president has threatened to place additional tariffs on up to \$500 billion in products imported from China. He reiterated his willingness to ratchet up the trade war in a Tweet, stating, "Tariffs are the greatest! Either a country which has treated the United States unfairly on Trade negotiates a fair deal, or it gets hit

with Tariffs. It's as simple as that — and everybody's talking! Remember, we are the 'piggy bank' that's being robbed. All will be Great!" Perdue faced questions about trade from Northwest farmers and ranchers during a tour of the region July 2-4, and he said the USDA was looking into "some sort of compensatory mitigation

See USDA/8A



Perdue

Judge Temple blocked from criminal cases

DA files motions for sake of 'impartial trial' By PHIL WRIGHT East Oregonian

Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus last week started pushing to block Circuit Court Judge Eva Temple from presiding over new criminal cases.

It's an exceedingly rare action that has court administrators and local law enforcement questioning how the circuit court's caseload will be handled.

Court records show Primus' requests are for new felony and misdemeanor cases alike. The supporting affidavit for the motions asserts the following: "The state moves the court to appoint a judge other than the Honorable Judge Eva Temple in this matter because the state believes that it cannot have a fair and impartial trial or hearing before such judge."

Circuit Judge Christopher Brauer, the presiding judge in the judicial district, has granted the disqualifications.

