



An Australian shepherd-border collie mix, walks on a pile of debris caught in a fence line as flood waters rush by Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2018, on a ranch east of Milton-Freewater.

Ready for the storm

Umatilla County given StormReady designation on Wednesday

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Umatilla County is ready to handle big, bad weather. The county on Wednesday received the StormReady designation from the National Weather Service. Mike Vescio is the meteorologist-in-charge at the agency's office in Pendleton. He explained the program helps communities become more resilient during and after natural disasters. County Emergency Manager Tom Roberts said he became interested in the program after visiting Manzanita in the wake of the tornado that struck the coastal town on Oct. 14, 2016. Roberts said he saw where powerful winds knocked down a swath of trees and propelled roofing shingles into metal doors. If a tornado could

happen there, he figured, it could happen here. "It was quite an eye-opener because Manzanita hadn't seen a tornado, either," Roberts said. To earn the Weather Service's StormReady certification, a community must meet a number of criteria, from establishing a 24-hour emergency operations center to developing a plan to deal with hazardous weather to having at least two means to receive severe weather information and alert the public. Vescio said the county looked into the StormReady program before, but previous emergency managers were part time, which hampered efforts. Roberts is full time, and Vescio said the emergency manager did plenty of work to meet the requirements, including the delivery of more than 30

weather radios to schools, city halls and the like. Roberts said he racked up the miles on his car, but it was worth it. The radios help ensure the county and its partners can communicate during disasters. Roberts and other county officials came to the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office for a brief recognition ceremony with Vescio and Grant Cooper, the director of the Western Region of the National Weather Service, who operates out of Salt Lake City, Utah. He said the designation was the appropriate feather in the cap given the federal agency has a station in Pendleton. Roberts and sheriff's office dispatch commander Kathy Lieuallen then led the small group on a tour of the emergency operations and the communications center. Lieuallen explained the dis-

patch is in communication with the National Weather Service during certain emergencies, such as fires, when knowing wind speed and direction are crucial. The county will have to reapply in three years to stay StormReady. Roberts said he also intends to use the new designation when applying for state and federal grants for emergency equipment, including vehicles. Umatilla County is one of 36 sites in Oregon the Weather Service deemed storm ready or tsunami ready, according to the StormReady website, along with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Malheur County and many coastal communities. To learn more about the program, visit <https://www.weather.gov/stormready/>.

McLeod-Skinner, Walden agree to debate terms

East Oregonian

After some public wrangling, Democrat Jamie McLeod-Skinner agreed Wednesday to the terms of an Oct. 5 debate with Republican Rep. Greg Walden. Walden's campaign announced the debate on Sept. 19, advertising a studio debate at Bend television station KTVZ.

McLeod-Skinner's campaign bemoaned the debate as a "unilateral announcement" and criticized the debate's 30-minute run time and Walden's ties to News-Press & Gazette Co., which owns KTVZ. McLeod-Skinner counterproposed a longer debate with a different host and a public audience. The two sides settled on a 60-minute debate. But

the debate's location, format, and host will remain the same. The Oct. 5 debate will start at 7 p.m., and include Independent candidate Mark Roberts. Eastern Oregon residents can stream the debate on ktvz.com and can submit questions to the candidates on the station's website at ktvz.com/share. No other debates

are scheduled between the candidates, and McLeod-Skinner's campaign maintains that its counterpart hasn't responded to requests to do additional debates in eastern and southern Oregon. Walden is a 10-term incumbent, who represents District 2. The district covers eastern, central, and parts of southern Oregon.

Washington continues efforts to kill wolf pack members

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Washington state officials have determined that wolves from a pack in northeast Washington have injured five additional calves, and they continue efforts to kill some pack members. The Department of Fish and Wildlife said Tuesday the attacks occurred in Ferry

County and were conducted by wolves from the Old Profanity Territory pack. The agency has already killed one member of the pack, and says it will continue efforts to kill more to stop the depredations. Some environmental groups are outraged by the wolf hunt.

The Center for Biological Diversity tried unsuccessfully to block the hunt in court, saying that killing wolves ignores science and goes against the wishes of many in the state. Wolves have come into conflict with ranchers since moving back into the state early this century.

