

Umatilla County receives state matching grant to create digitized map of roads



Mackenzie Whaley/Hermiston Herald
Umatilla County Commissioner Dan Dorran poses for a photo July 5, 2022, in his office at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton. Dorran is overseeing the county's project to create a digitized, real-time map of its roads, bridges and culverts.

BY JOHN TILLMAN
Hermiston Herald
Umatilla County is undertaking a pilot project to create a digitized, real-time map of its roads, bridges and culverts. The county board of commissioners at its June 29 meeting accepted a \$250,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the project. The county intends to match this state funding. "I'm excited about this initiative," said Dan Dorran, the county commissioner overseeing the project. "Whether you're hauling potatoes, wheat or you're FedEx, the data will be available to all." The pilot project is one of the first in the nation, Dorran reported. When completed, it should allow county road users to identify in real time all the information they might need to plan their best route. The digitized map is to appear initially on a website, but later on will be available as an app, he said. "Users will be able to look at county roads like they can now for state and federal highways," Dorran explained. "It's not just GPS,

but will include load limits, traffic data, weights, number of axles and trip counts. That's done at the federal level. We want to transfer that capability to counties." Dorran cited Smith Frozen Foods' need to haul waste from its Weston plant to a Hermiston area feedlot. The map app with digitized data would permit the company to optimize routes for its trucks. "It could save them two-and-a-half hours and keep 1 1/2 tons of carbon from going into the air," he said. A farmer harvesting wheat could look at the app and find the best route to follow. Local agriculture industry has expanded over the past 30 years, Dorran noted. Public and private investment in irrigation systems and value-added development in fresh packed and frozen foods have totaled \$400 million. "Our roads date from the late 1800s," he pointed out, "but we're hauling 40 to 60 tons of wheat on some of them. Having real-time data would let us prioritize maintenance money."

The county isn't in the same flood and emergency system as the state and federal government, Dorran said. The digitized mapping is to include those levels, but 99.9% will be devoted to Umatilla County roads. The pilot project for transportation planning will serve as a platform upon which other counties around the country can build, Dorran observed. The commissioners selected DKS Associates as consultant on the project, thanks to their expertise in transportation and connections with software engineers. The firm specializes in "smart mobility", with eight offices in California, Oregon, Washington and Texas. The board received a single bid for replacing the bridge on Mac Hoke Road near Nolin. Costs will be shared between the county and state, using an Oregon opportunity grant, reported Commissioner George Murdock. The county's timeline called for "soon," so far just one bidder responded to its request for proposals: Ariz Co. LLC bid \$934,850.

Umatilla County plans no stricter measures after CDC issues alert for high COVID-19 areas

BY JOHN TILLMAN
Hermiston Herald
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control issued a coronavirus alert July 5, recommending indoor masking for 24 Oregon counties with "high" COVID-19 community levels. The warning applied to Eastern Oregon counties, including Umatilla and Morrow. The CDC recommends wearing a mask indoors in public, staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and getting tested if you have symptoms, at the high alert level. Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness. Umatilla County Board of Commissioners met July 6. There was no item on the agenda dealing with masking up. Board Chair John Shafer said speaking for himself prior to the meeting, he has no appetite to see the return of any restrictions. The county updates its COVID-19 dashboard Monday through Thursday during the recent surge rather than weekly on Wednesday, county public health department epidemiologist Mike Stensrud said. Umatilla County reported 88 new COVID-19 cases July 5, which included the holi-

day weekend. The recent high was 34 new cases June 25. No new deaths were reported. The county has recorded 229 total deaths related to COVID-19 to date. Hospitalizations for COVID-19 in Region 9 still are below their peaks in October 2021 and February 2022. Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties compose Region 9. Patients hospitalized with positive COVID-19 peaked at 45 in Region 9 on Feb. 4. On June 25, 12 were hospitalized in the region, up from 0 on April 30 and some other days that month. Umatilla County Public Health continues to offer COVID-19 vaccines at Pendleton, Hermiston and other locations, said Alisha Southwick, the department's deputy director. It resumed automatically mailing test kits to people exposed to COVID-19-infected individuals in response to the surge. The kits also are available for businesses. "We provide support to outbreaks in vulnerable sites, such as long-term care facilities," she added. The county continues to monitor case reports and the wastewater sample data from Hermiston and Pendleton.

Pendleton airport passenger traffic up 32%

More people flying in first half of 2022 than same time period in 2021

BY JOHN TILLMAN
Hermiston Herald
Air travel at Eastern Oregon Regional Airport, Pendleton, was up in the first half of this year compared to last. Departing and arriving passengers were higher every month in 2022 than in 2021. Enplanements were up 31.6% and deplanements were up 32.5% for the six-month period, according to data from the city. There were no delayed or

canceled flights during the Fourth of July weekend, according to Boutique Air's records, despite widespread chaos in the national air transport system. Steve Chrisman, Pendleton economic development director and interim airport manager, Erica Stewart, administrative specialist, reported Boutique in 2021 had 4,108 boardings and 3,994 disembarkations. The first six months of last year saw 1,725 passengers deplane and 1,803 board. In the first half of this year, 2,372 passengers departed and 2,285 arrived. Former airport manager John Honneman provided figures for previous years of

Boutique's service. The effect of the pandemic on flights was dramatic, crashing from 561 boardings in January 2020 to 58 in April. Passenger numbers have not yet recovered to their pre-pandemic peak of 642 enplane-

ments in October 2019. That year, 6,763 passengers boarded. Enplanements fell to 3,565 in 2020, then rose to 4,108 in 2021. If the trend for the first half of this year continues, 2022 could register more than 5,400 boardings.



