

## DEPOSIT: Michigan is the only other state with a 10-cent deposit

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Under the proposed law, containers that don't have the correct deposit amount on the label will be allowed in stores until Sept. 1, 2018.

It's not clear how the bill will pencil out, though.

"Can you kind of describe how this will work and why this seems to work OK?" Rep. Phil Barnhart, D-Eugene, said during the committee hearing Wednesday. "I don't think we have a bunch of opponents coming in here because they have to come up with a nickel they didn't collect."

Paul Romain, an attorney and lobbyist for the Oregon Beer and Wine Distributors Association, acknowledged

that money could be lost.

He said Barnhart's inquiry was the "big 64,000-dollar question, except it's more than \$64,000."

"Whenever you start a system, you have a transition period," Romain said. "It's a risk, frankly, that the industry has to take to make the transition."

Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario said the bill was "necessary to allow the transition, even though the program has big holes in it."

Romain said the group he represents also initially resisted the deposit increase.

Michigan, the only other state with a 10-cent deposit, had a 94.2 percent return rate in 2014, according to the

Michigan State Treasury.

A lobbyist for the Brewers Guild also testified in support of the bill.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission is responsible for administering the bottle deposit program.

Although the agency didn't take an official stance on the legislation, its administrative policy and process director, Jesse Sweet said the bill would create a "grace period" in the transition to the 10-cent deposit and provide "necessary flexibility" for retailers.

Starting Jan. 1, 2018, the state is also going to require deposits on additional types of beverage containers — such as kombucha.

## BOND: Projected to create 540 direct construction jobs, 126 indirect jobs

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The video, which is on the district's website, was reviewed by the Secretary of State's office and determined to be non-biased, according to Superintendent Fred Maiocco. According to Oregon law, districts are not allowed to distribute material that advocates a specific political position, but can distribute information about a political issue or question that has been approved as impartial.

The district introduced the bond in March and has since conducted two surveys assessing community support for the measure. A poll in May showed that 63 percent of those surveyed supported the repairs that could be

made with the bond money. In October, another survey was conducted, which revealed that 46 percent of those asked were for the bond, 48 were against, and about 6 percent were undecided.

The initial cost to the taxpayer would be additional 90 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Katie Saul, the district's director of business services, presented an economic impact study on the bond. She said the bond was projected to create 540 direct construction jobs, 126 indirect jobs and 124 induced jobs. The total construction-related income into the community is estimated to be \$34,429,563.

"We hope to spend \$62.6

million locally," she said.

District officials also discussed the safety improvements that will be made if the bond is passed.

During a Hermiston Police Department safety audit of the schools in 2015, Rocky Heights and Highland Hills elementary schools were found to not meet safety standards. In the video, Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said the district's two elementary schools have more external access points per square foot than the new schools, which can be a safety issue.

Saul said the district plans to host multiple public forums and outreach events where community members can come and ask questions about the bond in the coming months.

## AGRITOURISM: Whiskey & Rocks is the name of the Pendleton to Milton-Freewater loop

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tourism season begins. The idea, she said, is to attract tourists by promoting the region's diverse farming and ranching activities — a concept known as "agritourism."

"This is a huge growth area in tourism across the country," Dodson said. "It's a good way to draw attention to the variety of things we have in our area."

Agritourism can include visits to working farms and ranches, U-pick fields, wineries, breweries and farmers markets. Dodson said more people are interested in knowing where their food comes from, which has opened the door for farms to share their stories and potentially generate a new source of revenue.

"Now is a great time for farms and ranches, orchards, gardens and other producers of all sizes to explore the opportunities for inviting visitors to buy products directly and to learn about and experience the rural and agricultural lifestyle," she said.

Dodson began consulting last year with a local committee dedicated to growing agritourism in "Oregon's Rugged Country." Kalie Davis, who manages the SAGE Center in Boardman, chairs the working group and said they are still reaching out to businesses that may be interested in joining one of the farm loops.

Once the list is finalized, Davis said they will compile maps and brochures for visitors, which will be available on the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association and Travel Oregon websites. The farm loops will highlight places that people might not know about, Davis added.

"There's these little hidden gems that people don't even know exist," she said.

Whiskey & Rocks is the name of the loop from Pendleton to Milton-Freewater, drawing on the popularity of Pendleton Whisky and the emergence of the Rocks District of Milton-Freewater American Viticultural Area. Not surprisingly, the tour is set to feature a number of orchards and vineyards, along with stops unique to Pendleton's cowboy culture.

Clive Kaiser, who works as an extension horticulturist for Oregon State University in Milton-Freewater, said the community had previously been planning its own farm loop — identifying 67 possible attractions — before it was absorbed by the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association as part of a single regional effort.

"They asked us if we would put our efforts on hold, because they wanted to have a familiar theme throughout Oregon and they wanted us to be part of it," Kaiser said.

When envisioning an agritourism experience for Milton-Freewater, Kaiser said he was reminded of the Midlands Meander in South Africa, which beckons tourists through a range of arts, crafts, outdoor activities and country settings.

"That's what I was effectively looking to recreate in this region," he said.

A second farm loop, dubbed River to Hills, is also being developed for western Umatilla County and Morrow County. Davis said



EO file photo  
The SAGE Center in Boardman would be featured in one of the two new farm loops being developed by the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association.

the loop will include things like Hermiston watermelons, Echo wine, tours of family farms and a stop at the SAGE Center interactive agricultural museum.

