



Hermiston man dies in head-on crash **REGION/3A**

HERMISTON BEATS STANFIELD
AAU BASEBALL/1B



EAST OREGONIAN

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139th Year, No. 179

WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Energy tax credit program generated untaxed gains

Kitzhaber administration told auditors to stall investigation

By **HILLARY BORRUD**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Auditors at the Oregon Department of Revenue in 2012 were told to ignore problems they found with the state's business energy tax credit, or at a minimum not to scrutinize them too closely.

The state issued the tax credits to owners of renewable energy and efficiency projects. Project owners could use the credits to offset their taxes, or sell them at a discount to raise capital. Those sales produced a capital gain for the purchaser. Auditors discovered purchasers were not paying

taxes on those gains, which for some taxpayers amounted to more than \$1 million. Auditors wanted to put energy tax credits under a microscope, with a specific project to look at tax returns of individuals and corporations that claimed the credits. Instead, Oregon Depart-

ment of Revenue director Jim Bucholz told auditors to hold off because the Kitzhaber administration planned to push for a bill in the 2013 legislative session that would retroactively make investment profits from the tax credits non-taxable in Oregon.

That bill died in committee, but the situation apparently

See **TAX/8A**

Heat wave poised to set record

East Oregonian

Barely a few days old, the summer season will waste no time reminding people of its arrival.

According to the National Weather Service, this weekend will bring a record-breaking heat wave to the region.

Douglas Weber, a meteorologist at the service's Pendleton office, said a "ridge of high pressure" will cause temperatures to rise to the triple digits for the next four to six days.

The heat wave could start as soon as Friday, with the hottest temperatures reserved for the weekend.

On those days, some areas of Eastern Oregon are expected to jump to 108 degrees.

With the usual temperature range for this time of year ranging from 88 to 90 degrees, Weber said heat records for the month of June could be tied or broken.

Pendleton, Hermiston, John Day and La Grande are all cities that could see record temperatures.

If Hermiston reaches 108 degrees as the service predicts, it will not only surpass the June heat record, but also come within a hair of the all-time record, which is 110 degrees on Aug. 4, 1998.

Given that Pendleton's record peak was 119 degrees in 1898, that record should stay safe this weekend.

Extreme heat triggers health warnings for the elderly, the young and those without access to cooling.

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts wrote in an email that a rise in death investigations tend to follow a heat spike, especially amongst the elderly.

Increased temperatures can also cause an increase in activities undertaken by people under the influence, including like swimming, driving, boating and fighting.

Lastly, Roberts noted that tempers can frequently rise with the temperature.

"Along with heat comes irritability, which often times manifests as assaultive/aggressive behavior ... most of which is domestic," he wrote.



THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Ione wheat farmer Joe Rietmann holds his hand out at the height his soft white winter wheat should be at this time of year with proper temperatures and moisture in one of his fields north of Ione.

Wheat farmers expect third straight down year

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
East Oregonian

Standing in a field of golden wheat that reached barely up to his knees, Joe Rietmann said this year's abnormally short crop is clearly feeling the effects of drought.

"This is all typical drought stress," said Rietmann, owner of JDR Farms in Ione. "If you look over the expanse of the field and see the darker areas, that's where it's stunted."

Like most dryland farmers in Eastern Oregon, Rietmann expects the hot, dry weather will cut into his winter wheat harvest and lower yields by more than half in some areas. Ione's precipitation is three inches below normal dating back to September 2014 — when winter wheat is usually planted — while weekend temperatures forecast well into the triple digits.

If it weren't for about an inch of rain that fell in May, Rietmann said things would look even worse.

See **WHEAT/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Ione wheat farmer Joe Rietmann holds a malformed head of soft white winter wheat. Low moisture and hot temperatures cause the heads of wheat to curl.

HERMISTON

Landscape ordinance would set standard for sprucing up

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Hermiston mayor David Drotzmann provided a rare tie-breaking vote Monday night directing city staff to start the public hearing process on a landscaping ordinance.

The ordinance, if approved, would set minimum landscaping requirements for new development on commercial, industrial and multi-family residential land.

"We're about the only city in Oregon that doesn't have

More inside

The Hermiston council also discussed turning Newport Park into stormwater drain. 3A

an ordinance for landscaping," city planner Clint Spencer said.

The ordinance requires 15 percent of multi-family residential property, 6 percent in the C-2 Commercial Zone, 3 percent in the C-1 Commercial Zone and 3 percent or 10,000 square feet of industrial land to be landscaped.

It only applies to new development (including renovations or a change in business use) and only to the section of land actually being developed.

"It's only the area you're actually moving dirt," Spencer said.

Under the ordinance developers would have to get a landscaping permit approved by the city, showing that their plan follows the ordinance's guidelines. Newly planted trees must be taller than four feet, for

See **LANDSCAPE/8A**



AP Photo/Danny Johnston

Confederate flag themed stickers are displayed at Arkansas Flag and Banner in Little Rock, Ark., Tuesday. Major retailers including Amazon, Sears and Wal-Mart Stores Inc., are halting sales of the Confederate flag and related merchandise.

South revisits Confederate flag's legacy

By **BILL BARROW**
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Calls to remove Confederate imagery from public places multiplied rapidly across the South and beyond Tuesday, with opponents eyeing state flags, license plates and statues of Civil War politicians and generals.

The startling movement, driven by the killing of nine black churchgoers in an apparent racist attack in Charleston, South Carolina, has made converts of politicians who have long supported or stood silent on such symbols. Many of the efforts appear to have the muscle to succeed.

Statehouse displays such as the Confederate battle flag flying in South Carolina are coming under the heaviest fire. But the familiar banner, with its star-studded blue 'X' overlaying a field of red, is just one of scores, if not hundreds, of state-sanctioned displays that honor the vanquished Confederacy and the era of Jim Crow segregation that lasted for more than a century after the end of the Civil War.

The homages — from veterans' memorials and statues of politicians to counties, streets, government buildings and public schools named for Confederate figures and subsequent white supremacists — haven't always generated the same political and social

See **FLAG/8A**