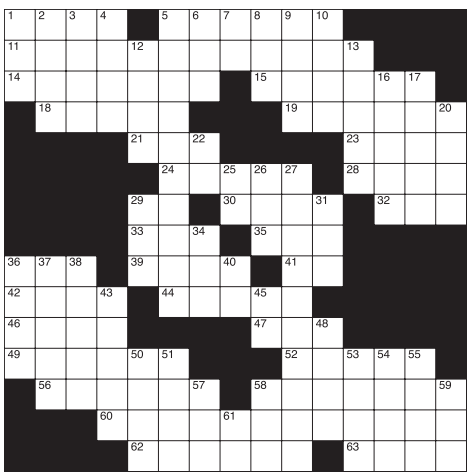
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CLUES ACROSS
1. Absence of difficulty
5. Preserve a dead body
11. Gratitude
14. The act of coming together again
15. More cushy
18. Visionaries
19. Large, fish-eating bird
21. Indicates near
23. NY Mets legend Tommie

CLUES DOWN
1. Body part
2. Mimics
3. Expel large quantities
4. Sea eagle
5. Genetically distinct varieties
6. Dialect of Chinese
7. Famous Mr. T character
8. Consumed
9. Chinese dynasty
10. Menace to yards
12. Ireland
13. Palm trees
16. Fungal disease
17. Willis and Robert are two
20. Affirmative! (slang)
22. It shows who you are
25. The First State (abbr.)
26. Get older
27. Associations
29. Woman (French)

63. Hyphen rating
34. Brew
36. Leader
37. Plants in the legume family
38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Junior's father
43. Scads
45. Morning
48. Length of a line (abbr.)
50. Double curve
51. Small, thin person
53. Worn by exposure to the weather
54. Mars crater
55. Humanities
57. Word element meaning ear
58. To the ___ degree
59. Residue of something burned
61. It cools your home

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to blueberries.
ARTT

CRYPTO FUN
Solve the code to discover words related to blueberries. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 21 = E)

A. 22 21 12 14 9 22
Clue: Well-being

B. 26 21 25 25 23
Clue: Small fruit

C. 5 10 9 25 18 21 5 9 7
Clue: Vitamins/minerals

D. 4 21 14 18 6 18 19 10 7
Clue: Very tasty

SUDOKU

1	9		6		
9	3	4			
2		1			
2		4			
5			7	3	
		6		7	
1	4				8
7	3	5		9	1

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on July 16, 1967. I graduated from college with a degree in sports information. I dabbled in sketch comedy as a kid, then went on to do it on "Saturday Night Live." I later transitioned to comedic films.

BLUEBERRIES WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

B	A	K	I	N	G	X	C	O	M	P	O	U	N	D	S	O	B	S	N
T	A	F	D	N	I	T	V	G	K	T	K	W	H	S	U	B	W	L	B
L	G	N	E	A	C	A	K	L	T	V	X	U	Y	W	S	N	A	I	M
C	T	J	F	U	H	Y	N	Y	O	S	K	R	L	W	N	F	J	A	
I	C	W	I	E	K	P	W	T	P	W	Y	T	E	I	O	A	M	R	N
Q	F	L	A	V	O	N	O	L	H	V	S	E	E	I	W	A	J	I	
P	Y	R	E	F	U	M	B	O	T	I	T	W	M	O	N	O	T		
A	T	I	E	T	F	Q	U	M	Y	K	C	I	H	G	R	G	M	E	
P	O	L	Y	P	H	E	N	O	L	S	R	Y	J	I	W	A	J	C	
M	D	B	O	C	B	H	U	G	F	T	M	Q	A	G	S	A	N	R	
T	S	T	I	F	E	N	E	B	U	Y	X	V	S	N	H	S	E	D	E
C	D	T	B	W	H	C	Y	N	Q	A	N	T	X	L	I	S	I	U	
A	O	O	Q	Y	G	T	H	K	N	R	H	G	X	J	N	E	F	Q	
P	K	F	A	T	P	S	N	I	M	A	T	I	V	P	J	S	H	C	
U	E	L	N	R	K	U	O	L	D	O	F	R	E	P	U	S	S	F	
R	C	F	I	X	A	L	S	T	N	A	D	I	X	O	I	T	N	A	
P	I	I	I	Q	T	O	O	Y	M	Y	R	I	C	E	T	I	N	X	
L	U	B	L	X	K	I	O	S	G	N	I	V	R	E	S	P	E	Y	M
E	J	E	N	O	G	I	V	S	X	P	X	I	C	H	W	G	D	R	
B	Y	R	C	D	J	R	M	E	F	I	D	Y	L	L	E	J	B	Q	S

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