



E.J. Harris/East Oregonian, File

Clint Sexson, right, uses an electric branding iron to brand a calf as Tyler Potter, center, holds the animal's leg and Jack Taylor looks on outside Stanfield in March 2015. Ranchers want lawmakers in the 2021 Legislature to consider an alternative proposal to the brand inspection fee increases the Oregon Department of Agriculture has proposed.

BRAND

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2015," said Todd Nash, Wallowa County commissioner and OCA's president-elect. Nash said he understood the brand inspection program is facing tough financial times but cited President John F. Kennedy's observation that farmers buy at retail, sell at wholesale and pay the freight both ways. "We just don't have a way to capture it at this point," he said of the fee increase proposal. The economic situation is especially difficult for young ranchers and too many fee increases may discourage some from even participating in the program to the industry's detriment, Nash said. "I know some people

who just don't brand anymore," he said. "If we have a disease outbreak, that's what we have to trace back." The Oregon Farm Bureau is backing the OCA's proposal, noting that natural resources agencies are asking for fee increases "across the board" during the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. "Their cumulative impact on the sector will be substantial," said Mary Anne Cooper, the organization's vice president of public policy. "We think the Oregon Cattlemen's compromise is more than fair." Sen. Jeff Golden, D-Ashland, said the committee isn't planning to vote on the fee increases anytime soon and urged ODA to discuss the compromise proposal with the livestock industry.

CARES

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Sorrels said the county did a fine job distributing the money in a timely manner. "Although we have had a fairly successful takeout business, which continues to grow, the money we take in does not cover all of our expenses, considering that we have an empty restaurant," she said. Ten Depot's Paycheck Protection Program funds ran out in November, Sorrels said, and the CARES grant enabled the establishment to keep paying staff and provided money for utilities, insurance and inventory. "It would have been a lot harder to survive without it," she added. Tim Osterloh owns and operates Clank-Tronix in La Grande. The business received a Tier 2 grant. "It helped out dramatically," he said. "Without the funding it would have been difficult — I've been able to not just stay in business, but it helped me to expand a little bit." Osterloh has been

remodeling a back-section of the businesses at 315 Fir St. to add more space for customers and what he called an "education room." "I had noticed a huge boom in home schooling, people calling for home schooling books and just home schooling in general," he said. "It's just amazing how much I've been able to accomplish. I've already got this room fully remodeled, and I've already put in most of the shelves and got (the books) already on the shelves, and now I'm working on just trying to make things more COVID friendly, I guess you would say." The Eastern Oregon Film Festival and the performance arts venue HQ, both in La Grande, each received Tier 1 grants — \$7,500 to the festival and \$11,103.25 to HQ. Chris Jennings, who helped found each and helps operate them, said the grant to the film festival was "a great help to fill in the gaps." The festival's member program "is just nonexistent," he said, and the sponsor program is likely to net 50% of what

it usually does. Jennings said that is pushing EOFF to change its fundraising model dramatically. "That \$7,500 bucks from the county is just a huge saving grace in terms of keeping general operations moving while we try to figure out how to re-leverage donation support or approach different foundations, things like that, and kind of pivot," he said. The grant has helped the festival "keep paying the bills," he said, "pushing out ad campaigns and promoting the fact that we're still gonna be trying in October." HQ's grant also is helping it keep the lights on. "As far as I can tell that's kinda the goal of the grant, too," Jennings said. "Keeping baseline — keeping businesses intact and keeping them functioning and staying. If we shuttered our doors we won't be coming back, that's for sure. We'd unplug everything and turn off the lights, and call it a day — it's not like that business or ourselves would be coming back when it's time."

MEAT

Continued from Page 1B

of major meat packing facilities and increased demand for local slaughter and processing options. "The COVID-19 pandemic revealed a break in the marketing chain for all livestock producers, as there has been an overall lack of capacity to process livestock into meat in Oregon," said Carol Lorenzen, head of OSU's department of animal and rangeland sciences. The ODA's previous state inspection program was eliminated for budgetary reasons five decades ago, and the agency expects time and money will be needed to get the program up and running again. Aside from the \$10 million grant proposal, lawmakers are also considering bills that would require state regulators to study "barriers to family-scale meat production" and the possibility of permitting animal rendering facilities in Oregon.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Slow-moving beasts
5 Airport-hotel connection, sometimes
8 Busboy's load
12 Llama country
13 Aries mo.
14 Landscape shrub
15 Pretty soon
16 "Vive le —!"
17 Cash substitutes
18 Dog star
20 Adult male
22 Comstock Lode st.
24 Itemizes
28 Wash-and-wear (hyph.)
32 Wyoming neighbor
33 BMW rival
34 Family mem.
36 Comparable

37 Pride members
39 Dozing off
41 Small harbor
42 Moo goo — pan
43 Make a seam
45 Wallops
50 Petty quarrel
53 Cast a vote
55 Horse stopper
56 Ibsen's home
57 Fish-to-be
58 Laugh-a-minute
59 Rubaiyat author
60 Van — Waals force
61 New England campus

DOWN

1 Iridescent stone
2 Warrior princess
3 Romantic deity
4 Convent dwellers
5 Professions
6 PFC mail drop
7 Sombrero feature
8 West Indies island
9 Pooh's pal
10 Tempe inst.
11 "Indeed!"
19 Midwest st.
21 Cassius Clay
23 Competing (for)
25 Munro's pen name
26 Lean
27 Melody
28 Painter of floppy clocks
29 Breakdown
30 Graven image
31 Misses badly (2 wds.)
35 Braggart
38 Sault — Marie
40 Murky
44 Microsoft product
46 Crooked
47 "Wool" on clay sheep
48 Salem rival
49 Overindulge
50 Excessively
51 Doctrine
52 Spring training loc.
54 "Ulalume" poet

Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	A	S	H	H	I	P	A	T	O	P
A	L	M	A	I	R	A	R	I	L	E
M	A	U	I	N	E	W	G	L	E	E
S	T	R	A	D	T	U	T	O	R	
			C	R	U	M	P	L	E	
K	A	P	U	T	A	R	C	R	E	V
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S	L	O	E	T	E	D	R	O	S	A

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