



Brown, Democrats tout session a success

Democrats cite work to attack the state's housing crisis as a key accomplishment

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — The highly public downfall of a legislative plan

to cap the state's greenhouse gas emissions cast a long shadow over the last two weeks of the legislative session.

Despite its acrimonious conclusion, though, Gov. Kate Brown and other Democrats were quick to tout their successes during the session.

People across the state, from working parents to students to

business owners, will be affected by the Legislature's work, which concluded Sunday evening.

Democrats cite as key accomplishments work to attack the state's housing crisis, provide paid leave from work for new parents and other caregivers and to ask Oregonians whether the state can set limits on campaign donations.

"I just think this has been an incredibly productive session," said Senate Democratic Leader Ginny Burdick of Portland. "We've achieved things that have been kind of the Holy Grail for years, primarily school funding."

Brown told reporters on Monday that she'd been fighting for

See Brown, Page A8

HAPPY FOURTH!

We hope you enjoy this expanded holiday edition of the *East Oregonian*.

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We will not publish a paper on Thursday, July 4, but have included comics for Thursday (Page A7) in today's paper. We will publish our next edition on Friday, July 5.

TAKING THE TOP SPOT



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

New Milton-Freewater superintendent Aaron Duff poses for a portrait outside Gib Olinger Elementary School. Duff, a 14-year veteran of the district, will officially begin his duties as superintendent this week.

Aaron Duff hired as next Milton-Freewater school district superintendent

By **ALEX CASTLE**
East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — It didn't take long for Milton-Freewater Unified School District to find its next leader.

Within less than a week of the position's opening, MFUSD tabbed Aaron Duff as its new superintendent on June 24.

The district's chief position opened

after Rob Clark, who had served as superintendent over the past six years, announced his resignation on June 18. Duff, 39, has spent the last two years as the director of business and operations for the district and will officially replace Clark following his departure on July 3.

"I, to be honest, was not quite prepared for it to come about as quickly as it did," Duff said.

Upon his resignation, Clark recom-

mended Duff to the school board. Having worked with him over the last two years, Clark said he saw Duff's potential to replace him just six months into their time together.

"He's a great individual and a solid educator," Clark said. "What you see with him is what you get. He's a very forward guy."

See Super, Page A8

PENDLETON

City council takes second shot at \$25 million grant

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Banking on some positive signs from a previous failure, the city of Pendleton is gearing up for another run at a \$25 million federal BUILD grant.

At a Pendleton City Council meeting Tuesday, members unanimously agreed to approve a \$2 million match to the grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Combined with a \$2 million match from the Oregon Department of Transportation, the city plans to use the resulting \$29 million to fix a longstanding traffic issue — the Interstate 84 Exit 209 interchange.

As Southgate transitions to Southeast Emigrant Avenue going northbound, vehicles line up in the left turn lane as they wait to turn onto Southwest 20th Street.

The turn lane queue combined with heavy traffic going both ways makes it difficult for Exit 209 traffic north of the freeway to turn left on Emigrant or proceed forward onto Southwest Frazer Ave.

To remedy this issue, the city and ODOT are proposing street widenings and a new signalized intersection.

The grant would also fund the extension of a section of Southwest Perkins Avenue south of the Inter-Mountain Education Service Dis-

See Grant, Page A8

Oregon lawmakers expand Farm-to-School Program

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
Capital Press

SALEM — Oregon's Farm-to-School and School Garden Network is poised to expand after state lawmakers approved a bill tripling the program's budget.

House Bill 2579 passed June 29 as Senate Republicans returned to work from a nine-day walkout in opposition to a controversial carbon pricing scheme known as cap and trade. The senators rushed to vote on numerous bills over two days in order for the Legislature to adjourn by June 30.

That included HB 2579, which cleared both the House and Senate unanimously.

The Farm-to-School Program awards non-competitive grants

to school districts across Oregon, reimbursing them for buying locally grown and processed food. Any district can opt in, and funding is determined based on the number of meals served under the National School Lunch Program — with a minimum award of \$500 for smaller districts.

Districts can also apply for separate competitive grants to fund school gardens and educational activities, teaching kids about agriculture.

Rick Sherman, Farm-to-School and School Garden coordinator for the Oregon Department of Education, said the program started in 2012 with just \$200,000. The current budget is \$4.5 million, and now HB 2579 will provide an additional



Capital Press Photo, File

Students are served beef sandwiches in Yamhill as part of the Farm-to-School Program.

See Farm, Page A8

