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A CHANGE**
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EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015

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Ferrioli demands ODOT director resign

Says faulty emissions data foiled transportation package

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon Senate Minority Leader Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, on Wednesday called for the state's top transportation official to resign.

Ferrioli accused Oregon Department of Transportation director Matthew Garrett and advisers to Gov. Kate Brown of withholding

key carbon emissions information from Democratic and Republican lawmakers who were negotiating a transportation funding package earlier this year. Ferrioli cited public records released by ODOT and the Governor's Office.

Lawmakers gave up on the transportation funding proposal after Garrett revealed during the first public hearing June 24 that the plan would result in a smaller

carbon emissions reduction than originally projected. ODOT staff had predicted smaller carbon reductions more than two weeks before the hearing, but did not pass that figure to lawmakers, according to emails released by Ferrioli's office.

Lawmakers have continued to question the transportation



Ferrioli

agency's management in recent months, and Brown acknowledged last week that ODOT needs to reassure lawmakers it is operating efficiently in order to build support for a possible 2017 transportation funding package.

The emissions calculations were a critical component of the 2015 transportation negotiations. Republicans had said they would only support an increase in the gas tax

if Democrats agreed to repeal the state's low-carbon fuel standard, which takes effect in January and is supposed to reduce carbon emissions from transportation by up to 10 percent — 7.7 million metric tons — over the next decade.

Democrats said they would only consider replacing the fuel standard with a plan that would result in at least an equal reduction in carbon emissions. ODOT staff provided estimates that the state

See ODOT/8A



Don Horneck

HERMISTON

HONORING HORNECK

Building to carry on late researcher's legacy



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Guests enter the new Don Horneck Memorial Building at HAREC after a dedication ceremony Wednesday outside of Hermiston.

Research lab one of several HAREC additions in coming year

By GEORGE PAVLEN
East Oregonian

Space was a little cramped Wednesday in the newly dedicated Don Horneck Memorial Building at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, as nearly 100 people gathered to celebrate their late friend and colleague.

No doubt Horneck himself

would have found the whole thing ridiculous, said his widow, Vicki Horneck.

"He would have never allowed it to happen," she said with a chuckle.

What he wouldn't find ridiculous is how much new research can happen in the 1,700-square-foot building, which houses an agronomy lab, plant tissue culture room and three insect rearing

rooms — all in the name of helping farmers grow healthier, more nutritious field crops and vegetables.

The building was named after Horneck, who spent 15 years with Oregon State University as a professor and agronomist at the Hermiston station. Horneck died suddenly and unexpectedly on Sept. 28, 2014, at the age of 56. It is the only building at HAREC to be named for an individual.

"It means a lot to myself and my family," Vicki Horneck said. "But I think it means just as much to the station here."

One of Horneck's top projects at the research station was preserving nitrates in soil to save farmers money on fertilizer and increase production of the region's irrigated crops, especially potatoes. In the

See HORNECK/8A

A day to give up cigarettes

Great American Smokeout gives tools to quit the habit

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Most smokers eventually find themselves engaged in a hellish battle with their own willpower.

"We know that 75 percent of smokers want to quit," said Umatilla County Public Health community educator Janet Jones, "but it's going to take multiple times to quit, maybe six to 10 attempts."

Today, during the American Cancer Society's annual Great American Smokeout, some smokers will try again. If not today, maybe soon.

According to this year's National Health Interview Survey, the national smoking rate declined to 14.9 percent, the lowest since the survey began in 1997.

Umatilla County is home to about 12,700 smokers, according to state smoking data. Twenty-three percent of adults in Umatilla County smoke — higher than the state average of 19 percent. Cigarette smoking among pregnant women in Umatilla County (13 percent) is higher than the national average.

See QUIT/8A

PILOT ROCK

City paying for access to land it owns

Lawyers say \$300 monthly payment must continue

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pilot Rock city government is looking for any way to stop sending \$300 a month to Mary Koch to pay for an easement to a cellphone tower that sits on city land.

But getting out of what started in 2004 as a handshake deal has proven difficult. And by the time the lease expires in 2028, according to a staff report, Pilot Rock will have shelled out \$128,000.

Pilot Rock receives \$600 a month from U.S. Cellular for access to a cell tower on a hill west of town. Back in 2002, the idea was to have half the tower on city land and half on Koch property. U.S. Cellular would send the check to the city, which would give the Kochs half each month to allow access to the tower.

Dr. Richard Koch died in late 2004, just before he and the city could ink the deal on paper. Yet a survey the year before showed the tower was entirely on city property.

Pilot Rock, though, except for a

See PILOT ROCK/8A

Hermiston again the fastest growing city

Pendleton adds residents after last year's decline

By SEAN HART
East Oregonian

Population growth rates have accelerated in Hermiston, Pendleton and Umatilla County.

Between July 2014 and July 2015, Umatilla County added 815 residents, a 1-percent increase to 79,155, according to preliminary population estimates from Portland State University.

The data show the county grew more than the previous year, which had a 0.6-percent increase.

Most of the growth — 450 residents — occurred outside of incorporated cities.

For the cities, Hermiston added the most residents, 175, with a 1-percent growth rate to a total population of 17,520. In the previous year, the city added 105 residents with a 0.6-percent rate.

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said he was pleased to see the growth, which is beneficial to businesses because it increases demand.

"The biggest thing to take away from this is it really continues to show Hermiston is in a virtuous

See POPULATION/8A

Population growth

	Growth	Population
Umatilla County	815	79,155
Hermiston	175	17,520
Pendleton	145	16,845
Milton-Freewater	10	7,070
Umatilla	10	7,060
Stanfield	10	2,125
Pilot Rock	NA	1,505
Athens	15	1,140
Echo	NA	705
Weston	NA	685
Adams	NA	370
Ukiah	NA	245
Helix	NA	195
Morrow County	105	11,630
Boardman	60	3,505
Irrigon	45	1,930
Hepburn	NA	1,290
Ione	NA	330
Lexington	NA	255

Source: Portland State University estimated population between July 2014 and July 2015



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