



EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018

142nd Year, No. 238 WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

PENDLETON

Airport hotel stays in holding pattern

Council passes on vote to approve deal with Makad

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

When Makad Corp. originally went into business with the city in 2015 to build

a data center, the Vancouver, Washington company had a much easier time getting the project through the Pendleton City Council. After tabling the issue in August, Mayor John Turner declared at a Tuesday meeting that the council was postponing a decision again on a 75-room hotel proposal

at the Pendleton airport after members met behind closed doors to discuss the proposed lease. In an interview after the meeting ended, Turner said the council had questions they wanted clarified about the incentive package and other terms of the lease. Instead of a traditional

land lease, the city would collect a percentage of the hotel's gross revenue starting in 2021, ranging from 0.25 percent during the first year to 2 percent starting in 2028. The city would collect revenue through this method for the first 30 years of the 50-year lease before switch-

ing to a rent plan based on "fair market rental value." In a financial analysis prepared by Makad Corp., the company anticipates the city's revenue from the deal would grow from \$5,916 in 2021 to \$41,021 in 2028. City Manager Robb Corbett has estimated that a standard land lease would gener-

ate only \$2,100 per year for the city. With the hotel set to be located in the airport's long-range parking lot, the company has also agreed to building a new parking lot. Under the terms of the agreement, Makad Corp. See HOTEL/8A

2018 GOVERNOR'S DEBATE



Rep. Knute Buehler, R-Bend, answers a question during Tuesday night's debate in Portland as Gov. Kate Brown looks on.

Candidates answer to teens

By AUBREY WIEBER
Capital Bureau

PORTLAND — The most challenging force facing gubernatorial candidate Knute Buehler in his first debate wasn't incumbent Gov. Kate Brown. It was Rose Lawrence, a 15-year-old from Portland. Lawrence took the stage at her Roosevelt High School Tuesday night after several other youth questioners. They each had appeared satisfied with the answers they received from Buehler, Brown and independent candidate Patrick Starnes. Lawrence wasn't. She asked what the candi-

dates would do to curb bullying of LGBTQ youths in schools. The candidates answered. She asked again. Brown described being treated poorly as a bisexual woman. She talked about her "safe and secure" schools initiative, now being used as a national model. Buehler, in a divergence from how he conducted himself through the rest of the debate, used his time to largely credit the work of his Democratic opponent, saying he would continue on her progress when in office. Lawrence, part of the LGBTQ See DEBATE/8A



Dazon Sigo of Pendleton asks a question of the gubernatorial candidates on Tuesday in Portland.



Givens Shafer

Supporters introduce write-in campaign

Commissioner Givens lost primary to Shafer

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Umatilla County Commissioner Larry Givens is not giving up on serving a fourth term. "I got some folks that are supporting a write-in campaign," Givens said. "They approached me. This is supporter driven." Athena Mayor John Shafer won 52.3 percent of the vote to defeat Givens in the race for position 2 on the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners. Nearly 12,000 voters cast ballots in that race, while the entire turnout for the primary was 13,310, or 31 percent. Givens, commissioner for 12 years, said Mel Keely, vice chair of the county fair board, came to him a couple of weeks ago with the idea of running a write-in campaign for the Nov. 6 election. A few more people made the same pitch soon after; Givens said he gave his blessing and the campaign is catching on in Hermiston, Pendleton and Milton-Freewater. "It comes from some folks who just are not happy with Mr. Shafer," Givens said, but he did not specify what they might be unhappy about. The commissioner said he is not directing the campaign but told the supporters where to find relevant documents from the See GIVENS/8A

MEASURE 103

Grocery tax ban would amend state constitution

'Yes' vote prevents any future tax on food, beverages

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Oregon has long been known as the no sales tax state. In November, voters will decide if they want to keep it that way. Measure 103 proposes a ban on taxing all grocery items within the state of Oregon. The measure, introduced by grocers and marketing executives from the industry, defines groceries as "any raw or processed food or beverage intended for human consumption." It does not apply to alcohol, marijuana or tobacco, or non-food items like toiletries, medicine or paper products. A "yes" vote on Measure 103 supports the prohibition of any tax on

groceries by state or local governments, and would prevent those taxes from ever being imposed. A "no" vote opposes that prohibition, and would allow state or local governments to impose taxes on grocery items. The measure, which would amend the state constitution, would apply to any tax on food or beverages (except alcohol) that has been enacted between October of 2017 and the election. Many local grocers and market managers did not want to comment on the measure. But on the "Yes on 103" official website, several local businesses have officially endorsed the measure. Listed businesses from See MEASURE/7A



Produce manager Brandon Bradley stocks mushrooms on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015, at the Walmart store in Pendleton.

