

# Storm's a brewin'

Weather service says precipitation could be signs of things to come

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
East Oregonian

Every three years, the National Weather Service in Pendleton opens its doors to the public. It offers people the chance to ask the region's most qualified people one of the world's most popular questions: How's the weather?

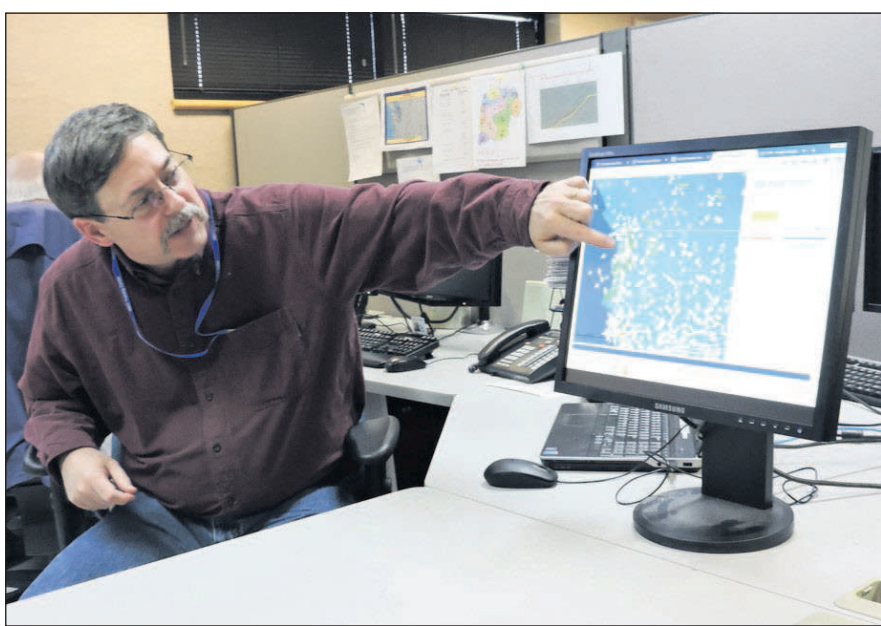
High school students and weather enthusiasts converged on the service station for its open house. This one happened to take place on the eve of a significant meteorological event.

A strong storm is set to hit Oregon Thursday night, with gusts expected to reach up to 85 miles per hour on the beach, 65 miles per hour in coastal communities and 50 miles per hour in the Willamette Valley and the Columbia River Gorge.

From Thursday to Saturday, the weather service is anticipating rainfall ranging from 3-4 inches in the valley to 6-10 inches on the coast.

Although the west side will receive the brunt of the storm, meteorologist Douglas Weber said Eastern Oregon wouldn't be spared from above average wind conditions.

Weber said a wind advisory is in effect for much of Eastern Oregon from 6 p.m. Thursday to 6 p.m. Friday, with Heppner-Fossil-Condon area under a high wind warning, the latter town is



Staff photo by Antonio Sierra  
**Senior meteorologist G.K. Hepburn points a map tracking airline flights across the northwest Thursday during a tour of the National Weather Service station in Pendleton.**

forecast to experience gusts up to 55 miles per hour.

While Umatilla County winds should be less powerful — Pendleton's gusts aren't supposed to surpass 35 miles per hour — Weber said the strong southern winds might not dissipate until Monday.

"There might be hope on the horizon: on Thursday," said Weber, who said temperatures might rebound to the upper 60s and 70s by then.

Despite a potential reprieve, the weather service is expecting winter conditions could prove wet and snowy.

Meteorologist Mike Murphy said there's a 70 percent chance a La Niña effect could occur — a cooling of the water in the Pacific Ocean that would mean average winter temperatures in Eastern Oregon with above average precipitation.

Hydrologist Marilyn Lohman said the increase in rain and snow should help the region improve the drought conditions its experience for the past few years.

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## HERMISTON

# Construction of rodeo arena begins

Lease on old fairgrounds ends Dec. 31

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
East Oregonian

Months after the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center's first building was completed, dirt is moving again on the EOTEC grounds.

