

EO wins top prize in state newspaper contest

Plaven, Harris, McDowell, Trainor win individual first place awards

East Oregonian

The *East Oregonian* took home seven first place honors including the top prize — General Excellence — at the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association conference in Bend.

The contest was judged by newspapers in Pennsylvania and the *EO* competed against other daily Oregon newspapers with circulations less than 10,000.

Reporter George Plaven and photojournalist E.J. Harris each earned two individual top honors for work done in 2016.

Plaven's awards came for personality feature "Westward Tow!" and government reporting in "Dock Dumped."

In the personality feature, Plaven profiled tow truck driver Chris Clark, who patrolled Pendleton in the early morning hours before the iconic Westward Ho! parade during Round-Up week on "barely two hours of sleep and a travel mug filled with coffee." With some help, Clark took 52 cars off the street that would have disrupted the parade.

In the government reporting category, Plaven wrote about an ill-fated barge dock on the Columbia River in Gilliam County that was supposed to collect trash from Portland and Seattle to send to Waste Management's Columbia Ridge Landfill south of Arlington. After a clumsy go-ahead from the federal government, the dock was later determined to interfere with tribal fisheries had to be removed, with the Port of Arlington stuck with a \$2 million bill for construction and engineering work.

Harris swept the news photography category, including first place for the photo of a wreck that shut down Highway 730 near Hat Rock, and won the sports reporting category for his coverage of the Pendleton Round-Up.

Jade McDowell claimed the top award for spot news reporting for



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Bullfighter Dusty Tuckness attempts to distract the bull White Clay while Tim Brigham of Honeyville, Utah, attempts to free himself from his rigging during bull riding Friday, Sept. 16, 2016, at the Pendleton Round-Up. This picture won best sports photo at the 2017 ONPA awards.



Plaven



Harris



McDowell



Trainor

her coverage of a fire on the Umatilla Army Depot that covered nearby Interstate 82 in smoke, resulting in a series of serious wrecks. McDowell was one of the first people on scene and applied first aid to an injured motorcyclist. She included a column with the news report about the experience and the dilemma of becoming part of the story.

Opinion page editor Tim Trainor won the best editorial award for work

on the topics of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge standoff, legalized marijuana in Pendleton and the growing number of wolves in Oregon.

The General Excellence award, which the *EO* has won in six of the past seven years, is judged based on the overall product, from news and editorial content to photos and design to advertising and reproduction. The samples are taken from three random editions throughout the year.

"In many ways the news business has changed dramatically in the past decade," said managing editor Daniel Wattenburger. "I'm proud to be part of a team that continues to commit to a high-quality print newspaper week in and week out, year after year."

Kathryn Brown, publisher of the *EO*, said she was impressed by the variety of work that was awarded, which included news videos and websites, photography and writing.

The *EO* earned second place awards in headline writing (Drew Langton), best writing (Kathy Aney), multimedia element (E.J. Harris) and third place awards for best special section (Round-Up magazine), business and economic reporting (George Plaven), lifestyle coverage (Phil Wright), photo essay (E.J. Harris) and web project (Happy Canyon specialty site).

Non-ag burn ban likely for Umatilla County

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The Board of Commissioners will consider passing a non-agriculture burn ban in Umatilla County.

Gina Miller, the staff liaison for the county's smoke management committee, asked the board in a memo to impose the ban as soon as possible.

The county is experiencing wildfire conditions, Miller said, and Pendleton, the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Umatilla County Fire District have burn bans in place now.

The board meets Wednesday at 9 a.m. in room 130 at the Umatilla County Courthouse, 216 S.E. Fourth St., Pendleton.

The county board also will consider an order transferring ambulance services from the East Umatilla County Health District to the new East Umatilla County Ambulance Area Health District, which voters approved in the November election.

And the board will consider approving the county's four-year plan for preventative maintenance. Commissioner George Murdock is keen on the plan. He has said local government during times of tight budgets too often ignore maintenance, which leads to more expensive repairs later.

Under the plan, the county would spend \$151,000 this fiscal year on 18 maintenance projects, ranging from a low end of \$150 for parking lot striping to highs of \$25,000 for a new roof on the maintenance shop and \$50,000 to replacing the parking lot there.

For fiscal year 2018-19, the county projected spending \$197,100 on 11 projects, including \$114,000 to replace the floor at the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office. And for 2019-20, seven projects would cost \$109,560, with painting the exterior of the county jail topping the list at \$34,480.

The fourth year of the plan has one project: replacing the roof at the county jail for \$350,000.

Hermiston-area businesses invited to Chamber 101

East Oregonian

Hermiston-area business owners who are not sure if a chamber of commerce membership is right for them are invited to a Chamber 101 event next Thursday.

