Boutique soars past 2016 boarding numbers

By ANTONIO SIERA East Oregonian

little more than halfway through 2017, Boutique Air has already surpassed the previous year's boarding numbers at the Pendleton airport.

Eastern Oregon Regional Airport recorded 3,051 boarding through July, easily breezing by 2,380 enplanements the airport reported for the entirety of 2016.

The 495 people who boarded Boutique planes in July is highest figure from this year and last. And if Boutique maintains its current pace, it would represent a nine-year high in annual boarding figures. "We're pretty pleased with Boutique," Pendleton Airport Manager Chrisman said Friday.

Boutique has advantage its predecessor, SeaPort Airlines, didn't it doesn't look like it will declare bankruptcy in the latter half of the year and cease operations in Pend-

But SeaPort also struggled before it's sudden end, posting weak boarding numbers that eventually put Pendleton in jeopardy of losing its Essential Air Service subsidy.

SeaPort ceased operations shortly after the city chose Boutique as its new airline, meaning the airport recorded no boardings in September, October and



NORTHWEST

Photo contributed by Boutique Air

A little more than halfway through 2017, Boutique Air has already surpassed the previous year's boarding numbers at the Pendleton airport.

November.

"It was a pretty lonely place for 3-4 months, Chrisman said.

Since launching service from Pendleton to Portland in December, Boutique's introductory \$49 airfare price has been a selling point for the airline and Chrisman hasn't received any word that they intend to raise it.

If Boutique continues to post strong boarding numbers, Chrisman said he would advocate to increase the number of flights from Pendleton.

While switching from the eight-seat Pilatus to a larger

plane, he said airlines have mostly moved away from medium sized planes that seated 19-50 passengers, and bringing in a plane any larger would probably limit the number of flights to and from Pendleton.

Instead, he would like to use the existing planes to perform more than three trips per day.

Boutique's initial success also has the city and the San Francisco-based company discussing new destinations, like Seattle and San Jose, California.

McNulty, Michelle Boutique's marketing and community manager, did not return multiple requests for comment.

The California Bay area is the home of A³, a Silicon Valley Airbus subsidiary that is testing an air taxi concept at the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range.

Chrisman said airport's commercial air service has been an asset to the UAS industry, with one drone company specifically citing that fact as one of the reasons it came to Pendleton.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian. com or 541-966-0836.

Judge finds Freel incapable of proceeding in murder case

By PHIL WRIGHT East Oregonian

The prosecution of Evan Freel of Milton-Freewater for murder of his infant child is on hold while Freel undergoes treatment for competency.

Circuit Judge Christopher Brauer on Aug. 11 ordered the suspension of proceedings in the case, according to court documents. Brauer found Freel "lacks the fitness to proceed" under Oregon law. He based his order on the reports of clinical psychologists Laura Zorich and Terri Femandez-Tyson, as well as representations from Freel's defense attorney, Kara Davis of Pendleton.

Freel, 17, faces the charges of murder and criminal first-degree mistreatment. The state has accused Freel of killing his 5-month old son, Dominic, on June 8, 2016. The search warrant affidavit from Milton-Freewater Morgan Dunlap stated a medical examination of the baby's body showed multiple injuries consistent with what Freel told police he did to quiet his crying

According to Brauer's order, Freel is a danger to himself or others. He requires commitment to the Oregon State Hospital "until capacity is gained or regained.

Under Oregon Law, the maximum time Freel can stay at the hospital for this case is three years, according to the order, and the hospital shall provide the court with progress reports at least every 180 days.

Brauer set a hearing for Sept. 9 to check on the status of the case.

BRIEFLY

Mosquito control district plans aerial sprays

The West Umatilla Mosquito Control District will be conducting aerial mosquito control sprays at sunset Monday in response to three confirmed positive West Nile virus samples this year.

A press release states that the district will target 10,240 acres north and east of Hermiston and along U.S. Route 730 between the city of Umatilla and the Umatilla-Morrow county line that have high populations of vector mosquitoes, although no areas within city limits are set for spraying.

The district initially detected West Nile on June 21 and two more samples were confirmed last week by the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Corvallis. The positive samples were collected on U.S. Route 730 near the county line, Umatilla, and east Hermiston near Highland Hills.

take precautions to avoid mosquito bites and report sightings of dead birds so that the district can track the spread of the virus.

encouraging the public to

The district is

Hermiston man killed in rollover crash on I-82

A Hermiston man was killed in a rollover crash on Interstate 82 around 1 a.m. Friday morning, according to Washington State Patrol.

