

HURRICANE CAUSES
'UNIMAGINABLE
DESTRUCTION'
NATION/7A



PILOT ROCK FALLS
FROM RANKS OF
UNBEATEN
SPORTS/1B

EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2018

143rd Year, No. 245 WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

Your Weekend



- Pendleton Oktoberfest at the Round-Up
- Boardman's annual Fall Quilt Show
- Country Hoedown, Milton-Freewater

For times and places see Coming Events, 6A

Weekend Weather

Fri Sat Sun



69/37 60/31 62/33

Watch a game



Hermiston vs. Eisenhower
Friday, 7 p.m., Kennison Field, Hermiston

B2H line faces final rounds of approval

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line is churning its way toward regulatory approval from the Oregon Department of Energy, which is kicking off the review process with a series of public meetings across all four Eastern Oregon counties that the line will run through.

Idaho Power is proposing a 500-kilovolt, 273-mile transmission line from Boardman to the Hemingway Substation in Owyhee County, Idaho, and just submitted a final application for site certificate. The cost for the transmission line is estimated at \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion.

The proposal has been contentious, and although the four-stop tour will not include time for public comment, Idaho Power spokeswoman Julie Stutts said company representatives

See B2H/6A

UMATILLA COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S RACE



Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock, right, answers a question during the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce candidate forum as challenger Rick Pullen looks on Wednesday at BMCC in Hermiston.

Same battle lines in race for commissioner

Murdock, Pullen square off for top county job

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock and challenger Rick Pullen agreed the county's election process could use some improvement.

Otherwise, they took familiar roles Wednesday night during a local candidates forum in front of about 40 people at Blue Mountain Community College, Hermiston. The candidates during the span of a half hour answered the same questions, ranging from their achievements to the county's role in economic development to how to get state money to take on the mental health crisis.

Both fell short of 50 percent of the vote during the May primary — Murdock took about 45 percent and Pullen 31 percent — and in the November run-off are staking similar ground as in their spring campaigns.

Murdock said he was proud of his work managing the county's budget. Umatilla County has a history of budget difficulties, but the county in recent years has been pro-

viding a stable level of services. Murdock said the county looks to maintain its programs and perhaps implement the sheriff's long-term staffing plan that would result in coverage just shy of 24 hours each day.

Pullen touted his 10 years of county management and transitioning the county's Assessment and

See COMMISSIONER/8A



Challenger Mark Gomolski, left, answers a question during the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce candidate forum as incumbent City Councilor Lori Davis looks on Wednesday at BMCC in Hermiston.

Oregon to craft new proposal for managing wolves



Derek Broman, state carnivore biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, leads a presentation during Tuesday's wolf plan stakeholders meeting in Salem.

Goal is fewer dead cows, fewer dead wolves

By GEORGE PLAVEN
EO Media Group

A new framework for managing wolves that repeatedly prey on livestock may have the support of both Oregon ranchers and conservation groups, if the state can find enough money to pay for it.

The idea came as groups sat down for the second time with a mediator on Tuesday as part of the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's effort to update the state's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

Participants include the Ore-

gon Cattlemen's Association, Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Hunters Association and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, along with Oregon Wild, Cascadia Wildlands, Defenders of Wildlife and the Center for Biological Diversity.

The facilitated meetings are designed to find common ground within the contentious wolf plan.

Tuesday's session revealed a possible breakthrough in how ranchers can peacefully coexist with wolves on the landscape while minimizing attacks on livestock. Though short on specifics, the strategy generally calls for more site-specific wolf protections with an upfront focus on non-lethal deterrents, such as hiring range riders or stringing fladry along fences to haze the predators.

Under the proposal, a wildlife biologist would meet with individual ranchers to discuss which non-lethal tools would be most effective given their location and geography. ODFW already has conflict deterrence plans where wolves are known to be active, but these new agreements would make it even clearer what a rancher ought to be doing to best protect their animals.

If wolves continue to attack livestock and meet the state's definition of "chronic depredation," then ranchers who follow the rules can request killing wolves to stop the damage, which is allowed in Phase III of the wolf plan in Eastern Oregon. Wolves remain a federally pro-

See WOLF/6A



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