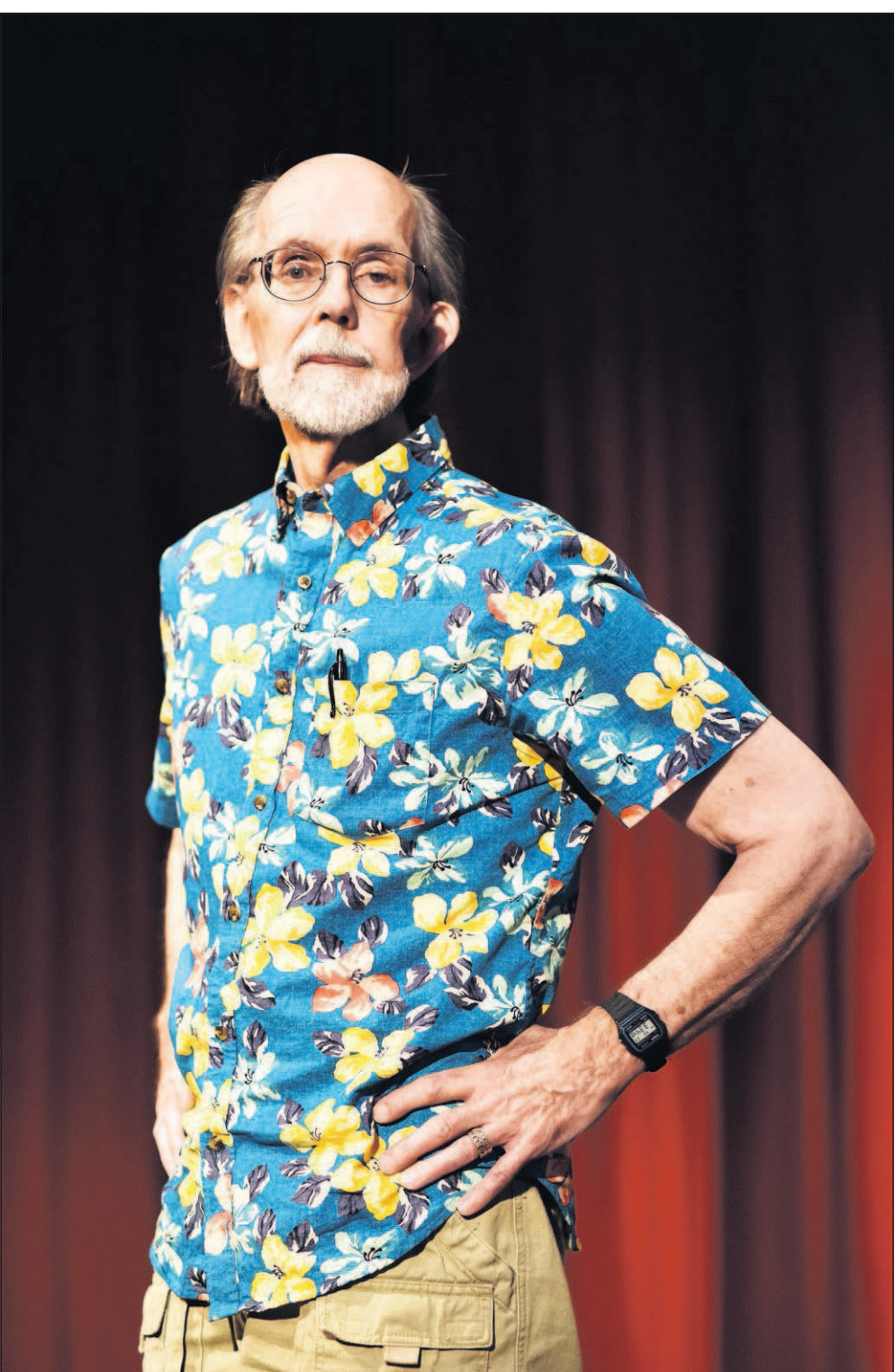
See TEMPLE/6A



Temple

"I knew immediately I wanted to spend the rest of my life in theater. And I did." — Craig McIntosh, retiring BMCC theater director

That's a wrap



Above: BMCC theater arts instructor Craig McIntosh is retiring after 28 years of involvement in the Pendleton theater scene. Right: McIntosh performs a solo mime act early in his career.

Blue Mountain Community College theater director retires after 28-year career on the stage

By KATHY ANEY East Oregonian

In the theater world, they call it a good run. Craig McIntosh will soon retire after 13 years as Blue Mountain Community College's chief thespian and 28 years of involvement in the Pendleton theater scene. McIntosh directed 37 plays and musicals as BMCC theater arts instructor and director for College Community Theatre. He performed in 11 CCT productions over the years.



Contributed photo

Success didn't come the way he'd imagined. McIntosh's life reads like a play about a man who lost his voice and found it again. His personal story stars a young boy who finds acting and gets noticed, hones his talent and heads out into the world as an accomplished mime, actor and director. Then tragedy strikes. Surgery to remove a cancerous tumor in his neck leads to disfigurement and a hard-to-understand voice. Devastated, but determined, he continues as a mime until someone gives him a chance to direct college theater.

His first attraction to theater started in junior high. It happened quickly, like falling off a cliff.

See MCINTOSH/8A

HERMISTON

Council may loosen rules for food trucks

Could include pod, additional vendors By JADE MCDOWELL East Oregonian

City staff are drawing up changes to the city's mobile vending rules and looking at options for a food truck pod after the Hermiston City Council decided it's time to allow more such businesses in town. The council directed staff

to bring back an updated ordinance for a vote at the next meeting that would increase the number of licenses for mobile vendors from the current cap of three. The number of basic year-long licenses available would be raised to six, with an option to appeal to the city council for an additional license if the six are already in use. The city would also add temporary 90-day licenses, which would be available for

food trucks but also allow for push-cart operations like a hot dog stand. And city planner Clint Spencer said the license cap would not apply to public property, meaning a food truck "pod" (a gathering of mobile vendors in one place) on city property would not count toward the license maximum. "We've had people express interest," Spencer said of the idea of a food truck pod on city property.

He said staff were looking at the city-owned lot on Orchard Avenue across from the post office for a possible pod, and would like to put out a request for proposals to have a third party manage the pod instead of the city, similar to how Mitco Investments is running the farmer's market this year. Mayor David Drotzmann said he liked that idea, so that people could bring in some different business plans for

the council to consider. "We're flexible, if it's reasonable and affordable," he said. The recommendations were based on the results of an online survey that had more than 900 responses. Eighty-six percent of respondents were in favor of increasing the number of mobile food vendor licenses, and even higher percentages of people were in favor of the other suggested changes.

