

# Highway 11 resurfacing project could begin next week

## Major highway construction in the works in Eastern Oregon

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Highway construction season is revving up in Eastern Oregon.

The Oregon Department of Transportation reported it has wrapped up five projects to improve area highways and 33 more are in the works, including repaving a section of Highway 11 to make it safer, and the addition of a third lane on Interstate 84 near La Grande.

Ken Patterson is the area manager for the department's Region 5 encompassing the

eastern third of the state. He said an \$8 million project on Highway 11 could commence as soon as next week.

Crews will resurface the state highway from milepost 2 near Pendleton to the Weston Interchange Bridge near mile point 20.5. That work will occur from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., while guardrail replacements, rumble strip installation and painting will take place during the day.

The construction could create delays of 20 minutes, according to ODOT, and wrap up in November.

Patterson said two projects that have been on ODOT's wish list for years are finally rolling along.

The end is nigh for the hairpin Minam Curve on Highway 82 in Wallowa County. The speed limit on

the turn drops it to a meager 25 mph, Patterson said, and traffic often bottlenecks there.

Straightening the road will cost about \$5 million and involve removing 360,000 cubic yards of earth. Patterson said those bucketloads of soil and rock will go into shoring up a nearby slide area.

"We're getting ready to begin work on this in the next couple of weeks," he said. "Hopefully we'll get it all done next year."

The second ambitious project is the biggest — adding a climbing lane to Interstate 84 along Ladd Canyon near La Grande.

"We've been working on this for quite a few years," Patterson said, from cobbling together the funding to snip-

ping away at small parts. This project puts in a third lane for truck traffic on the eastbound side of I-84 from about mile point 270.4 to 272.8 around six miles east of La Grande.

ODOT has added third lanes on other uphill stretches, including west of Ladd Canyon on notorious Cabbage Hill outside Pendleton. Those road expansions result in few lane closures, Patterson said, especially during winters.

The Ladd Canyon project also includes removing or upgrading culverts on Brush Creek and Ladd Creek to improve fish passages.

Oregon's 2017 transportation bill did not pay for this project, but ODOT reported the Keep Oregon Moving package does provide \$3.4 million to resurface about

10 miles of eastbound and westbound slow lanes and increase fast lane shoulder widths 3 feet between Ladd Canyon and Second Street, La Grande.

The engineering and permitting portions are in process, Patterson said, and some construction could commence this year with the big push in 2019 and 2020. He called this an exciting time for transportation in Oregon with a historic investment in road infrastructure allowing for the completion of projects that have lingered for years.

AAA predicts record-breaking travel for the Fourth of July, with 46.9 million Americans traveling 50 or more miles from home for the holiday. That's a 5.3 percent increase compared to last year and the highest

travel volume for Independence Day since AAA started tracking the data 18 years ago.

AAA expects about 555,000 in Oregon — 12.4 percent of the state's population — to take off for the Fourth, an increase of 5.4 percent over 2017.

Patterson said most road construction crews are taking off the Fourth, but not all. He encouraged drivers to slow down in work zones and remain cautious and courteous. The Oregon Department of Transportation, he said, wants drivers to be safe.

For more information about the Oregon Department of Transportation's Region 5 and projects and a statewide summer construction map, visit [www.oregon.gov](http://www.oregon.gov).

## HERMISTON

# Residents surveyed about food truck rules

HERMISTON — The city of Hermiston is considering amendments to its mobile food vendor rules, and it wants feedback from residents.

A survey is available both in English and Spanish at [hermiston.or.us](http://hermiston.or.us) until July 15.

After the city passed a mobile food vending ordinance in 2013, many food vendors closed up shop rather than pay for a \$500 license and follow the other onerous regulations outlined. Those regulations include moving each night, providing parking, not providing seating for patrons, closing by 10 p.m. and following design standards. As a result, the city only issued three vendors licenses and cannot issue more without a vote from the city council.

As food trucks have gained in popularity nationwide, members of the public have approached the city council about issuing more licenses and creating an area where food trucks can gather. The city survey asks for opinions on increasing the number of licenses, creating a food cart pod and possible amendments to the ordinance.



People wait in line at Tacos Xavi during the Hermiston High School Associated Student Body Leadership Club's first Food Truck in 2015 outside Kennison Field.

# Umatilla County increases DUII patrols for summer events

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office will increase its efforts to catch impaired drivers starting Tuesday.

The sheriff's office announced a grant from the Oregon State Sheriff's Association is covering the cost of extra patrols looking for impaired and distracted drivers during the Fourth of July, the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest on July 13 and 14 and Pendleton Bike Week, July 17-22.

The sheriff's office stated 188 people died in 2016 involving at least one driver with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 percent or higher, an increase of 28 percent from 2015. Nearly half of those who died were in a vehicle with at least one driver with a blood alcohol concentration of .15 percent — almost twice the legal limit — or higher.

