

Boardman farmer wins corn yield contest

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
EO Media Group

Northwest farmers won several top honors in the National Corn Growers Association’s National Corn Yield Contest for 2018.

At the national level, Nolan Mills, of Boardman, took first place in the no-till/strip-till irrigated category, growing a DuPont Pioneer hybrid seed that yielded more than 360 bushels per acre.

The average yield for irrigated corn in Oregon was 209 bushels per acre in 2013, according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Second place in the no-till/strip-till irrigated category went to Roger Danz, of Mesa, Wash., who yielded 354 bushels per acre. Dean Harris, of Umatilla, took third place with 343 bushels per acre.

Mike Moyle, who farms west of Boise, Idaho, also won second place in the national irrigated category,



Contributed by National Corn Growers Association/Capital Press
Boardman farmer Joe Taylor earned first place in the Oregon state level corn yield contest for irrigated fields with 315 bushels per acre.

with 351 bushels per acre. That was a distant second to the top grower, Don Stall of Michigan, whose field yielded 477 bushels per acre. Both farmers grew a Pioneer hybrid seed.

State awards are also given out to growers in six production categories, including irrigated and non-irrigated. Roger Zyls-

tra, chairman of the National Corn Growers Association’s Stewardship Action Team, said contest winners at the state and national levels find innovative ways to help their fellow farmers succeed.

“Emphasizing innovation both from growers and technology providers, our contest enables us to meet the growing demand for

OREGON YIELD WINNERS

Irrigated/Oregon

1. Joe Taylor, Boardman, 315 bushels/acre
2. Dan Mills, Stanfield, 310 bushels/acre
3. Scott Setniker, Independence, 290 bushels/acre

No-Till/Strip-Till Irrigated/Oregon

1. Nolan Mills, Boardman, 360 bushels/acre
2. Dean Harris, Umatilla, 343 bushels/acre
3. Emily Rea Boardman, 274 bushels/acre

A Non-Irrigated/Oregon

1. Wes VanDyke, Cornelius, 79 bushels/acre

food, feed, fuel and fiber,” Zylstra said.

The 2018 contest drew 7,258 entries from across the country. Winners were recently honored at the 2019 Commodity Classic, which was held Feb. 28 to March 2 in Orlando, Fla.

Snow rescuers needed rescuing

HEPPNER — A pair of Morrow County sheriff’s sergeants responded to a vehicle stuck in the snow only to get their vehicle stuck as well.

County undersheriff and emergency manager John Bowles reported a Heppner couple were stuck in their pickup in the snow Monday at about 5:30 p.m. approximately 3 miles past Cutsforth Park on Willow Creek Road, about 25 miles southeast of Heppner. The sheriff’s office activated its search and rescue team and notified Bowles.

Sgts. Brian Snyder and Nathan Braun responded and were on scene at 7:37 p.m. They contacted the couple, but the deep snow also trapped the sheriff’s vehicle. The Morrow County Sheriff’s Office reached out to local resident Luke Young who used his equipment to pull the sheriff’s vehicle free from the snow.

Soon, all parties were out of Cutsforth Park. No one was injured, no vehicles or property were damaged, and the couple was back at home at 10:34 p.m.

The mountains have plenty of snow, and Bowles reminded drivers to stay off deep snow-packed roads, be cautious and prepared, and call 911 if you have an emergency.

Oregon House moves to update LGBTQ language in statute

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon House of Representatives moved on Wednesday to scrub language offensive to LGBTQ residents in a bill that also specifies that sexual orientation is not a physical or mental impairment.

The bill passed the House 58-2 and goes to the Senate.

Rep. Rob Nosse, who is gay, said on the House floor that the state’s anti-LGBTQ laws date back to the 1850s when Oregon was a territory, and helped put some people into mental hospitals and the state penitentiary for expressing their love or true gender. The laws were enforced until the 1970s, Nosse said.

“It was taken for granted that being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender meant that you had a mental disorder and unfortunately ... remnants of those sentiments still remain in our legal code, and that’s why we have this bill,” the

Portland Democrat said.

The measure modernizes language referring to transgender people, deleting “transsexualism” and “transvestism” from Oregon’s employment anti-discrimination law. The bill clarifies that sexual orientation isn’t considered a physical or mental impairment and that a person doesn’t have a disability solely due to sexual orientation.

“By removing offensive, outdated terms, such as ‘transsexualism’ and ‘transvestism,’ and striking the association between transgender people and those with ‘sexual behavior disorders,’ this bill affirms the dignity of transgender Oregonians,” said Nancy Hague, executive director of Basic Rights Oregon, in earlier testimony. The group works to ensure equality for LGBTQ residents.

Two Republicans, Rep. Mike Nearman of Inde-

pendence, and Rep. Werner Reschke of Klamath Falls, were the only two House lawmakers who voted against the bill. They did not speak about the bill on the House floor. They were in meetings after the vote and did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Cierra Brown, the chair of OGALLA, the LGBT bar association of Oregon, said earlier that while individual transgender people may receive various diagnoses or health care, those conditions or limitations are distinct from an individual’s gender identity.

