



A herd of nearly 100 elk graze Wednesday in a stubble field off Tutuilla Church Road near Mission.
Staff photo by E.J. Harris

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Hansell hopes to end 'game of chicken' with Real ID bill

Legislators prepare transportation bills for upcoming session

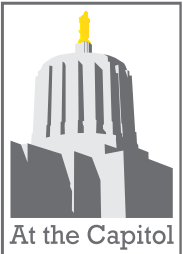
By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Oregon's deadline for complying with the federal Real ID Act is ticking down, and state Sen. Bill Hansell of Athena has proposed a bill to beat that clock. "This is one of my major bills," the Republican and former Umatilla County commissioner said. "We can't just keep kicking this can down the road, and we can't ignore it."

Without a Real ID bill, Hansell said, Oregonians "will no longer be able to use your driver's licenses to fly domestically, or enter a federal facility that requires ID, such as Hanford."

Hansell is the chief sponsor or co-sponsor on 27 bills and resolutions for the 2017 Legislature, which convenes Feb. 1. Rep Greg Smith, R-Heppner, is the chief sponsor on eight bills. And Rep. Greg Barreto,

R-Cove, gave his name as the chief sponsor on four bills and co-chief on nine more, including Senate Bill 374 with Hansell to authorize the Oregon Department of Transportation to "issue driver licenses, driver permits and identification cards that meet requirements of federal Real ID Act of 2005."



At the Capitol

Over the next several days, the *East Oregonian* will look at the local legislators' key proposals by category, starting with transportation.

The Real ID Act came out of the 9/11 Commission's recommendation to enhance the security of state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards. While 25 states have complied with the act, according to the Department of Homeland Security, the rest have not. That means federal agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration at airports, do not have to accept driver's licenses and identification cards from those states.

The 2009 Oregon Legislature considered the act

See **BILLS/10A**

Ice storm freezes highways



TOP: About 40 semitrailers were stopped at exit 193 on Interstate 84 Wednesday morning after freezing rain shut down the freeway. BOTTOM: A line of semitrailers backed up for more than a mile in the eastbound lane of Interstate 84. Much of the snow melted in the Pendleton area as temperatures reached the high 40s, while the Hermiston area stayed below freezing.
EO staff photos

Interstate 84 remains closed into evening

By GEORGE PAVEN
East Oregonian

The winter beatdown continues across Eastern Oregon.

High winds, snow drifts and freezing rain once again throttled the area Wednesday, forcing schools and government offices to close for the day while also shutting down most local highways — at least temporarily.

Interstate 84 stayed closed between Pendleton and Ontario late into the evening, and Tom Strandberg, spokesman for the Oregon Department of Transportation, said it likely wouldn't reopen until sometime Thursday morning.

"Unfortunately, there's just not a lot we can do," Strandberg said. "It's just too dangerous to be out there."

I-84 also remained closed in the Columbia River Gorge between Hood River and Troutdale due to slick and hazardous driving conditions. As thousands of rigs backed up along the road, Strandberg said ODOT was desperately trying to get the word out as far as Idaho for drivers to stay off the interstate.

"The motels are filling up. There's no more room for trucks to park anywhere," Strandberg said. "We're just encouraging people to stay home, stay safe and wait for the storm to pass."

In some cases, Strandberg said

See **FREEZE/10A**

PENDLETON

Women prepare to march in support of human rights



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Mariah Hinds works on a sign to carry in Saturday's Women's March on Pendleton. Hinds and others met Monday afternoon at the Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co. to plan the event and work on signs.

Demonstration is one of several hundred satellite marches around world

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

The crowd attending this Saturday's Women's March on Washington will likely outnumber the inauguration crowd. According to the event website, the expected 200,000 marchers will rally near the Capitol to communicate the message that "we stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us." Honorary co-chairs include activist Gloria Steinem and singer Harry Belafonte.

About 2,500 miles away from the Capitol, another group, albeit a much smaller one, will take to the streets of

Pendleton. Marchers will gather at the flagpole at the Pendleton City Hall for a prayer, reading from the First Amendment, Pledge of Allegiance and a short overview of the purpose of the march. Marchers will make stops along the way at Centennial Park, Prodigal Son, Sisters Café and the Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co. for speakers and music. The route will take marchers past Pendleton's collection of bronzes on Main Street, which will serve as visual aids for remarks on human rights.

The women-led movement is one of at least 370 sister marches around the world, including 18 in Oregon. Participants in 32 other countries will march in solidarity with American women. Saturday's march won't be the first inauguration-related demonstration in American history. Thousands of supporters of the women's

See **MARCH/10A**



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