

**PENDLETON  
STOCKS UP  
ON WHISKY**  
REGION/3A



**UMATILLA  
COUNTY FAIR  
RESULTS**  
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# EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2017

141st Year, No. 222

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## CTUIR to consider putting marijuana on ballot

East Oregonian

One year after the city of Pendleton voted to legalize marijuana sales, the sovereign nation next door will may make a similar decision at the ballot box.

At a meeting Monday, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Board of Trustees will consider putting a referendum on legalizing marijuana on the tribes' Nov. 14 general election, CTUIR spokesman Chuck Sams said Tuesday.

Sams said the referendum consists of eight questions proposed by the General Council, which range from legalizing recreational consumption of marijuana to growing industrial hemp on the reservation, although he didn't know the exact language of each question because they have yet to be reviewed by staff.

Under tribal government, the General Council is comprised of all tribal members 18 years and over and has its own officers. The General Council elects

See MARIJUANA/10A

## Echo agrees to wastewater solution with Stanfield

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

The Echo City Council has approved an agreement to send its recycled water to Stanfield instead of Michael Yunker's ranch.

Yunker had been preparing for a court battle after being notified last December the city was considering using eminent domain to carve out a 10-acre piece of his ranch to deposit the city's recycled water as part of a wastewater system upgrade. Instead, the city will begin searching for funding to pipe the water into the city of Stanfield's system.

Yunker said he was "delighted" that the city had found a solution that worked for everyone.

"Man, that's good news," he said. "I don't know what to say. I'm one happy camper."

Stanfield's city council still has to vote to approve the agreement, but it was Stanfield councilor Jason Sperr who came to an Echo City Council meeting earlier in the year to state Stanfield's willingness

See WASTEWATER/10A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A powered paraglider flies over the campground at the industrial park at the beginning of the eclipse on Monday in John Day.

## APOC-ECLIPSE? NO.

### Planning pays off for eclipse rush in rural Oregon

By GEORGE PLAVEN  
East Oregonian

After months of bracing for massive crowds, gnarled traffic and barren supermarket shelves, it turns out rural Eastern Oregon was more than prepared to handle the influx of visitors who came for Monday's total solar eclipse.

Locals were reportedly busy, but not overwhelmed by the number of eclipse watchers who flocked from around the world to tiny towns like John Day, Fossil and Spray to witness the rare cosmic event within the path of totality.

Nick Green, John Day city manager, estimated they had more than 10,000 people stay in town, including 3,000 who camped at the city's airport industrial park and the former Oregon Pine mill site. Both tent and RV campsites were booked solid, in addition to motels and landowners renting additional space for guests.

"There were a lot of logistics, but it was a great event," Green said. "Everyone had a great time."

While traffic was mostly steady throughout the weekend, John Day did experience a hefty backup along Highway 26 immediately following the eclipse on Monday. Green said the line of cars stretched for eight miles east



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

An Oregon National Guard Humvee sits on a street off Highway 395 on Sunday in John Day.

toward Prairie City, and members of the Oregon National Guard were brought in to direct the flow of traffic downtown.

"We've never seen anything like that in Grant County," he said.

Despite the relatively high volume of drivers on otherwise sparsely populated roads, Tom

Strandberg with the Oregon Department of Transportation said they did not have any major wrecks or closures in the area.

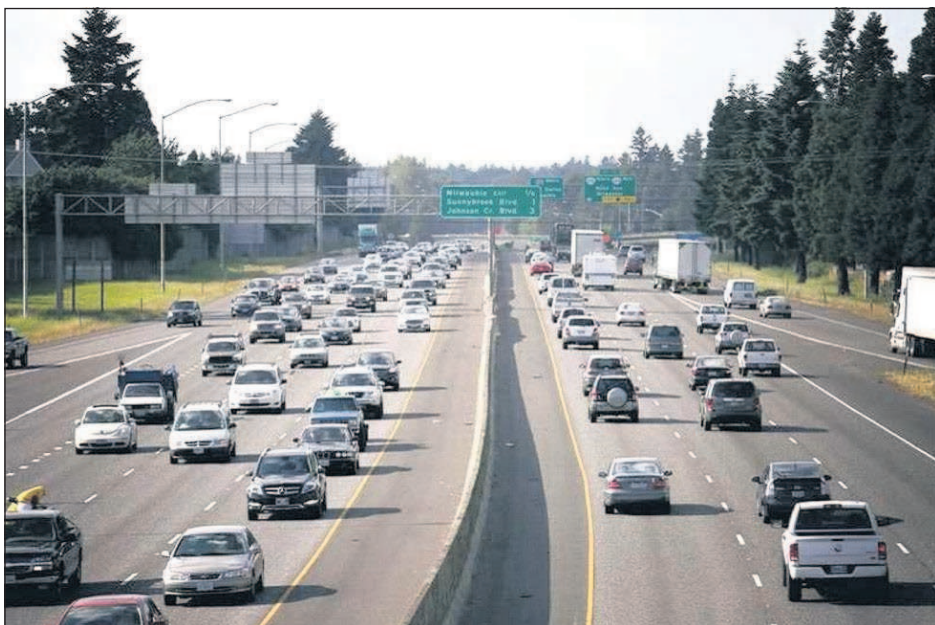
Strandberg, who serves as the spokesman for ODOT in Eastern Oregon, said they are still crunching the numbers to determine just how many vehicles did arrive and stay in Grant County.

He said eclipse travelers largely heeded the agency's advice to come early, though not as many stayed late, which led to periods of congestion Monday.

Still, it could have been much worse.

"I think we were pretty

See ECLIPSE/10A



Pamplin Media Group

Gov. Kate Brown quietly signed a \$5.3 billion transportation funding bill Friday, but will travel to Malheur County next week for a ceremonial signing. The bill provides funding for a rail transloading facility for the area.

## Gov. Brown signs transportation bill

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown is scheduled to appear at a ceremonial signing of a \$5.3 billion transportation funding bill in Eastern Oregon Aug. 28, the *Capital Press* reported Monday.

Brown officially signed House Bill 2017 without notice or fanfare on Aug. 18.

The governor and lawmakers have touted the legislation as a chief accomplishment of the 2017 legislative session, which concluded July 7.

The ceremonial signing is

set for 10 a.m. at the Ontario Train Depot. Brown is expected to visit Ontario to highlight a \$26 million project in the bill to construct a reload facility central to moving products out of Malheur County, The Argus Observer reported Tuesday.

The Governor's Office was not immediately available Tuesday morning to elaborate on the reasons for holding the ceremonial signing in Ontario.

An author of the legislation, Republican Rep. Cliff Bentz represents Ontario. Bentz played a crucial role in negoti-

See TRANSPORTATION/10A



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