Kenneth Nichols, 45, was driving eastbound on I-82 about 11 miles south of Kennewick. According to police, Nichols lost control of his vehicle near milepost 124 and over-corrected to the right. His vehicle rolled, and he was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Nichols was wearing a seatbelt. An investigation is underway, and at this time officers do not know whether alcohol or drugs were a factor. Nichols' next of kin have been notified.

Search underway for new Morrow County administrator

Cutsforth named interim administrator

By GEORGE PLAVEN East Oregonian

The search is underway for a new top administrative officer in Morrow County.

A job posting was released Tuesday for the position, which was created two years ago when Morrow County shuffled its government structure, eliminating the longstanding county judge position in favor of three part-time commissioners.

Jerry Sorte was hired as the county's first administrator, but resigned last month to accept a new job as community and economic development director with the city of Sweet Home. Sorte's last day with Morrow County was Friday.

In the meantime, county commissioners on Aug. 16 hired Kim Cutsforth, former Heppner city manager, to fill the administrator role on an interim basis

until a full-time replacement is found. Cutsforth will begin Monday.

Karen Wolff, Morrow County human resources director, said Cutsforth was a natural fit with her experience and knowledge of the area. The county hopes to have a new full-time administrator in place before the end of the year, Wolff said. The first review of applications will be Friday,

The county administrator reports to the board

commissioners works with department heads to provide general management and oversight county government. The position pays between \$95,000 and \$125,000 per year, depending on qualifications, plus benefits.

For more information, contact Wolff at 541-676-5620 or kwolff@co.morrow.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian. com or 541-966-0825.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast **MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY** Pleasant with Sizzling sunshine Mostly sunny and Mostly sunny and Sunny and very plenty of sun and very warm very warm very hot hot PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST 90° 58° 64° 98° 66° 65° **62°** TEMPERATUR

64°

Olympia

89/59

Seattle

80/59

Tacoma

94/58

Bend

89/53

Klamath Falls

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

81/53

Longview

84/56

Salem

92/58 Albany

92/53

Medford 100/62

Eugene

90/52

101° 65°

Yakima

90/54

The Dalles 92/51

Wenatchee 87/61

Moses

Lake

88/53

Kennewick

91/51

Hermiston

51° 98° **ALMANAC**

PENDLETON

through 3 p.	m. yesterday									
TEMPERATURE										
	HIGH	LOW								
Yesterday	79°	46°								
Normals	85°	56°								
Records	104° (1996)	34° (1910)								
PRECIPIT/	ATION									

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00" 0.07" Month to date Normal month to date 0.34 11.37" 7.34" Year to date Last year to date Normal year to date **HERMISTON**

through 3 p.m. yesterday **TEMPERATURE** HIGH LOW Yesterday **Normals**

Records	103° (1958)	38° (2012)
PRECIPIT/	ATION	
24 hours en	iding 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to d	ate	0.06"
Normal mo	nth to date	0.16"
Year to date	2	6.65"
Last year to	date	4.99"
Normal yea	r to date	6.08"

SUN AND MOON

Aug 29

		•				
Sunrise to	oday		6:09 a.m.			
Sunset to	night		7:44 p.m.			
Moonrise	today	11:27 a.m.				
Moonset	today	10:29 p.m.				
First	Full	Last	New			
33	Contract of the second					

Sep 12 Sep 19

unset to	mignt		7:44 p.m.
/loonrise	today	1	1:27 a.m.
/loonset	today	1	0:29 p.m.
First	Full	Last	New
()			

Sep 5

REGIONAL FORECAST Coastal Oregon: Sunny today; however, low clouds followed by sunshine in the south.

partly cloudy tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Plenty of sunshine today. Hot; pleasant across the Eastern Washington: Plenty of sun today. Clear tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow Cascades: Warmer today with plenty of sun.

Northern California: Mostly sunny today: Western Washington: Sunny today. Clear to hot in central parts. Mainly clear tonight.

