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CORROSIVE

CLARITY

Eagle photos/Rylan Boggs
Local artist Mytchell Mead's reflection in one of his pieces inside his home in John Day.

Mead uses chemical reactions to create art

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle



Local artist Mytchell Mead reviews his sketchbook in his workshop in John Day.

From heavy pieces of steel, ancient boards and corrosive acid, Mytchell Mead creates art.

He describes his work as abstract steel and wood wall art, and most of his pieces are designs corroded and etched into steel with a metal frame backed by aged wood. While he often works from a sketchbook, his art isn't limited by what he initially draws.

"I follow the piece," Mead said. "The piece tells me where it wants to go."

When working with steel he uses a variety of chemicals that eliminate or stimulate rust when painted on to metal. Through trial and error, he has learned how to manipulate reactions to produce different colors and effects.

He works with custom brushes, as the acid he uses quickly destroys normal ones, and said factors as small as changing air pressure from a coming storm can affect the reactions.

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"Curiosity Tree" by Mytchell Mead



Eclipse traffic casts shades of worries

By Phil Wright
EO Media Group

Eastern Oregon emergency workers anticipate a flood of tourists seeking to witness the Aug. 21 total solar eclipse.

Two paths to experience the path of totality in our region are Highway 26 and Highway 395, which wind through rural counties. Tom Strandberg with the Oregon Department of Transportation said the focus is on a safe flow of traffic over the narrow roads.

"Our two-lane highways can only accommodate so many vehicles per hour safely," he said — a rate of about 1,200-1,500 vehicles.

But if 40,000 or more drivers decide to leave Grant County at once, Strandberg said traffic will bog down and one crash or stalled car would make for even longer delays.

To counter some of that, he said ODOT maintenance workers are undertaking "push, pull and drag" training.

"If it's a stalled or stranded vehicle that is blocking traffic, our crews are getting trained on how to move those vehicles to a safer spot to keep traffic moving," he said. But if roads are clogged, it will take crews awhile to reach the scene.

While no one has firm numbers for how many people are coming to Oregon to see the first total solar eclipse in the state in 38 years, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management is planning on at least a million visitors. Strandberg said the transportation department is working on getting a "ballpark estimate of how many visitors are in an area."

Permanent recorders on select sections of highways 26 and 395 allow the department to collect traffic data, he said. ODOT is using those recorders to see how many vehicles are entering and leaving eclipse

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Fiber line would triple average internet speeds

New network may service entire county

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County residents could see internet speeds three- to 20-times faster in the near future.

The city of John Day plans to leverage recently received state funding on additional grants to construct a fiber optic line from Burns to John Day and to deliver access



Nick Green



State Sen. Ted Ferrioli

30 megabits or faster from the new network. Fiber optic access is currently available to some businesses in the county, Green said, but is not a viable option for residents.

Residents could have fiber optic access as early as next summer, he said, though services will be entirely optional.

Green said better internet access could bring new jobs to the area, not only to help run the service, but by removing a barrier for digital commuters who need high-speed internet to work from home.

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Emry sentenced to 30 months in prison for unregistered .50-caliber

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

The man arrested in John Day with an unregistered fully automatic .50-caliber machine gun will serve 30 months in federal prison.

July 26, U.S. District Court Judge Ann Aiken sentenced Michael Ray Emry, 55, to 30 months in federal prison and three years of supervised release, according to a press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office. Emry pleaded guilty to unlawfully possessing a fully automatic machine gun



Michael Emry

that was not registered to him Jan. 23.

Emry had been residing at the Grant County Fairgrounds and RV Park and was arrested by FBI agents in May 2016.

According to court documents and statements made in court, on May 6, 2016, federal agents executed a search warrant on Emry's

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