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Details on October food drive on Page 3A



# EAST OREGONIAN

OCTOBER 1-2, 2016

140th Year, No. 251

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\$1.50

## CTUIR reaches \$20M settlement with feds

### Bulk of money will go to tribal members in dividends

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

It's a court settlement 70 years in the making.

The U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of the Interior announced Monday that it reached a \$492 million settlement

agreement with 17 tribes across the country, including a \$20 million agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

CTUIR spokesman Chuck Sams said the tribes sued the federal government decades ago because it failed to properly compensate

the tribes for land use easement agreements for things like timber and agriculture.

Sams said the federal government's incomplete records of how it used those easements means no one will truly know how much the tribes should be compensated, but he credited the Obama adminis-

tration for approaching settlement negotiations with more responsiveness than previous presidential administrations.

Ten percent of the \$20 million settlement will go to Native American Rights Fund and another \$100,000 to Rocky Hills Advisors, the remaining \$17.9 million going directly to the CTUIR.

From there, the money is further subdivided — 25 percent to the

Board of Trustees for economic development and social programming and the rest to CTUIR's 3,000 enrolled members in the form of dividends.

Sams said the exact amount each member will get won't be determined until November, but as it stands now, each member is set to receive about \$4,000.

See **CTUIR/10A**

## Dispatch committee readies for new phase

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
*East Oregonian*

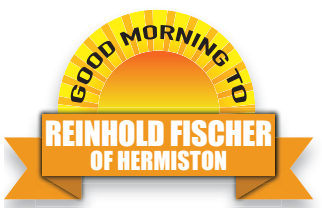
Umatilla County's Dispatch Advisory Committee could be on track to begin providing advice on dispatch operations.

Sheriff Terry Rowan said the transition might happen as soon as this year.

The dispatch center is under the umbrella of the sheriff's office. Umatilla County Commissioner Bill Elfering created the advisory group in the summer of 2015 in response to complaints about the sheriff's office charging cities and emergency districts for services while not giving them a say in how the dispatch center was operated. The group met several times since and hammered out a formula to charge for services based on a city or district's assessed property value.

Representatives from local cities shared the table with police, fire and ambulance service administrators to create the funding formula. Advising the county's dispatch operations, despite

See **DISPATCH/10A**



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## CORN MAKES A-MAZING RETURN

## Echo corn maze opens Saturday

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**  
*East Oregonian*

Bob and Gina Tyhuis' 2-year-old son Brent is thrilled to have a corn maze in his back yard.

"When we come down the hill he points and says, 'Corn maze, mama,'" said Gina. "He absolutely adores the farm, he loves farming. Really, that's the motivation for the corn maze."

The Tyhuis' have been in Echo for about 18 months, although Gina's family has farmed in the area for some time. Juggling responsibilities with grape harvest, Gina has been busy gearing up for the Echo Crazy Corn Maze & Haunt.

**"It's a fun way to get in the dirt and learn a little bit about agriculture."**

The Tyhuis' are offering a corn maze **T h u r s d a y** through Saturdays in October from 2-10 p.m. The maze is located off Echo's Main Street. People should park at 111 W. Main St., Echo. The entrance to the maze is several blocks north of downtown, between the 100-200 block of North Dupont Street. The cost is \$10 for ages 3 and up. Major credit cards and debit cards will be accepted.

— **Gina Tyhuis**, Echo Crazy Corn Maze organizer

Special haunts are planned for the maze Oct. 15, 22, 29 and 31 from 7-9 p.m. People will take a separate path for the fright experience, so participants can choose between the mild or scary path.

The maze covers eight acres with pathways of about 1.5-2 miles. Gina Tyhuis said the maze wouldn't be possible without the help of Barton Laser Leveling, who spent a couple of days cutting the paths.

"If you get lost, you probably need to Google our website for our phone number and we'll send a runner to get you," Gina said with a laugh.

Inspired by the fall extravaganza at Pasco's Country Mercantile, the site also includes concessions and

See **MAZE/10A**

## HERMISTON

## EOTEC promises arena in time for 2017 rodeo

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
*East Oregonian*

With Hendon Construction at the helm for construction of a new rodeo arena, Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center members are feeling confident the Farm-City Pro Rodeo will ride into its new home in 2017.

"There has been a lot of discussion, a lot of concerns about where we're going to be," Dan Dorran said at a board meeting Friday. "I have none."

Zeno Marvin, general manager for the Umatilla-based contractor, echoed that sentiment from the audience, said that although the



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— **Dan Dorran**, EOTEC executive board member

company had been brought in "late to the party" they planned to take an aggressive approach to make sure the arena is complete by August 2017.

"I can unequivocally say that we're going to have a rodeo next

year," he said.

Concerns about finishing the rodeo arena on time cropped up after drawings for the facility were supposed to be finished in February but weren't ready until the end of May. The first set of bids was then rejected and the bid was re-issued, resulting in Hendon Construction not being hired until September.

EOTEC's other major component, livestock barns for the Umatilla

County fair, is being overseen by Knerr Construction of Hermiston. John Eckhardt of Knerr Construction told the board Friday that the barns had been reduced in size, and had been through a "significant amount of refining," after the original request for proposals drew bids that were over budget. He said the company planned to bring back a new set of bids to the board for approval during a special meeting on Oct. 20.

Mike Kay, who represents the rodeo board on EOTEC's three-person construction committee, said despite prior bumps in the road

See **EOTEC/10A**