The event is for prospective Greater Hermiston Area Chamber of Commerce members who want to learn more about how a chamber of commerce can help their business, and for current chamber members who are looking for ways to better use their membership benefits.

The workshop will be from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. To RSVP call 541-567-6151 or visit www.hermistonchamber.com.

PILOT ROCK City considers fines for unsterilized cats

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Allowing unsterilized cats to roam free in Pilot Rock could get expensive.

The city council plans to consider regulations dealing with the town's growing population of stray cats when it meets Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The council on June 6 heard from citizens concerned about strays, and Cindy Spiess of the Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter and Cat Utopia suggested the town adopt a local law akin to Pendleton's. Pilot Rock city recorder Teri Porter in a memo to the council stated that staff relied on Pendleton's regulations to develop the plan.

The new regulations would make it unlawful to allow an unsterilized cat five months or older to remain outdoors in Pilot Rock. The first offense carries a fine of \$25-\$125, the second carries a fine of \$50-\$250, and a third hits the wallet for \$50-\$500.

The council heard the first reading for the new law on June 20.

Dogs are also on the council's agenda. Nicole Grimes of Pilot Rock wants to talk to the council about an issue with the town's dog licensing requirements, which exempt guide dogs for the blind from licensing but not other service dogs.

The council also is voting on a resolution to authorize the city to receive a loan of more than \$3.9 million from the United States Department of Agriculture for the wastewater lagoon projects. And contracting with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office for dispatch services also is up for a vote. Under the deal, Pilot Rock would pay \$9,000 this year for the services, and then \$3,000 more each year until the city is paying its full amount of approximately \$20,641.

UMATILLA City council to vote on rezoning 190 acres

Would create space for development by Amazon

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Umatilla City Council will consider two actions Tuesday that would help clear the way for new development by Amazon.

Vadata, the subsidiary under which Amazon does business in Umatilla County, has requested that the city annex 269 acres off Lind Road into the city limits and rezone 190 of those acres from Umatilla County's classification of F-1 exclusive farm use to the city's light industrial zone designation.

The 190 acres, located between Lind Road and Umatilla River Road just south of Power City, are inside the city's urban

growth boundary and had been designated in the city's comprehensive plan for residential and natural resource use.

The city's planning commission held a hearing June 27, and the city council will hold one Tuesday during its 7 p.m. meeting at city hall.

Online retail powerhouse Amazon has been adding new data centers around Umatilla County and Morrow County at a rapid pace. Each new center provides roughly 40 jobs with an average salary of \$68,000 per year.

Earlier this year the company purchased land off of Westland Road west of Hermiston, and the Umatilla County Commission approved a change of zone there from exclusive farm use to light industrial. If the property off Lind Road is annexed into the city of

Umatilla, the city won't need the county's approval to make a similar zoning adjustment. Annexation will also move the property from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office to the city of Umatilla's police department.

In the city manager's report attached to the July 18 agenda, city manager Russ Pelleberg recommended passage of the annexation and rezoning/plan amendment ordinances to help "a major company looking to build within the city limits of Umatilla."

The city council will also hold a work session at 5:30 p.m. to do training on the "legal powers and impediments affecting elected officials."

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

Edward Jones wins award for client innovation

East Oregonian

The financial services firm Edward Jones won the technology category for large broker/dealers at the 2016 WealthManagement.com Industry Awards.

The award recognized Edward Jones for being the first large financial services firm to introduce two-way texting with clients that meets industry regulations, a challenge some in the industry assumed insurmountable. The organization introduced two-way texting with clients in late 2015, leveraging existing messaging features available to branches.

After clients verify their phone number and opt in to their preferred services, they can begin texting with Edward Jones, receive alerts and get appointment reminders on their cell phones. Nearly half of financial advisors now have texted with clients, with all communications archived and monitored for compliance purposes.

"This is something our clients, especially younger clients, want," said Kacie Levy of Hermiston.

Edward Jones, Levy said, seeks to deliver excellent service by meeting client needs, including communicating and doing business in ways that are most conve-

nient for clients. By doing this, she said it helps clients in meeting their most important financial goals.

The 2016 WealthManagement.com Industry Awards recognize outstanding achievement, innovation and support among vendors and suppliers serving the financial advisor industry. In its second year, the awards were distributed to 51 firms in the wealth management and asset management space, out of 300 companies that applied and 400 nominations.

There are several Edward Jones financial advisors in Hermiston and Pendleton. To learn more, visit www.edwardjones.com.

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Congratulations MAROON 5

TO OUR MAROON 5 CONCERT TICKETS GIVEAWAY WINNERS!

They each won a prize package to see **Maroon 5** in concert at the **Pendleton Whisky Music Fest**.

Thank you to everyone who entered our sweepstakes!

Cathy Williams, Pendleton

Aubree Padilla, Hermiston, (her friend Whitney Paul pictured)

Audrey Harshman, Hermiston

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