Construction of the rodeo arena is underway, overseen by Hendon Construction of Umatilla.

"This is a very exciting time for the EOTEC Board, and for Umatilla County as a whole," EOTEC Board Chairman Byron Smith said in a written statement.

Despite some delays, members of the board and of Hendon Construction have said they feel confident the arena will be done in time to host the Farm-City Pro Rodeo in August 2017 — an important deadline, considering the old arena will no longer be available.

The Hermiston School District purchased the Umatilla County Fairgrounds, including the land the rodeo arena sits on, in 2012. The \$3 million payment helped provide the

seed money for EOTEC, and since then the county has been leasing the land from the school district. That lease ends on Dec. 31.

On Wednesday Umatilla County Commissioner Larry Givens told the *East Oregonian* the school district had declined to extend the lease to June in order to allow events such as collegiate rodeo to take place.

Mike Kay, executive director of operations for the school district, said the district offered to extend the county's lease through June 1, 2017, using the same terms as the current lease, but that was "not acceptable" to the county.

However, he said that the district has reached out to the groups that were planning to hold events there and is working to make sure those events continue to stay in Hermiston. The Hermiston Senior Center has extended its lease to June.

Kay said the school board would be discussing the district's post-lease plans for the property during its next meeting.

Randy Hull of the Hermiston Horse Sale Extravaganza said he still planned to hold the February and May sales at the old fairgrounds, in cooperation with the school district, before moving to EOTEC as soon as it is ready.

"I have every intention to stay in Hermiston," he said.

The county, meanwhile, has until Dec. 31 to move all of the fair's equipment over to the EOTEC grounds. The county commission recently approved \$30,000 to build a secure storage site there, but also laid off fair manager Don Slone and maintenance head Ed Peterson, leaving office assistant Angie McNalley as the lone county employee at EOTEC after Saturday. Commissioner Larry Givens said there has been no decision about who will manage the 2017 fair.

As construction of the rodeo arena begins, Kay (who volunteers as a member of the rodeo board in addition to his job at the school district) said the rodeo board is grateful to Hendon Construction for stepping up and making it possible to finish the arena in time for the 2017 Farm-City

Pro Rodeo.

"We're very excited to be able to put these plans in motion," he said.

Smith said in a news release that in addition to starting construction on the rodeo arena, a contract for purchase of the barns to host the Umatilla County Fair in 2017 should be ready for approval during the EOTEC board's Oct. 21 meeting.

He said the EOTEC project in its entirety will result in a facility that can meet the region's needs while not asking the community's taxpayers to shoulder "crippling debt" to pay for it.

"Too often with the development of large public facilities like this, the stakeholders get too anxious and end up making poor business decisions which end up saddling the public with major long-term property tax debt," he said. "The community should be very proud that their patience and generosity has allowed the EOTEC Board to develop this project in a logical and fiscally responsible manner."

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## PENDLETON

# Wicked Kitty owner drug bust yielded pain killers, steroids

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
East Oregonian

Court records show police found an opioid pain killer and an anabolic steroid in the drug bust of downtown Pendleton business owner Jason Lybrand.

The Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team on Tuesday arrested Lybrand, 45, at his business, Wicked Kitty Tattoo & Piercing, 132 S. Main St., Pendleton, following a court-sanctioned search of his vehicles in September. The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office on Wednesday morning in Pendleton charged Lybrand with the following, according to a copy of the indictment: two counts of delivery of methamphetamine; two counts of possession of meth; delivery of 5 grams or more of marijuana; possession of a Scheduled III substance; and possession of a Scheduled IV substance.

The court entered pleas of not guilty to each charge, according to the records.

The "Scheduled" charges refer to drugs under the federal Controlled Substances Act. The Schedule IV drug in this case is Tramadol, an opioid pain medication, and the Schedule III drug is methandrostenolone, an anabolic steroid with several trade names, including Dianabol, and on the street goes by "Dbol."



Lybrand

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts

said information investigators gathered on Lybrand from people in the local drug scene indicated he had a reputation as a "one-stop shop" for illegal substances. The narcotics team during its search also found 11.7 grams of methamphetamine and 10.3 pounds of marijuana, some of which was ready for shipping.

