

ATHENA POOL  
NABS \$50,000  
GRANT  
REGION/3A



SPORTS/1B  
BLAZERS COMEBACK FALLS SHORT

TRUMP, GOV. BROWN  
DIVERGE ON SENDING  
TROOPS TO BORDER  
NATION/6A

# EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2018

142nd Year, No. 121

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## Your Weekend

- Stuff the bus charity event in Hermiston
- Brass Fire plays
- Saturday at Red Lion
- Stand up comedy with Alex Elkin in Irrigon

For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

## Catch a movie



Jonny Courmoyer/Paramount Pictures via AP

## A Quiet Place

For showtime, Page 5A  
For review, Weekend EO

## Weekend Weather

| Fri   | Sat   | Sun   |
|-------|-------|-------|
|       |       |       |
| 63/49 | 60/46 | 57/38 |

## UMATILLA

# McNary gets a housing boost

City Council turns commercial zone into residential

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

Eight more homes can be added to the new Virginia's Place subdivision in McNary after the Umatilla City Council voted Tuesday to change the rest of the property from commercial to residential zoning.

The 8.5 acre subdivision, located off Willamette Avenue, sparked debate about the future of the McNary area in 2016 after developer Fastrack, Inc. requested the entire property be re-zoned. Some councilors believed the city would be best served by new commercial ventures on the property, while others argued that the land had been available for commercial development for decades and

See COUNCIL/10A



Staff photos by E.J. Harris

Traffic along Interstate 84 west of Cabbage Hill negotiates rainy conditions on the freeway Thursday outside of Pendleton.

# MAKING ROADS SAFER

## Lights, cables, signs and more could reduce crashes on I-84

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

Many an Eastern Oregon resident has been inconvenienced by closures of Interstate 84, but for some those closures have meant the death of a loved one in a fatal crash.

Human error and vehicle malfunctions can cause crashes on even flat, low-lying sections of interstate. But as drivers pass Boardman and enter into the Oregon Department

of Transportation's Region 5 they face new layers of challenges. In "hot spot" areas like Cabbage Hill and Ladd Canyon, drivers wind up steep curves, navigating past slow semi-trucks with flashing warning lights, or zoom down a series of sharp angles. Rapid changes in elevation cause alternating climates where ice or snow can appear unexpectedly, taking the road from tricky to treacherous during colder months.

See I-84/10A



Noon-hour traffic makes its way up Southgate on Thursday in Pendleton.

## Drivers can take safety into their own hands

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

The Oregon Department of Transportation can put up as many signs and warnings as it wants, but if people choose to look down at their phones instead of the road, there is only so much that can be done to prevent crashes.

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and ODOT and the Oregon State Police are reminding drivers to keep their eyes — and their minds — on the road.

"Nothing's so important it can't wait," Lt. Mike Turner of the Pendleton OSP office said.

The easiest way to stop temptations to look at text messages, emails and social media notifications is to turn the phone off while driving or place it out of reach, particularly on long drives.

Even if people are devout about not touching their phones in the car, however, Turner said there are plenty of other things that can distract drivers. People often take their eyes off the road while eating, looking at a map or GPS, adjusting the radio or having a conversation with a passenger.

Sometimes, "distracted" drivers even have their eyes on the road, but aren't alert enough to make note of a vehicle coming up on their blind spot or patches of ice beginning to appear.

See DRIVERS/10A

## HERMISTON

# SafeOregon tip line, police save a life

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
East Oregonian

SafeOregon has only been active in Eastern Oregon for two years, but it has already saved at least one life.

Late last year, a Hermiston teen used the anonymous tip line to alert police that one of their peers was suicidal. Police went to the home and found the child in his room with a belt around his neck, unconscious. Officers

performed CPR and a sternum rub, and got the person breathing on his own. He was then taken to a hospital and received treatment. The two officers, Riley Studebaker and Derrick Williams, were given lifesaving awards for their work.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said since the service has been in place, his department has followed up on three calls, all of which have been tips about

attempted suicide.

But the tip line is available for students who want to report anything from self-harm to harassment and bullying, and is available in most schools in Eastern Oregon.

The free service operated by Oregon State Police allows students to ask for help via call, text, email, a web portal or an app on their phones. It operates around the clock, 365 days a year. Students can remain

## Got a tip?

To submit a tip to SafeOregon, call or text 844-472-3367, or visit [www.safeoregon.com](http://www.safeoregon.com).

completely anonymous throughout the reporting process.

Adults appreciate the extra set of eyes.

"The biggest piece is that we're adults, but we don't see or hear

See TIP LINE/10A



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