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UMATILLA COUNTY PROPERTY TAX BREAKDOWN

BENEFITS AND BURDENS

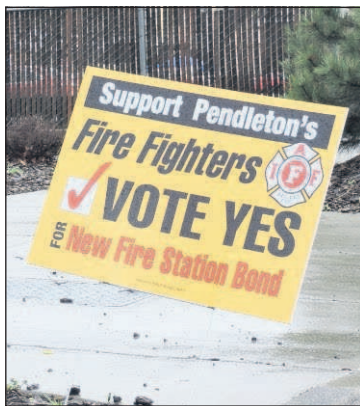
Voters weigh price tag of new bonds with community's best interests

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

As Hermiston and Pendleton voters consider two major bond issues in May, residents are looking at their property taxes and asking what they're already paying for.

A \$9.93 million bond for fire services in Pendleton and a \$104 million bond for Hermiston schools would add to the annual tax bill of citizens in those taxing districts.

In Hermiston, the school bond would add 90 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. That's about a \$135 annual increase on a home with \$150,000 assessed value. The bond would pay for the replacement of two elementary



Signs supporting the Pendleton fire bond and Hermiston school bond have begun popping up in town.



EO photo

schools and the construction of a new one, plus renovations at the high school and Sandstone Middle School.

In Pendleton, the bond would add 62 cents per thousand to property taxes, or a \$93 increase to a home assessed at \$150,000.

It would pay for a new fire station on part of the old St. Anthony Hospital site on Court Avenue.

The county is divided into more than 100 "code areas," all of which are taxed at slightly different rates.

The lowest rate in the county is an unincorporated area outside Ukiah, at a rate of \$9.84 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The highest rate in the county is inside the Hermiston city limits, at a rate of \$22.11 per \$1,000. Pendleton's highest rate is \$19.67 per \$1,000, though there are several lower rates within the city due to overlapping districts.

Compared to the rest of Oregon, property taxes in Umatilla County are quite high, with an average rate of 1.18 percent. The highest

in the state is Linn County at 1.22 percent and the lowest is Curry County at 0.6 percent.

Rates are affected by multiple factors: Each code area is made up of overlapping taxing districts covering schools, fire and water services, as well as things like library, radio and cemetery districts. All Umatilla County residents pay taxes to the county, the Port of Umatilla and Blue Mountain Community College, but only those within city limits pay to their city.

Although Measure 5, passed in 1990, limits the amount citizens can be taxed to \$5 per \$1,000 for education and \$10 per \$1,000 for government, there is an exception:

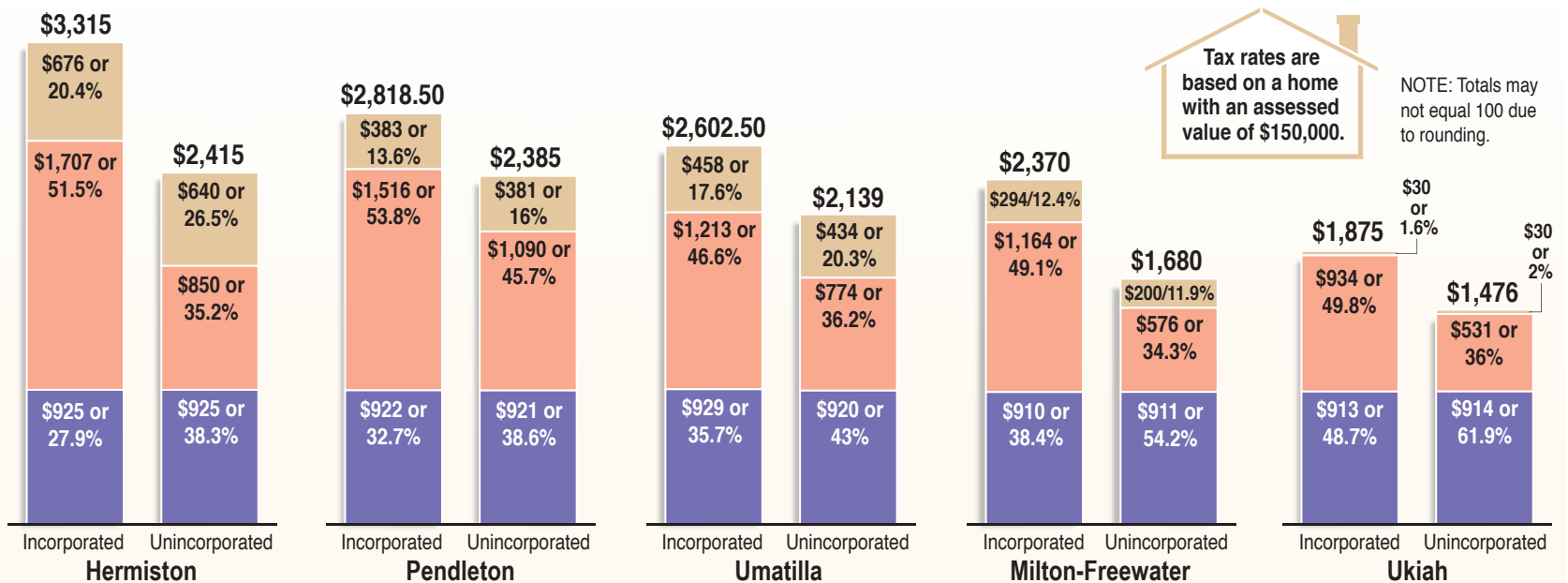
See TAXES/13A

Tax rates in Umatilla County

■ Bonds
■ Government
■ Education

Tax rates homeowners pay from select Umatilla County taxing districts. Different tax rates may exist within each community so the most common rate was used.

Source: Umatilla County Dept. of Taxation, compiled by Jayati Ramakrishnan
Daniel Wattenburger and Alan Kenaga/
EO Media Group



Rates for 2016-2017 tax year. To access a complete list of code areas and tax rates visit www.eastoregonian.com

Budget cuts would hit local charitable efforts

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

In 2015, more than 2,700 households and 7,300 people throughout Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, and Wheeler counties received federal funding to help heat their homes.

President Donald Trump's proposed budget eliminates the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program that provides the aid. That



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Oscar Garcia, a driver for the Fresh Alliance program, does inventory inside the CAPECO warehouse in Pendleton. The community action program loses approximately \$2 million in President Trump's proposed budget.

has Paula Hall worried.

She's the CEO of the nonprofit Community Action Program of East Central Oregon, which administers LIHEAP and other measures to help local people in need.

"I just don't know how our community will survive without that," she said, adding this past winter "was a treacherous season for a lot of our clients."

The organization received almost \$1.4 million in LIHEAP funds for fiscal

year 2015-16, and more than \$1 million went directly to paying energy bills, keeping oil furnaces filled or wood stoves burning. Hall said in all, 7,319 people in the four counties received LIHEAP that year, and 42 percent were children and 16 percent were seniors.

The 2016-17 budget is relatively the same, Hall said, and she anticipated similar service numbers for the period.

Trump's budget also elim-

inates the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program, which provides grants to improve the energy efficiency of the homes of low-income families. Hall said CAPECO for 2015-16 had a \$383,000 budget for weatherization, which included grants from other sources, and wrote checks for almost \$200,000 to local contractors to work on 34 households.

See FUNDING/14A



AP Photo, File

This March 2016 file photo shows a total solar eclipse in Belitung, Indonesia. The total solar eclipse on Aug. 21, will be the first in the mainland U.S. in almost four decades.

Total eclipse in the heart of Oregon

A million people expected to travel for solar eclipse

By **GEORGE PAVLEN**
East Oregonian

Umatilla County is anticipating a flare of tourism leading up to the darkness of this summer's total solar eclipse.

Pendleton, in particular, may serve as a base camp for the national and international visitors expected to descend upon Oregon for the event, which will begin shortly after 10:15 a.m. Monday, Aug. 21.

More inside

For a map of where the total eclipse will be visible in August see Page 14A

One million people are expected to travel to Oregon for the celestial experience, roughly a quarter of the state's total population. Grant, Wheeler, Baker and Malheur counties lie within the path of totality for the eclipse and should make for some of the best viewing in Eastern Oregon.

Factor in the region's

See ECLIPSE/14A



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