Circuit Judge Lynn Hampton set Lybrand's bail at \$150,000. He remained in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, as of Thursday. His next court hearing is Nov. 3.

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## HERMISTON

# Music professor to present performance anxiety workshop

East Oregonian

The Umatilla-Morrow District of the Oregon Music Teachers Association, in partnership with the Oregon Community Foundation and the Nellie Tholen Fund, will present a free workshop for music teachers on performance anxiety.

The event is Saturday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Hermiston Church of Christ of Latter-day Saints, 850 S.W. 11th St. Diane Baxter, professor of music at Western Oregon University, will present "Stepping into the Light: Thoughts on Performance Anxiety." The workshop is open to all who are interested; no pre-registration, membership or fee is required.

Performance anxiety is a complex topic that involves how people think, feel and behave. The results of it may range from mildly discomforting to completely paralyzing. The workshop will introduce some of the causes of performance anxiety and will offer some tips on how to do your best under duress.

Baxter is editor of *The Oregon Musician*, a journal for the Oregon Music Teachers Association. The association strives to foster productive relationships with schools, organizations, businesses and the media to promote music everywhere.

For more information, contact Sue Nelson at [musicdoc3@mac.com](mailto:musicdoc3@mac.com), 541-276-0346 or visit [www.oregonmta.org](http://www.oregonmta.org).

# PORT: Has already invested around \$50 million in infrastructure to serve the dock

Continued from 1A

"Though we are disappointed for our Morrow Pacific Project supporters, we are very excited to commence delivery of products to our customers," King said.

Though Lighthouse has stepped aside, the Port of Morrow will continue to fight to build a new dock. Joe Taylor, president of the Port Commission, said they have already invested around \$50 million in rail infrastructure to serve the site.

"This new dock will allow us to ship commodities in the same manner as our existing facilities," Taylor said. "Without this dock, hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars are at stake for Morrow

## "It's time to turn the page on coal exports in the Pacific Northwest."

— **Jan Hasselman**, attorney for Earthjustice

and Umatilla counties, and Oregon."

Gary Neal, the port's general manager, said he feels the state's decision to deny the dock permit was politically motivated. Coyote Island Terminal would be built along a stretch of river in the port's East Beach Industrial Park, between two existing terminals: one to ship grain, and another to ship biofuels.

Neal is not sure what commodities might be handled at the new dock, but unless they build now, he said

companies will continue to take their business elsewhere.

"If you don't have something available, those opportunities pass you by," Neal said. "It's unfortunate we lost Lighthouse for the jobs and capital investment. That commodity is moving. It's just moving through Canada now."

Chuck Sams, spokesman for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, said the tribes maintain their stance that the project would harm tribal fishing rights guaranteed by

the Treaty of 1855.

"Again, we're not against economic development in any way, unless it interferes with or infringes on our treaty rights, which are guaranteed by both the treaty and the U.S. Constitution," Sams said.

Jan Hasselman, attorney for Earthjustice who represents Columbia Riverkeeper and other environmental groups, said Lighthouse's decision to abandon the project in the middle of its own appeal shows the project never had a legitimate chance to move forward.

"It's time to turn the page on coal exports in the Pacific Northwest," Hasselman said. The port believes other-

wise. It purchased the land along the shore back in 1967 from the Army Corps, Neal said. The land had been condemned after it was flooded by the construction of the John Day Dam. Under the terms of the agreement, the now-flooded land was to be used for "port or industrial facilities."

The Coyote Island Terminal is just one of two remaining sites for major industrial development in the John Day Pool of the Columbia River, Neal said.

The Department of State Lands found the proposal did not adequately consider alternatives that would have less impact on the river and tribal fisheries.

"We just need to convince the (state) they were incorrect," Neal said.

A hearing is scheduled on the appeal before an administrative law judge in November.

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Or email [lisafusselman@yellowhawk.org](mailto:lisafusselman@yellowhawk.org) Or via PayPal by visiting <http://yellowhawk.org/crab-feed/>

All Profits Go Toward **Building of the New Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center**

**YELLOWHAWK TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER**

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