These statistics do not include persons driving under the influence of drugs, or a combination of drugs and alcohol.

The sheriff's office also asked the public to call 541-966-3651 to report possible drunk drivers or call or 911 if there appears to be an emergency.

## BRIEFLY

### Feds arrest Pendleton business owner for child pornography

Pendleton business owner Jason Robert Newsom faces federal charges for the transportation and possession of child pornography.



Newsom

Newsom, 42, operates Yummm, a frozen yogurt shop at 1803 S.W. Emigrant Ave. Agents of the FBI on Friday arrested Newsom at the business. Newsom also operates a contracting company, Modern Home Improvements, out of his home at 2811 N.E. Riverside Ave., Pendleton, according to state and county public records.

According to public records from the United States District Court of Oregon, a federal grand jury on June 26 indicted Newsom on four counts — three for transportation of child pornography and one for possession of child pornography.

The indictment alleges Newsom knowingly transported child pornography on three occasions in November 2016 and possessed child porn on Jan. 31, 2017, including "images of prepubescent minors and minors who had not attained 12 years of age."

The indictment also states conviction for the charges results in Newsom forfeiting his smartphone to the federal government. That phone, per the indictment, was "seized from defendant on or about January 31, 2018."

The FBI kept Newsom in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, during the week-end, but during he was in federal court in Portland where he pleaded not guilty to the charges. Judge John V. Acosta presided and released Newsom under certain conditions, according to court records.

The U.S. District Court assigned the case to Judge Michael H. Simon and set a three-day jury trial starting Sept. 24.

Discovery — documents and other evidence in a case — is due in 14 days. Attorneys for either side can request delays and often do,

Yummm is closed. A sign on the door said to check the business' Facebook page for updates. That page also seems to be down.

### Umatilla teen pleads not guilty to felony sex crimes

UMATILLA — Alejandro Christian Campos, 19, of Umatilla, pleaded not guilty this week to multiple felony sex crimes.

Umatilla police arrested Campos on June 17 and booked him into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, for felonies of sodomy and second-degree unlawful sexual penetration.

A grand jury on June 21 indicted Campos on 10 counts of sexual crimes, including first-degree sexual

abuse, sodomy and incest. The indictment alleges Campos sexually assaulted two girls younger than 14 in late May and early June.

The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office on Monday charged Campos based on the indictment, and he pleaded not guilty to the accusations.

The court set a trial readiness hearing for July 16 and trial for Aug. 7-10.

Campos still has time to waive his rights to a speedy trial, a common move. He remains in jail in lieu of \$200,000 bail, according to court documents, and he has a trial readiness hearing Tuesday.

### Heppner theft defendant misses sentencing while in jail

Kyler Douglas Dial of Heppner missed his sentencing Thursday in three theft cases because he was in jail in Washington.

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson said he anticipated Dial might not make the hearing.

The district attorney's office charged Dial, 28, with 35 counts in all of theft,

forgery and negotiating bad checks. Court records show Dial in May pleaded no contest to two counts of identity theft, two counts of first-degree theft and one of second-degree theft.

His plea petitions show he also agreed to serve a total of two years, two months in state prison, and he could earn time off for good behavior.

Nelson said Dial had a probation violation warrant out of Washington, so his defense attorney, Dan Stephens of Hermiston, decided it would be better to clear up that matter before the sentencing. Nelson explained having the warrant hang over Dial's head would have disqualified him from programs that could reduce his prison time.

The online roster for Franklin County Corrections, Pasco, shows Dial has been in jail there since Thursday.

Nelson said once Dial's matter wraps up in Washington, he will be right back

to Oregon to face the local music for his crimes.

### Pendleton man takes deal in sex crime case

PENDLETON — Roger Parrott of Pendleton does not have to worry about prosecutors using the term "victim" during his trial.

Parrott, 55, took a deal Monday and pleaded guilty to first-degree attempted sexual abuse — still a felony, but one without prison time. The plea came one day before he faced trial in Umatilla County Circuit

Court for domestic violence assault, first-degree sexual abuse and first-degree rape.

Parrott through his attorney, Philip M. Wasley of La Grande, filed a motion on June 5 to exclude the use of the terms "victim" and "rapist" during trial, along with other information.

In exchange for the plea, the state dismissed the other charges, and Judge Christopher Brauer sentenced Parrott to five years probation.

Parrott contended the sex was consensual, according to court documents, and the woman only accused him of crimes after they broke up.

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3:30\* 6:30 7:00 9:30  
4:00 10:00

**SICARIO: DAY OF THE SOLDADO (R)**  
3:50\* 6:40 9:20

**INCREDIBLES 2 (PG)**  
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**THE FIRST PURGE (R)**  
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**SICARIO: DAY OF THE SOLDADO (R)**  
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