State court hours changing in October due to staffing

East Oregonian

The state courts in Umatilla and Morrow counties are cutting back customer service hours on Fridays starting Oct. 5. Roy Blaine, the trial court administrator for the circuit courts in the two counties, said public counters and phone service will close at 3 p.m. rather than 4:30 p.m. on Fridays at the Umatilla County Circuit Court offices in the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton, the Stafford Hansell Government Center, Hermiston, and Morrow County Circuit Court, Heppner. "This is due to short

staffing and budget limitations at all three of our locations," Blaine stated in an email. Courtrooms at each location will remain open during all business hours and drop boxes are available at each location weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Blaine stated a filing or payment in a drop box before the buildings close will be counted as received that day. For more information about court business hours and for emergency closure information, particularly during winter, visit <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/courts/umatilla/Pages/default.aspx>.

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9/27

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\$5 Classic Movie

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A Face in the Crowd

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4:20 6:50 9:30

LIFE ITSELF (R)

4:40 7:10 9:50

THE PREDATOR (R)

4:30 7:00 9:40

A SIMPLE FAVOR (R)

4:10 6:40 9:20

WHITE BOY RICK (R)

4:50 7:20 10:00

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Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

Fixed-route bus service coming to Pendleton

East Oregonian

Pendleton's new fixed-route bus service now has routes and a start date: Oct. 15. The city has long operated on-demand transit that provided door-to-door service for the general public, but the revamped Let'er Bus Transit will feature two different fixed routes that will take riders to many significant spots across Pendleton. Let'er Bus begins the day at 7 a.m. with its North/East route, which includes stops at Pendleton City Hall, Walmart, Til Taylor Park, South Main Street, Pioneer Park, Pendleton High School, and Blue Mountain Community College. The route ends by returning to Walmart before transitioning to the South/West route, which includes Community Park, St. Anthony Hospital, Rice-Blakey Park, the Roundup Athletic Club, Tutuilla Road, and May Park. Let'er Bus does each route six times throughout the day, ending at Walmart at 6:35 p.m. Some stops, like the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport, the Pendleton Social Security office, and Grecian Heights Park are considered "flag stops," meaning buses will only stop there if a rider gives the service 24 hours of advance notice. Finance Director Linda Carter, who oversees the city's transportation programs, estimated the fixed route will cost about \$100,000 in the first year, \$175,000 to \$180,000 in the second year, and \$185,000 to \$190,000 in the third year. Carter expects the city's general fund to send \$20,000 toward the transportation programs, the rest coming from state and federal grants. Additionally, the city intends to apply for revenue created by a 0.001 percent payroll tax recently instituted by the state. If the city can get steady revenue from that tax, it could potentially remove fares and run its two routes concurrently. When the routes start, the city will charge \$1 per person, per ride, although children under 8 years old will ride free. The disability-accommodating bus will run Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Carter said disabled riders and seniors will be able to continue using the city's dial-a-ride and taxi voucher programs, although the fixed-route buses can deviate from their routes to pick up riders at their door if they get 24 hours notice. Carter expects to post a complete schedule to the city website later this week.

BOARDMAN

Fire on Navy property burns 10,000 acres

East Oregonian

Crews contained a wildfire near Boardman on Wednesday afternoon that had started about 24 hours earlier and burned 10,000 acres. The fire started at Bombing Range Road, at the Naval Weapons System Training Facility, around 1 p.m. Tuesday, and was contained around 1:20 p.m. Wednesday. Mike Welding, a public information officer for Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, said the bombing range is about 48,000 acres, and the fire was about 10 miles away from Interstate 84. He said the fire moved southwest, away from the freeway. It got within about a mile of the coal-fired plant in Boardman. Welding said the cause of the fire is still under investigation. A press release from the Naval Air Station said most of the fire was on Navy property, and no structures or people were threatened by the blaze. Wind made the fire difficult to contain, and the fire spread onto Nature Conservancy property. The press release stated that the Navy requested local mutual aid when the fire started, and crews from Boardman Rural Fire Department, Kitsap Naval base, and Yakima Training Center and Fairchild Air Force Base also came to help fight the fire. Hermiston crews arrived on Tuesday afternoon, but left shortly after. Welding said between all the agencies, 32 people helped control the fire.

What is Diabetes?

Melissa Naff

RD, LD, CDE

Diabetes Educator

October 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th
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