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Police prepare for more stoned drivers

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Marijuana citations dipped in Pendleton and Hermiston from 2013 to 2014, and Measure 91 could create a bigger drop when it goes into effect this summer. But local law enforcement administrators see the law creating even more intoxicated drivers.

Pendleton police reported issuing 126 citations in 2013 for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana within 1,000 feet of a school, and that fell to 105 in 2014. The charge is a violation, akin to a driving ticket. Hermiston police gave 115 citations for unlawful possession of marijuana in 2013, and then 54 the next year. Hermiston police also saw total drug charges

See POLICE/10A

PENDLETON Recreational, medical pot boundaries taking shape

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Although it still has to go through at least two more rounds of deliberation, an ordinance regulating marijuana in Pendleton is starting to take shape.

At a Thursday open house mostly attended by city officials, City Planner Evan MacKenzie presented a draft ordinance regulating the sale of both recreational and medical marijuana.

The draft is based on a similar ordinance created in La Grande, which has one of the few medical marijuana dispensaries east of the Cascade Mountains.

MacKenzie's draft takes the heart of La Grande's ordinance — a ban of dispensaries or stores within 1,000 feet of schools, parks and other marijuana facilities — while making a couple of key changes.

See MARIJUANA/10A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announces a \$1.7 million funding package for the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport on Friday in Pendleton.

BROWN BUYS IN

Governor announces drone range funding, water project support in first trip east



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Oregon National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Mark Braeme talks about the RQ-7B Shadow unmanned aerial vehicle with Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Friday at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton.

Governor makes it official at the airport

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The Pendleton City Council discussed it at length two days earlier, but Gov. Kate Brown made it official Friday.

With the Blue Mountains and the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport as her backdrop, Brown announced a \$545,000 state grant to fund hangars and storage facilities at the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range.

Business Oregon Director Sean Robbins followed her announcement with one of his own. Through the infrastructure finance authority, Business Oregon would add another \$1,115,000 million to the pot, bringing the total value of the financial package to nearly \$1.7 million.

Technically, the package is entirely comprised of loans. But more than \$1 million of those loans are forgivable given the city meets

certain job creation, promotional and timeline requirements.

Both Brown and Robbins praised city officials for their work in getting the range off the ground and said Pendleton would help keep the state competitive in the emerging UAS market.

"I'd like to make sure that Oregon gets a little more than their fair share," Robbins said.

Mayor Phillip Houk was the next person to step to the microphone, brushing off criticism of the range as "checks and balances" before expressing confidence in its future.

"It's completely appropriate," he said. "It's going to pay off in the long run."

The announcement of the state contributing to the funding the UAS range also came with news of involvement from Umatilla County. The county will give a \$100,000 incentive to the first

See AIRPORT/10A

Brown keeps water moving

East Oregonian

The \$51.6 million Columbia River water development fund is among Gov. Kate Brown's top priorities this session, and she said Friday she hopes to see the budget item approved by the end of April.

During a meeting with the *East Oregonian* editorial board, Brown said she is urging the legislature to "move quickly" on a package that would provide funding to expand irrigation in the Columbia Basin.

The expenditure was included in former Gov. John Kitzhaber's proposed budget, which is now being discussed

See WATER/10A



AP Photo/John Miller, File

This 2013 photo shows genetically engineered potatoes growing in rows inside a J.R. Simplot greenhouse in southwestern Idaho. The Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved the genetically engineered foods as safe.

FDA: Genetically engineered potatoes, apples are safe

By MARY CLARE JALONICK AND KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Potatoes that won't bruise and apples that won't brown are a step closer to grocery store aisles, but some food suppliers say they don't want any part of it and others are staying silent.

The Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved the genetically engineered foods, saying they are "as safe and nutritious as their conventional counterparts."

The approval covers six varieties of potatoes by Boise, Idaho-based J. R. Simplot Co. and two varieties of apples from the Canadian company Okanagan Specialty Fruits Inc.

Genetically modified organisms,

or GMOs, refers to food grown from seeds that are genetically engineered in a lab. Aware of potential resistance from consumers, Simplot officials say Innate potato traits come exclusively from genes from domestic potato varieties.

However, one of the company's oldest business partners — McDonald's — said it won't use the potatoes.

"McDonald's USA does not source GMO potatoes nor do we have current plans to change our sourcing practice," the company said in a statement Friday.

Burger King and Wendy's declined to comment.

Okanagan, based in British Columbia, wants to make apples a more

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