

The fog begins to lift over the Umatilla River on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on Tuesday east of Pendleton. Patchy fog and freezing fog is forecast for the Columbia Basin through Saturday, according to the National Weather Service. [Page 2A](#)

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

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## Oregonians will have to dig deeper to fund budget

Gov. Brown hasn't said where \$2.6 billion will come from

By **CLAIRE WITCOMBE**  
*Capital Bureau*

SALEM — Thousands of Oregonians could see more money taken out of their paychecks and companies would be writing bigger checks to fund Gov. Kate Brown's proposed budget and revamp the state's education system.

Brown needs to find \$2.6 billion more than is already being paid in state taxes to cover her proposals for the state's next two-year budget. It's likely much of that sum would come from corporate or personal income tax increases.

Currently, individual taxpayers are projected to pay \$19 billion in state income taxes the next two years. And corporations are projected to pay another \$1.1 billion.

The governor for the most part has been quiet about where she's going to get the new money. She has proposed increasing a variety of taxes other than income taxes, but that gives her about one-third of what she needs to cover her proposed spending.

The details on who would pay are yet to come.

"The governor will be engaged in working with those who will be proposing ideas, which includes the business community, Legislature and other stakeholders across the state," said Chris Pair, Brown's communications director.

"It's going to be a challenge," the governor said last week when she

See [BUDGET/8A](#)

## Inmate's inner artist roams wild and free



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Inmate Kirk Charlton has been dubbed "the painter" inside the walls of the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton. Charlton is a prolific artist, whose work ranges from drawings to murals. He also teaches an art class for inmates at EOIC.

# ART INSIDE OUT

Prison painter won over officials

By **KATHY ANEY**  
*East Oregonian*

**K**irk Charlton isn't the first man to find his calling in prison.

But few have pulled it off in such a colorful way. With pencils and paints, Charlton has honed himself into the man he wants to be outside prison walls. The 56-year-old Hawaiian uses the cinderblock walls of the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution as his canvas. He teaches fellow inmates to find their inner artist and recently released a children's book. At the prison, he is known as "the painter."

"He is the only person at the institution to ever have that position," said Ron Miles, the prison's public information officer and supervising executive assistant to the superintendent.

Charlton, a former pawn shop manager who landed in prison after illegally repossessing a car, remembers being high at the time of the crime. He came to EOIC in 2012.

After a correctional officer noticed him drawing, EOIC's Tom Lemens asked him to



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

"I Want to be a Marine Biologist" is the first illustrated children's book published by EOIC inmate Kirk Charlton.

paint a mural on long slab of wall that runs along a hallway near steel gates near the

front of the institution.

"The walls were a bland white," said Lemens, EOIC's assistant superintendent of correctional rehabilitation. "We wanted him to liven things up a little bit and change the look of the institution."

Charlton submitted designs and spent the next several months transforming the drab wall into an eruption of pop culture and Americana. The assemblage includes Betsy Ross, Cesar Chavez, Batman, the Statue of Liberty, Babe Ruth, Louis Armstrong, Big Bird, the Golden Gate Bridge, Kiss, Elvis, Mark Twain, Darth Vader and Kermit the Frog.

That mural was the first of many. Charlton became the prison painter. Along with murals, he has other responsibilities, such as face painting at family events.

Several years ago, he tried to persuade the powers that be to let him teach an art program of his own invention called "Art Inside Out." The object was not only to teach art, but also relate it to success in life.

"He got rejected," Miles said. "But when people told him 'No' he didn't stop or curl

See [ARTIST/8A](#)

## Pendleton Warming Shelter struggles to stay open

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
*East Oregonian*

Overnight lows in Pendleton dropped below freezing this week while the Pendleton Warming Shelter

struggles to stay open.

Dwight Johnson, executive director of Neighbor 2 Neighbor Pendleton, the nonprofit that operates the shelter, said a lack of volunteers willing to stay through

the night is forced the shelter to close Tuesday night with other weekdays looking sketchy.

"We require two volunteers present all night long with at least one awake," he

explained. "As we look at our scheduling calendar it is deeply concerning as we currently have very few of these shifts covered."

The National Weather Service predicts overnight

lows in Pendleton hovering around 20 until Friday and staying below freezing through the weekend. Johnson said the shelter's pol-

See [SHELTER/8A](#)



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