

**BILLS ADDRESS
MARIJUANA
ACCESSIBILITY,
OVERPRODUCTION**
NORTHWEST, A2



WEEKEND EDITION
**ALL-GIRL BAND RECORDS FAREWELL
ALBUM WITH ROCK CAMP COUNSELOR**
LIFESTYLES, C1

**PENDLETON'S
NEWSOM NAMED
IMC PLAYER OF
THE YEAR**
SPORTS, B1

EAST OREGONIAN

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Forward thinking in the backcountry



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Senior Jenny Lee, left, and instructor Teresa Veach, right, look on as sophomore Vasco Park, center, works on a solving a problem in advanced math on Wednesday at the Ukiah School.

Ukiah students learn with hands-on science and tech projects

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

From the outside, Ukiah School looks like a relic from the last century.

The entire student body — about 40 students — is housed in one building. Students from different grade levels learn side-by-side. And on Wednesday, a student brought her Scottish blackface lamb to class because the lamb's mother had abandoned it and it needed to be bottle-fed.

But the rural school, tucked in the southeast corner of Umatilla County, is also outpacing other schools in many ways. Students are immersed in hands-on science and technology programs, and as of next year, some of them will be learning computer coding courtesy of Amazon's Future Engineers program.

Science and technology teacher Laura Orr said about five years ago she introduced simple programming con-



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Freshman Isabella Orr feeds formula to the bummer lamb she is raising during her mother, Laura Orr's, science class on Wednesday at the Ukiah School.

cepts to her middle school students.

"They loved it, enough that I've tried to find ways to do more with them," Orr said. She applied for the Amazon program, thinking it was a long shot — but is pleasantly surprised at the support they've received.

"I really thought they'd say, 'You're not big enough to be statistically important to us, or it's not going to expose enough kids, so you don't play well,'" Orr said.

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BMCC holds off increase in tuition

College uses reserve fund to cover \$1.8 million possible fiscal shortfall

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Blue Mountain Community College will not increase its tuition for the first time in 23 years while facing a \$1.8 million budget shortfall.

Casey White-Zollman, vice president of public relations for the college, said the BMCC Board of Education on Wednesday voted unanimously against raising tuition for the 2019-20 academic year to keep the college affordable.

"The decision did not come lightly," according to a written statement from White-Zollman. "The board considered survey feedback from students, as well as recommendations from a campus-wide budget committee, before coming to a resolution."

The college has about 7,400 students in all. While setting the 2018-19 tuition last year, according to White-Zollman, students told the board they were at the point of choosing between their education and basic needs. BMCC has the highest tuition and fees for the 17 community colleges in Oregon following a 12 percent increase over the past two academic years.

Blue Mountain charges \$108 per credit for residents of Oregon and border states plus various class fees. According to Oregon community college data, going to BMCC for the 2018-19 school year costs \$6,188, not including books and supplies.

Southwestern Oregon Community College, Coos Bay, charges the second-highest annual tuition this year, \$5,913, and Chemeketa Community College, Salem, has the least expensive in-state tuition at \$4,725. The average annual in-state tuition for community colleges is \$5,399 and out-of-state is \$10,058. The in-state average increased \$227 from the previous school year while the out-of-state average bumped up \$64.

"The college has been conservative in planning and budgeting," White-Zollman said, but that has not been enough to offset the rising costs of employees,

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Walden questioned on border wall vote at Hermiston town hall

By JADE McDOWELL
East Oregonian

Hours after President Donald Trump signed his first veto, Rep. Greg Walden's vote in favor of the vetoed bill was on a lot of minds in Hermiston.

During a town hall at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center on Friday afternoon, Walden fielded

several questions about his decision to vote for a resolution blocking Trump's declaration of a national emergency to get more funding for a border wall. Trump vetoed the resolution Friday, and Congress is not expected to be able to rally the needed two-thirds majority to overturn the veto.

Patricia Maier of Hermiston pressed Walden on why he didn't

"stand with our president" as Trump faces opposition in enacting his vision for the country.

"I've seen the deceitfulness and hatefulness through the media, through the Democrats and now through 15 or 16 Republicans, you being one of them," she said.

She accused Walden of doing a poor job of supporting Trump.

Walden said on almost every

issue he has voted with the president. He pointed out that he had voted in favor of a previous bill that would have given \$25 billion over five years for a wall and increased judges, agents and other resources at the border. He said he believed border security was essential to national security.

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