Clear tonight

Savings off cover price 41 percent 41 percent 38 percent

DEGIONAL CITIES

KEGI	UN	AL	CI			
	Т	oda	у	:	Sun	
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	74	54	S	74	55	S
Baker City	91	47	S	97	53	S
Bend	89	53	S	96	59	S
Brookings	70	56	рс	69	55	S
Burns	92	50	S	96	54	S
Enterprise	87	50	S	94	57	S
Eugene	90	52	S	95	55	S
Heppner	88	56	S	94	61	S
Hermiston	92	51	S	98	58	S
John Day	92	59	S	98	63	S
Klamath Falls	91	52	S	94	53	S
La Grande	87	49	S	96	57	S
Meacham	85	46	S	94	55	S
Medford	100	62	S	103	64	S
Newport	67	50	S	67	52	S
North Bend	69	52	S	69	53	S
Ontario	95	56	S	98	60	S
Pasco	90	51	S	96	55	S
Pendleton	90	58	S	97	64	S
Portland	89	59	S	96	62	S
Redmond	91	48	S	97	53	S
Salem	92	58	S	99	61	S
Spokane	84	57	S	91	61	S
Ukiah	86	47	S	96	54	S
Vancouver	88	57	S	95	61	S
Walla Walla	90	62	S	97	68	S
Yakima	90	54	S	96	58	S

WORLD CITIES

	Т	oda	y	Sun.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Beijing	85	65	рс	68	63	r	
Hong Kong	94	80	t	88	80	r	
Jerusalem	90	68	S	88	68	S	
London	74	58	рс	75	58	рс	
Mexico City	76	59	рс	76	59	рс	
Moscow	68	48	pc	63	47	pc	
Paris	83	64	рс	83	63	рс	
Rome	85	64	S	86	67	S	
Seoul	82	64	рс	80	66	C	
Sydney	67	48	S	66	44	рс	
Tokyo	89	74	t	81	73	r	

WINDS (in mph) Today Sunday **Boardman** NNE 6-12

UV INDEX TODAY 3 4 **3** 6 **3** 6 **3** 4 **3** 2

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. **0-2**, Low **3-5**, Moderate **6-7**, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+. Extreme The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ num

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email community@eastoregonian.com or call Tammy Malgesini at

To submit sports or outdoors information or tips:

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day

warm front stationary front National Summary: Harvey will slam southeastern Texas with life-threatening flooding rain, damaging winds and coastal flooding today. Another tropical concern will drop locally flooding downpours on southern Florida.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 110° in Needles, Calif. Low 26° in Doe Lake, Mich.

NATIONAL CITIES													
	Today Sun. Today Sun.												
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	88	65	t	88	65	рс	Louisville	84	61	S	86	66	S
Atlanta	87	71	рс	84	69	рс	Memphis	86	69	рс	86	68	рс
Atlantic City	77	64	S	77	66	рс	Miami	88	75	t	88	77	sh
Baltimore	78		рс	79	62	рс	Milwaukee	73	64	рс	74		t
Billings	89	56	S	90	59	S	Minneapolis	68	61	r	74	58	sh
Birmingham	87	72	рс	85	71	рс	Nashville	87	62		88	68	
Boise	95		S	99	66		New Orleans	90		sh	85	75	-
Boston	74		S	72	58	рс	New York City	76	63	S	76	62	рс
Charleston, SC	88	72	sh	83	70	r	Oklahoma City	86	66	-	87	67	-
Charleston, WV	80		S	81		рс	Omaha	85	66	t	81	60	рс
Chicago	77	62	рс	80	63	t	Philadelphia	79	62	S	80	64	рс
Cleveland	75	56	S	81	64	S	Phoenix	110	87		110	86	t
Dallas	85		рс	84	70	рс	Portland, ME	75	52	S	72		рс
Denver	92	59	рс	90	58	рс	Providence	77	56	S	76	56	
Detroit	76	56	-	77	62		Raleigh	86		рс	84	65	
El Paso	88		t	90	67		Rapid City	87	56	t	85	56	S
Fairbanks	66	46	sh	59	48	sh	Reno	97	64	S	98	66	S
Fargo	75	57	C	80	53	рс	Sacramento	102	65	S	105	67	S
Honolulu	88	73	рс	88	75	S	St. Louis	84	64	S	87	66	t
Houston	79	74	r	79	72	r	Salt Lake City	97	69	рс	97	68	S
Indianapolis	79	59	рс	83	64	рс	San Diego	77	68	рс	81	70	S
Jacksonville	86	74	t	85	71	t	San Francisco	76	59	S	77	60	рс
Kansas City	84	66	рс	82	61	t	Seattle	80	59	S	85	60	рс
Las Vegas	105	84	S	108	85		Tucson	99	76	S	101	77	рс
Little Rock	83	68	рс	85	69	рс	Washington, DC	81	66	S	80	66	рс
Los Apadlos	07	60	-	0.1	72	-	\Michita	07	67	+	0.0	65	+

87 68 s 91 72 s Wichita 87 67 t 88 65 t Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.