

**BUCKS WIN FIRST ROUND OF IMC TOURNAMENT**

SPORTS, B1



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REGION, A3



# EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2019

143rd Year, No. 92

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\$1.50

## Your Weekend



- **Inland Northwest Orchestra**, Pendleton
- **"Godspell,"** Blue Mountain Community College
- **Pig Out Dinner/Dance**, Hermiston

FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS SEE COMING EVENTS, A5

### Weekend Weather

FRI	SAT	SUN
39/28	39/27	32/21

## Lost Valley Farm sells to lone bidder

Associated Press

The troubled Lost Valley Farm near Boardman has sold to its only bidder, and its herd has been auctioned off.

A federal bankruptcy judge approved the dairy farm's sale to Canyon Farm LLC for \$66.7 million earlier this month.

The sale is scheduled to close March 1. The last of the dairy's approximately 8,360 cows were sold Tuesday.

The dairy's owner declared bankruptcy in April 2018, forestalling an auction of his cows as part of a bank foreclosure.

The operation was out of compliance with its wastewater permit since it opened in 2017, resulting in \$200,000 in state fines for more than 200 environmental violations.

The court-appointed trustee will ensure the dairy's wastewater lagoons are emptied to an acceptable level by the end of October.

## PENDLETON

# Airport battle stays grounded



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Harold Nelson, owner of Pendleton Aircraft Service, works on removing the oil filter on an Air Tractor while performing an annual inspection on the aircraft Thursday in his hanger at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton.

## Business owners concerned about city rewriting leases

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

A dispute over lease contract language is creating tension between business owners at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport and Pendleton airport administration.

Those tensions recently rose to the forefront at a Pendleton Airport Commission meeting Wednesday, where airport manager Steve Chrisman and Pendleton Aircraft Service owner Harold Nelson got into a heated exchange over what airport leases should look like going forward.

At the heart of the debate is the "reversionary clause" of an airport lease, language in the contract that allows the city to take back rented property once a lease ends.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The handprints for the entire Nelson family lie in the foundation of the aircraft hanger at Pendleton Aircraft Service. All of the Nelsons left their prints during the construction of the building in 1975.

Airport officials are saying that the reversionary clause has long been included in lease contracts with tenants, and by updating the language, the city is merely trying to comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

Airport business owners — a group that includes

aircraft mechanics, inspectors and service providers — argue that previous city administrations allowed them to enter and renew leases without the threat of clawing back the land and a more strict application of the reversionary clause would kill the general aviation

business community.

The land lease system is a result of the unique real estate setup at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport.

After the federal government transferred management of the airport and the surrounding industrial area to the city following World War II, the FAA required the city lease the land instead of selling it.

With a few exceptions, all businesses and organizations located at the airport own the buildings they operate in while leasing the ground from the city.

In an interview after the meeting, Chrisman said the city was compelled to take another look at the reversionary clause when some long-time leaseholders like Nelson saw their leases expire. Nelson said his last lease expired more than three years ago and he's been renting month-to-month ever since.

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## Short on jurors, court 'recruits' from county meeting

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Residents attending Wednesday's Umatilla County Board of Commissioners meeting in Pendleton got a surprise — an order to serve as jurors.

The meeting began at 9 a.m. on the first floor at the county courthouse. Commissioner Bill Elfering,

chair of the board, said before getting to business he had to deal with a special request.

"I think in my six years sitting as a commissioner, this is the first time this has come up," he told the crowd of about 20. "But there is a court going on upstairs, and the court is short six jurors. And we need six volunteers to serve on the jury."

Umatilla County Circuit Court

operates three courtrooms on the second courthouse, and Circuit Judge Jon Lieuallen was overseeing a trial that needed a jury. Elfering asked for people to raise their hand to see if they had enough volunteers.

No one volunteered. "If not," he continued, "the court is authorized to appoint you as a juror."

That drew some chuckles. But

court security deputy Felix Parada was there to collect folks to serve on the jury. Commissioner George Murdock asked if county employees could take those seats, and Parada said he would check.

The first portion of the meeting moved into a public hearing on a request from residents to declare a

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