



# EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018

143rd Year, No. 5

WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

**PENDLETON**

## CTUIR offers \$2 million for Hamley properties

Wildhorse would manage establishments

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have offered \$2 million to buy the Hamley operations in downtown Pendleton.

Chuck Sams, communication director for the tribes, said

the Board of Trustees sent the letter of interest on Aug. 27. He said the deal would include all Hamley assets, from the western store to the saddle shop to the restaurant.

"We wanted to show the bankruptcy court there are viable buyers here," Sams said.

Hamley owners Blair Woodfield and Parley Pearce are in a legal fight over the limited-liability companies under the Hamley's umbrella. Woodfield wants to sell the properties and is suing Pearce,

who seeks to retain them. HIPO, an Idaho limited-liability company, owns about \$1.4 million of Hamley debt and planned to auction memberships that control the business entities to recoup the expense. Woodfield in early June filed for bankruptcy protection, a move that blocked the sale and stalled any movement in the lawsuit.

Sams emphasized the legal dispute between Pearce and Wood-

See HAMLEY/8A



EO file photo

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have offered \$2 million to buy all of the Hamley properties.

## Candidates take liberty with truth in late ad pushes

Gubernatorial candidates release multiple TV, social media ads in final days of campaign

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

The two prime candidates for Oregon governor are releasing multiple television and social media ads in the final days of the campaign. Some make misleading and sometimes inaccurate claims.

Gov. Kate Brown, the Democratic incumbent, and state Rep. Knute Buehler, her Republican challenger, are funneling millions into advertising in the most expensive governor's race in state history.

"What we are seeing now is the candidates trying to define who their opponent is," said Jim Moore, director of the Tom McCall Center for Policy Innovation at Pacific University. "It is not so much lying, but the context is completely wrong."

Brown, for instance, released an ad Oct. 16 that ties Buehler to Donald Trump, flashing images of the president and U.S. Supreme Court appointee Brett Kavanaugh.

See ADS/8A

## Rural Fossil gets statewide call center



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Oregon Department of Revenue has recently opened at call center in the J.E. Burch Building in Fossil.

### Six people will handle calls out of Wheeler County office

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

The next time a local resident has a question on their state income taxes, it could be directed to Fossil.

The Oregon Department of Revenue will be holding a grand opening ceremony for its first standalone call center in the town of less than 500 people on Tuesday.

Wheeler County Economic Development Director Greg Smith said it was a "game changer" for Fossil and akin to Nike making a major expansion at its headquarters in Beaverton.

Joy Krawczyk, the department's spokeswoman, said state legislators began discussing the Fossil call center as a way to invest more resources into Oregon's rural communities in 2017.

Smith said that he and then-Rep. John Huffman, who represented Fossil in the Oregon House of Representatives, began talking about decentralizing state jobs with Wheeler County Judge Lynn Morley and former Rep. Cliff Bentz, who represented neighboring District 60 in the House.

"Why can't we divest some of these jobs from Salem and move them to frontier counties like Wheeler County?" Smith said.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A pair of deer rest under the shade of a tree in the backyard of a residence on Washington Street on Monday in Fossil.

Smith is no stranger to the Legislature either, having represented western Umatilla County, eastern Wasco County and Morrow, Gilliam, and Sherman counties in the Oregon House.

The group of legislators and government officials presented the idea to Gov. Kate Brown, Smith said, and she liked it enough

to sign off on the proposal.

The call center now employs six customer service representatives and a supervisor located at the Jeanne E. Burch Building in Fossil.

Krawczyk said the call center has been up

See FOSSIL/8A

