



EAST OREGONIAN

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142nd Year, No. 138 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

Missing trucker emerges from wilderness

La Grande man follows GPS down Forest Service road, gets stuck

The Associated Press

A trucker led astray by his GPS device and missing for four days in the snow-covered mountains near La Grande walked 14 miles and emerged safely at home on Saturday.

“I was walking as much as I could. I was in so much pain. I was shaking,” Jacob Cartwright, 22, told the

“Today” show in a clip aired Monday. “I wanted to go home to my kids one way or another — hell or high water.”

Cartwright showed up Saturday near La Grande, where an intensive search involving aircraft had been taking place since he went missing Tuesday.

Cartwright was evaluated in an emergency room but appeared OK, said nursing supervisor Danita Thamert at Grande Ronde Hospital in La



Jacob Cartwright

Grande.

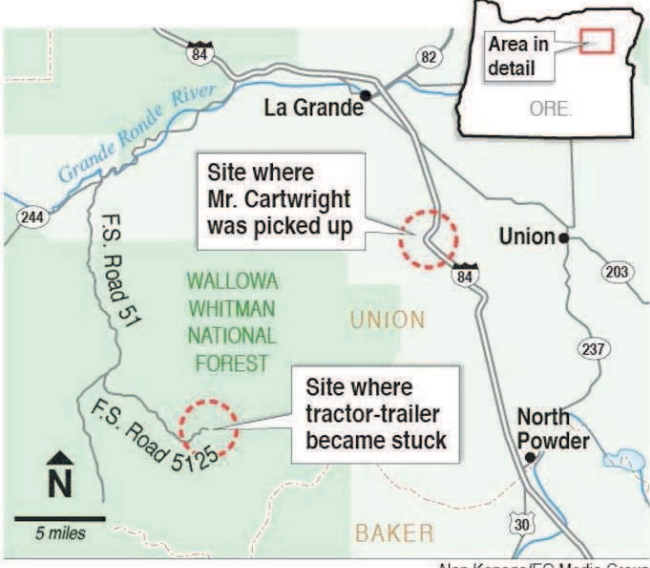
“He looks to be pretty good,” she said. “He’s a big boy. He kept moving and stayed warm enough. So it doesn’t look like he’s going to have too many injuries.”

Cartwright’s boss, Roy Henry of Little Trees Transportation, said Cartwright was driving a truckload of potato chips but the tractor-trailer got stuck after he took the wrong turn in an area with limited cellphone coverage.

The trucker started walking away from the direction he had come from without any food or water just after midnight Wednesday, wading through snow at some points. He didn’t stop until Saturday morning when he neared La Grande, where he lives, Henry said. From there, the trucker got a ride from a passing motorist to his home.

Cartwright’s wife returned home from meeting with local officials about the search for her husband only to find him in their house.

See TRUCKER/10A



EO file photo

MINOR IMPACT

Since legalization, no significant increase in underage marijuana use in Pendleton or Hermiston, but some troubling trends

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

It remains illegal for minors to possess or use marijuana, but legalization of the drug in Oregon for adults has changed some things for the under-18 crowd.

Hermiston Police Capt. Travis Eynon said it’s hard to pinpoint if legalization for recreational use has made marijuana use more prevalent among minors.

“It’s kind of hard to capture because for them, it’s always been illegal,” he said. But he noted there has been some anecdotes that worry law enforcement.

Eynon said recently a nine-year-old student was found with marijuana at a Hermiston elementary schools.

“That’s kind of an anomaly,” he said, adding that it’s still rare to see children that young in possession. He said school resource officers in the elementary schools likely see two to three instances of marijuana possession per year — a statistic that hasn’t changed in the last few years. In the most recent incident, however, the child’s parent was growing marijuana in their yard. While he said the parent was not happy to learn the child had taken the marijuana, he said the ability for adults to

grow legally makes it easier for children to access.

Both Eynon and Pendleton Police Lt. Chuck Byram said they have seen a significant increase in edibles since marijuana was legalized.

“It is hard to detect due to the similarities between marijuana infused foods and regular foods,” Byram said in an email to the *East Oregonian*. “We have handled two different edible cases within our schools this year, where to our knowledge we had no reported instances in the past.”

“For the past couple of years, we have been observing an increase of younger

children (middle school and elementary school) bringing marijuana, marijuana products and paraphernalia to school,” Byram wrote. “Not all of these issues have been handled with the issuance of a citation due to specific circumstances of each incident.”

By the numbers

In 2014, marijuana legal only to medical marijuana cardholders. Recreational marijuana became legal in Oregon in 2016 and in 2017, recreational sales were approved by Pendleton voters,

See MARIJUANA/10A

“It’s kind of hard to capture because for them, it’s always been illegal.”

— Travis Eynon, Hermiston Police Captain



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Take me home country road

A country road divides colorful farm fields northeast of Pendleton off Highway 37.

New publisher takes reins of *East Oregonian*

Rush will oversee newspapers in Pendleton, Hermiston, John Day and in Enterprise

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Chris Rush will be new to Eastern Oregon, but he’s no stranger to community journalism.

The EO Media Group recently named Rush as the regional publisher and revenue director of the *East Oregonian*, *Hermiston Herald*, *Blue Mountain Eagle* and *Wallowa County Chieftain*.

He will replace Kathryn Brown, who has been

publisher of the *East Oregonian* since 2013 and will begin developing a new publication for the EO Media Group this summer.

Rush, now a 25-year veteran of the journalism industry and native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, had an inauspicious start to his career. Equipped with a bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma State University and a master’s degree from the University

See PUBLISHER/10A



Chris Rush

