



# EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Dan Lonai, Umatilla County Department of Administrative Services director, verifies a ballot total while counting ballots Tuesday at the Umatilla County Courthouse in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Measure 101 passes

By KATHY ANEY East Oregonian

Oregon voters passed Measure 101 on Tuesday, saving state lawmakers from having to go back to the drawing board. The ballot measure passed with 61 percent of statewide ballots in favor and 39 percent opposed, according to unofficial results.

In Umatilla County, the measure failed by a margin of 56 percent to 44 percent. Only 12,346 of the county's 42,156 voters — or 29 percent — turned in ballots. In Morrow County,

the measure failed 60 percent to 40 percent. Turnout was also 29 percent.

Supporters and opponents fought a fierce war of words during the months leading to the election, but the public remained relatively blasé, maybe confused, by the ballot measure. Only 32.4 percent of Oregon voters cast a ballot according to data Tuesday night.

The lone ballot item in January's special election asked voters to approve or disprove a plan to cover a billion-dollar deficit in Medicare coverage with a package of tax and fee increases. Oregon lawmakers had actu-

ally approved the package during the last legislative session. Large hospitals would pay a 0.7 percent tax and health care insurance companies and certain other providers would pay 1.5 percent. Three Republican representatives — Rep. Cedric Hayden, R-Cottage Grove, Julie Parrish, R-West Linn, and Sal Esquivel, R-Medford — launched a referendum drive to repeal the bill.

Patty Wentz, spokeswoman for the Yes for Health Care campaign, was in an ebullient mood on election night.

See MEASURE 101/2A

### UMATILLA

## City hopes to reuse data center water for agriculture

By JADE MCDOWELL East Oregonian

A water reuse project by the city of Hermiston has inspired Umatilla to imagine new ways to use water exiting the region's data centers.

Umatilla city manager Russ Pelleberg shared details of the project, which the city hopes to begin construction on later this year, at the Oregon Water Coalition's annual membership meeting in Hermiston on Tuesday morning.

The \$3 million project would separate Umatilla's commercial wastewater from its domestic flows, allowing the city to send water from current Amazon data centers at the Port of Umatilla, a planned data center off Lind Road and any future data centers to irrigation canals for agricultural use. Future phases would include an industrial wastewater treatment plant at the port and storage ponds for keeping reuse water during the winter when it is not needed for irrigation.

Pelleberg said data centers use "a ton of hydraulic capacity" for cooling purposes, but the water coming out the other end and into the city's sewer system is still "very, very clean."

"It didn't make sense to treat clean water," he said.

As the city looked for better solutions, Hermiston was pioneering a reuse program with West Irrigation District. Water coming from Hermiston's recycled water treatment plant built in 2014 was well within the state's standards for cleanliness, but was too warm

See WATER/3A

### PILOT ROCK



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Scott Hinkle and Sara Hebard of Pilot Rock lost their son, Liam Flanagan, 8, pictured in the cell phone photo, on Saturday after an eight-day battle with a flesh-eating bacteria.

## 'We don't want any other parents to go through this'



Contributed photo

Liam Flanagan lays in his hospital bed during his battle with necrotizing fasciitis.

## Boy dies from rare flesh-eating bacteria days after bike crash

By KATHY ANEY East Oregonian

Liam Flanagan seemed a typical eight-year-old boy.

The Pilot Rock second grader rode his bike, scarfed down molasses cookies after school and roughhoused with his three step-brothers. He loved to wear camo and feed the animals on his family's farm.

But life, as the saying goes, can turn on a dime.

Saturday before last, Liam wrecked his bike as he rode down a hill on his family's Spring Creek property. Blood seeped from a thigh wound where the end of the handlebar sliced through his jeans. An emergency room doctor stitched him up and the incident seemed destined to fade from memory as just another foible in the life of an active, young boy.

Several days later, however, Liam found himself fighting for his life.

Flesh-eating bacteria, which likely entered his wound from the soil, attacked the boy's soft tissue. In the days to come he would endure four surgeries to remove infected tissue.

**"Almost his whole right side was gone. They kept cutting and hoping. Cutting and hoping."**

— Sara Hebard, Liam's mother on doctors trying to stay ahead of the deadly infection

Liam's mom and stepfather, Sara Hebard and Scott Hinkle, realized something wasn't right on Wednesday when Liam complained of intense pain in his groin area. Scott took a look and reacted with alarm at what he saw.

"It was purplish-red and gangrenous looking," he said. "We threw him in the rig and went like hell."

After surgery at St. Anthony Hospital to remove infected tissue, Liam and his mother flew by air ambulance to Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland early

See FLANAGAN/3A