Dodson said they hope to have both loops completed by the end of May.

"Obviously, agriculture is a huge part of our economy

and lifestyle," Dodson said. "(Agritourism) fits well within Eastern Oregon."

Anyone wanting to learn more about the project can contact Dodson at 541-786-8006

Contact George Plaven at [gplaven@eastoregonian.com](mailto:gplaven@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0825.

## FOREST: Oregon is expected to fall short of carbon emissions-cutting goals in coming years

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in Oregon forests and how they're affected by climate change and human interventions such as logging, said Duncan.

"We don't see anybody else who is doing this type of work," he said.

Improving forest health and preventing wildfires may involve removing trees, but these choices involve a "trade-off" in terms of carbon accrual, Duncan said.

Wildfires in Oregon have been emitting roughly 1.5 million tons to 4 million tons of carbon dioxide a year since the beginning of the 21st Century, but it's unclear whether this level is normal or excessive, the commission found.

The impact of forest fires on carbon emissions is complicated by the extent and severity of fires — in

**"If we do our job and nobody else does theirs, we're toast, and I mean that literally."**

— Angus Duncan, Oregon Global Warming Commission chair

some cases, fires can affect large acreages but the forest will still store carbon in burned trees, he said.

Of the 63.4 million tons of carbon dioxide emitted in Oregon in 2015, about 37 percent came from the transportation sector, 35 percent came from the residential and commercial sectors and 20 percent came from the industrial sector, according to OGWC.

With about 8 percent of the total, the agricultural sector contributed the

smallest share of Oregon's emissions.

Oregon is expected to fall short of its carbon emissions-cutting goals in coming years, but Duncan said he expects the output of renewable energy to increase in the state and the nation due to technology improvements and lower costs.

In the future, the energy industry will move away from a "command and control" structure, with utilities buying electricity from a variety of sources as needed, similar to the stock market, he said.

Oregon's contribution to reduce global emissions will depend on a "mutually-reinforcing club" of other states and countries taking similar steps, Duncan said.

"If we do our job and nobody else does theirs, we're toast, and I mean that literally," he said.

# EASTERN OREGON FORUM *Presents*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.

BLUE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BMCC), 2411 NW CARDEN, PENDLETON, OR,  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY BUILDING, ROOM ST-200

CASCADIA AFTERMATH FEATURING: PHILIP SCHMITZ, JOSEPH FRANELL, THOMAS ROBERTS

Philip Schmitz has been a full-time faculty member at BMCC since 2008. He has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master's Degree from the University of Utah. He has done research on the Juneau Icefields in Alaska, the geochemistry of Carlin (Nevada) trend gold ores, and he has worked as a geo-technical consultant in the upper Midwest. Philip lives in Pendleton, volunteers with the youth hockey program and referees high school and middle school soccer.



Joseph Franell is the Chief Executive Officer of Eastern Oregon Telecom (EOT), a rural competitive telephone company and Internet service provider serving residents and businesses in Umatilla and Morrow Counties, in Northeastern Oregon. EOT is currently providing residential and commercial Gigabit services in four of the communities in its service area.

Prior to coming to work at EOT, Franell was the Director of Information Technology for the city of Ashland, Oregon, where he was responsible for the Ashland Fiber Network, a municipally-owned and operated broadband telecommunications company. During his tenure there, Ashland was selected as one of the Intelligent Communities Forum Smart 21 Communities for 2007 and 2008, because of its innovative and visionary use of broadband technologies.

In 2009, Franell was appointed by the Governor of Oregon to the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council (OBAC) on which he has served as the chairman for the past six years. The OBAC's mandate is to advise the legislature and Governor's office on matters pertaining to broadband in the State, and to specifically promote the adoption and utilization of broadband for economic development, e-government, tele-health/tele-medicine, education, public safety, and tribal lands. In this role, Franell assisted in developing the communications portion of the Cascadia Playbook, the document that details roles and responsibilities immediately following a major Cascadia Subduction Zone event (earthquake).

Franell is a ten-year veteran of the US Army, is happily married, and has one daughter.

Thomas Roberts has been the Emergency Manager for Umatilla County since June, 2016. He has an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Emergency Management from Clackamas Community College and is a graduate of Hermiston Senior High School. He is a FEMA Trained Master Exercise Practitioner and Advanced Public Information Officer.

His prior positions include: Emergency Management for US Army at three Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) Sites including the Umatilla Chemical Depot in Hermiston, Oregon, the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Pueblo, Colorado, and the Bluegrass Chemical Depot in Richmond, Kentucky.

He has also served as a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT for 20 combined years with the Hermiston Fire and Emergency Services, the Pendleton Fire Department and as a Lieutenant with the Irrigon Fire Protection District.

For more information about the EO Forum, please contact: Karen Parker at 541-966-3177.

The EO Forum is a collaborative effort among leaders from Blue Mountain Community College, InterMountain Education Service District; the East Oregonian; American Association of University Women; and Harriet Isom; a former United States ambassador who also serves on the committee. This EO Forum program is offered as part of Blue Mountain Community College's annual Arts and Culture Festival. For more information on the festival go to [www.bluecc.edu](http://www.bluecc.edu).