“This bill draws a line between tangible conditions — which the disability law should protect on equal terms for all Oregonians — and inherent identity,” Brown said.

The Oregon Trial Lawyers Association said the bill would not erode existing protections for any individuals.

Judge faces ethics complaints over 2014 lawsuit

BEND (AP) — An Oregon judge is facing ethics complaints claiming she was the friend of a defendant in a lawsuit she overturned.

The *Bend Bulletin* reported Tuesday that two complaints accuse Deschutes County Circuit Court Judge Beth Bagley

of failing to disclose a personal relationship with a defendant and recuse herself from a 2014 suit.

Niklas Goertzen has filed separate complaints with the U.S. District Court in Eugene and the Oregon Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability.

Bagley dismissed

Goertzen’s suit against several parents for what he says was wrongful interference in his contract as a girls’ soccer coach at a high school 154 miles southeast of Portland.

He was dismissed from the position in 2012.

Bagley’s attorney declined to comment.

Council seeks proposals for fire station property

By **EAST OREGONIAN**

With the move date for the Pendleton Fire Department quickly approaching, the city council is beginning to consider what the market looks like for the department’s current facility at 911 S.W. Court Ave.

At a council workshop Tuesday, City Manager Robb Corbett said he’s had a “half-dozen” people approach him about acquiring the property once the department moves to its new headquarters this summer.

One of the pitches is

from Clearview Disability Resource Center, which wants to use the facility to consolidate its warehouse and offices under one roof.

But the council didn’t seem committed to a single idea during the brief discussion on the topic.

Corbett said a staff member has suggested building luxury apartments on the property while Councilor Paul Chalmers said it would be a good site for a boutique hotel due to the property’s proximity to the Round-Up Grounds.

Councilor Dale Primmer was in favor of the city soliciting requests for proposal to gauge what sort of ideas developers had.

“I think you really want to do an RFP, otherwise we’re really limited by our imagination,” he said.

The council agreed with Primmer’s suggestion,

although Chalmers said he would not be open to donating the property.

The council also reaffirmed that any revenue generated from the land sale would go toward maintenance and equipment for the new fire station at 1455 S.E. Court Ave.

Hermiston School District sets 2-year budget parameters

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

The Hermiston School Board approved its budget planning parameters at a meeting Monday night. Overall, the board planned for slight growth in the next year, but remained conservative in its spending limits.

The board assumed a growth of 50 Average Daily Membership weighted (ADMw). The ADMw is not the same as enrollment, but refers to the number of students in the district with the added consideration of how much money will be allocated per student based on various needs, such as special education or English language learners.

The board also approved a state school fund estimation of \$8.871 billion, and \$8,155 per ADMw.

Katie Saul, the district’s director of business services, said the legislature sets the state budget as a total amount for the two years of the biennium, and then has to decide how to split the funding over two years. For many years, 49 percent of the funding was allocated to the first year, and 51 percent to the second year. The split was to help districts with annual costs like salary or utility rate increases. In more recent budget years, Saul said the state has allotted 50 percent of the funds for each year. But this biennium, districts are lobbying to return to the 49/51 split. Saul said the even split makes it difficult for districts to plan for the second year, and often leaves districts without as much funding as they would like, or turning to deficit spending in the second year. This can lead to cut-

ting expenditures, including staff positions.

Saul said although the current biennium’s budget was split 50/50, the funding was higher than expected and prevented a shortage for most districts. But she said that’s not something districts can count on, leading districts to push for more funding funneled into the second year of the biennium.

“While we may not have to make the significant cuts that other districts do, we are also not able to expand programs or offerings to support the additional growth,” Saul said.

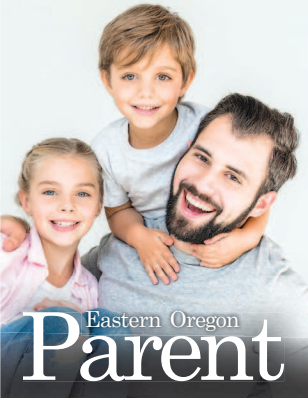
The board approved an ending fund balance minimum of 10 percent. That money is set aside as a safety net, to meet various maintenance needs, and allow them to continue funding programs and staff in the event of an economic downturn. That allocation would put them at about \$7.78 million with reserves, and \$6.64 million without reserves.

The board voted to be able to access about half of its reserve dollars for funding shortfalls — up to \$650,000 of its current biennial balance of \$1.3 million.

The PERS reserve balance is \$2.57 million, and the board elected to have access up to \$500,000. In the 2019-21 biennium the PERS rate will increase by 4.88 percent, and more rate increases are expected in the future.

Saul said the district forecasts an expenditure budget of \$64,152,499, and predicts receiving \$63,439,383 in revenue. Though that means they would be operating in a deficit, Saul said that is not likely, because the district typically doesn’t spend all of its budget.

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