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EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016

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Semi crash closed I-84, hazmat team on scene

East Oregonian

Interstate 84 was closed for hours Tuesday after semi-trucks crashed multiple times, killing one driver, seriously injuring two others and spilling hazardous materials onto the highway.

Milton Vaughn, 62, of Kansas, died in a crash that occurred at roughly 11:55 a.m. in the eastbound lanes at milepost 349, between Baker City and Ontario. A half hour earlier, a roll-over crash occurred roughly a mile ahead that seriously injured the driver and stopped traffic. Ivan Berezin, 34, of Gresham, was taken via air ambulance to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise after that 11:25 a.m. crash. His condition was unknown as of Tuesday night.

While emergency crews were responding to the scene of Berezin's crash, Vaughn plowed into the back of stopped traffic on eastbound Interstate 84. Vaughn was pronounced dead at the scene.

He had crashed into a semi-trailer driven by Abraham Garza Tangunma, of Texas, who was also injured and transported via ambulance to a hospital in Ontario.

Vaughn's vehicle was transporting hazardous materials, according to a crash report from Oregon State Police. The aluminum oxide powder leaked onto the highway, and crews from Ontario and Boise worked to secure the scene.

The Interstate was closed westbound for roughly four hours and eastbound for more than nine hours.

The investigation into the crashes is ongoing, according to OSP.

Brown signs bill delisting wolves

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
EO Media Group

A bill that averts an environmentalist lawsuit by ratifying the removal of wolves from Oregon's list of endangered species has been signed by Gov. Kate Brown.

Oregon wildlife regulators found that wolf populations have

recovered enough to delist the species last year, which prompted three environmental groups — Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild and the Center for Biological Diversity — to petition the Oregon Court of Appeals to overturn the decision. House Bill 4040, which holds

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that the delisting process complied with the law, was approved by Oregon lawmakers during the 2016 legislative session and effectively voided the environmentalists' argument that the decision was illegal. Brown signed HB 4040 on

March 15 over the objections of environmentalists, who urged her to veto the bill, arguing the legislature shouldn't have interfered with a judicial review of the wolf delisting that they had sought.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Greg Barreto (R-Cove) and carried in the Senate by Sen. Bill Hansell (R-Athena).

High levels of lead detected in blood of birds



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Lynn Tompkins and Bob Tompkins take a blood sample from a red-tailed hawk that was brought to Blue Mountain Wildlife with high lead levels.

PENDLETON City approves bike park

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The Pendleton City Council affirmed at a Tuesday meeting that it's ready for an adventure.

The council unanimously approved the establishment of the Pendleton Adventure Trails Recreation Area, which will turn 290 acres of sparsely used land west of the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport into a park with trails for cyclists, hikers and cross country runners.

"It's a great economic opportunity for Pendleton," Councilor Chuck Wood. "You can see it just off the highway."

See BIKE/7A



More online

For video of the city council meeting visit eastoregonian.com

Hunters slowly embrace lead-free ammo

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

An x-ray shows lead shot visible in the shoulder of a red-tailed hawk.

Scott Peckham remembers the moment he decided to switch from lead ammunition to copper.

Peckham, big game ecologist for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and a hunter, had just dug into a plate of venison spaghetti when he bit into a hard object.

"It was a large lead fragment about half the size of a raisin," Peckham said. "It was a sizable chunk of bullet in my mouth and I crunched it."

He laid his fork down. Lead is highly toxic.

Knowing this, Peckham had carefully cut out the bloodshot portion of the deer while butchering and thought he had gotten all the bullet fragments before grinding it and using some of the burger for the spaghetti sauce. The health-minded Peckham finds the idea of eating hormone- and antibiotic-free game appealing and the possibility that he and his wife were ingesting lead bothered him. After the spaghetti episode, Peckham stocked up on non-toxic copper bullets for his next hunting trip.

Lynn Tompkins rejoices

See LEAD/8A

HERMISTON

Council says yes to trail, no to roundabouts

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Hermiston city council approved an agreement Monday that will create a new section of trail parallel to Highland Avenue.

The eight-foot-wide paved trail for walking and bicycling will stretch from Riverfront Park to Southwest 11th Street on the south side of Highland, continuing a larger trail project that began that runs from Good Shepherd Medical

Center to the park. "This is exciting," Mayor David Drotzmann said. "It's going to be a nice addition to the community."

Originally the city was going to pay for the project and seek some reimbursement from the Oregon Department of Transportation through a grant. But city planner Clint Spencer said when ODOT looked at the project, they liked it so much they adopted it into their Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and said

they would pay for 77 percent of it. According to the agreement the council approved Monday night, that leaves Hermiston with about a \$150,000 bill for the remainder.

Spencer said the timeline for the project depends on how long it takes to acquire the needed rights of way, but construction will likely take place in early 2017. On Monday the council also adopted an amendment to the Transportation System Plan, which calls for a signal at the Hermiston Foods truck entrance

north of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center on Highway 395.

The signal will help handle the expected increase in traffic based on a planned Ranch and Home store at that location.

On Feb. 22 the council opened a public hearing on the amendment, which at that point included a recommendation from ODOT that the words "or a roundabout" be included in the plan's proposed

See HERMISTON/7A



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