

EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

MILTON-FREEWATER

Animal neglect case looms

Woman pushes to care for horse with bad leg

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A Milton-Freewater woman said she is going to care for a horse with an ailing leg, and the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office is about launch a criminal investigation into the horse's treatment.

The mare is in a pasture north of the small city and has a swollen, pulpy-looking left rear hoof. Nila Jackson lives near the horse's pasture and drew attention to what she saw as a suffering animal, but the sheriff's office has not seized it.

Chris Keeling said Tuesday the horse belongs to him and he is doing what he can to help her. Mae is a big thoroughbred and is gentle as can be, he said, and he did not know there was a problem until the sheriff's office contacted him last week. He said he saw photos of the horse, and while the leg looks bad and needs care, the horse is not in dire straits.

Keeling, 47, said he rented the pasture last year to keep Mae and another horse, but when he realized he could not care for them, he sought to find them new homes.

Then he left to visit family on the other

See HORSE/8A

Ripple felt as shipper leaves

Port of Portland

By MOLLY HARBARGER
The Oregonian

The Port of Portland's container-terminal operator confirmed Tuesday that shipping line Hapag-Lloyd has given official notice and will no longer stop in Portland.

The official announcement comes about a month after Hanjin Shipping Co. stopped calling at Portland. Together, Hanjin and Hapag-Lloyd make up nearly all of Terminal 6's business.

Only Westwood, which is scheduled to send a ship at the end of April, is still moving products through Portland's container port. The line, which visits once a month, has a contract with the port through December. Hanjin and Hapag-Lloyd were not under contract.

The economic effect of losing container service in Portland is expected to ripple up the Columbia River to Eastern Oregon, where companies shipping products overseas will have to pay \$600-\$1,000 more per container in trucking costs to reach ports in Seattle and Tacoma.

Products shipped in containers include almost all of the region's value-added agriculture, including hay, corn, onions and

See PORT/8A

PENDLETON

Statue decorations banned

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The bronze of Jackson Sundown will be decorated no more.

The council unanimously approved banning all public statues in the city, including Sundown, prompting tribal members in the audience to applaud at a meeting Tuesday.

After the bronze was moved

to Main Street over the summer, Pendleton resident Pamela Harmon decorated the statue in correspondence with various holidays.

When her husband was allegedly attacked after getting into a confrontation over the decorations, Harmon gathered a 29-signature petition to allow the bronze to be adorned.

Since that time, people mostly from the American Indian

community have gathered 156 signature to oppose the statue's decorations. The decorations also drew the opposition of the tribal executive committee for the Nez Perce Tribe, of which Sundown was a member.

While many council members seemed to show initial support toward the decorations, many came to regret their position after the response from the tribal community.

Councilman Chuck Wood said he was "embarrassed" by his original support and now thought decorating the statue was in violation of the nuisance ordinance.

While originally not listed as an action item on the agenda, it was Wood who requested the council vote on the issue.

Mayor Phillip Houk offered

See STATUE/8A

Council will keep mulling walkway ordinance

Marijuana shop rules as well

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian



Pendleton High School students cross the Bedford Bridge after school let out Tuesday in Pendleton.

The city council didn't take any action on an ordinance prohibiting obstruction of Pendleton walkways, but Councilwoman Jane Hill raised some concerns over the broad reach of the law.

Hill said she didn't understand why authorities' continued troubles keeping Pendleton High School students from loitering on the Bedford Bridge should mandate a law that would make it illegal for people to obstruct any sidewalk, bridge or walking path in the city.

"For example, I think my children and their friends drawing with chalk on the sidewalk would not be allowable in this ordinance," she said. "I think someone partially parking the back of their truck over the sidewalk would not be allowed under this ordinance."

Hill requested city staff supplement Police Chief Stuart Roberts's report at the council's next meeting.

Also receiving concern from the council but no action was an ordinance regulating medical and recreational marijuana sales in Pendleton.

Councilman Chuck Wood said he was disappointed that there were certain regulations missing from the law.

Wood said he would like to see regulations such as background checks for marijuana retail store employees and more detailed paramete-

See MARIJUANA/8A

More inside

Oregon Senator suggests letting dispensaries sell recreational pot

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In this May 2003 file photo, a northern spotted owl sits on a tree in the Deschutes National Forest near Camp Sherman.

Feds to consider spotted owl for endangered species listing

By JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press

GRANTS PASS — Federal biologists have agreed to consider changing Endangered Species Act protections for the northern spotted owl from threatened to endangered.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will announce Wednesday there is enough new scientific information in a conservation group's petition to warrant a hard look, which will take about two years. A notice will be published Friday in the Federal Register.

After the northern spotted owl was listed as a threatened species in 1990, it became a symbol for Endangered Species Act protections that harm local economies. Conservation groups won court-ordered logging cutbacks to protect owl habitat that put many Northwest timber towns into an economic tailspin from which they have yet to fully recover. Political efforts to ramp up logging in the ensuing years have largely failed.

Paul Henson, supervisor for Fish and Wildlife in Oregon, says a lot has changed since the original listing. Back in 1990, the biggest threat to the owl was cutting down the old growth forests where the owls live. Now it is the barred owl, an aggressive cousin from the

East Coast that migrated across the Great Plains and invaded spotted owl territory. Those two areas will be the focus of the review, he said.

"The bad news is that the spotted owl population has continued to decline," despite logging cutbacks of about 90 percent on federal lands in Washington, Oregon and Northern California, Henson said. "The good news is we know why it is declining," and have begun taking steps to deal with the barred owl.

Spotted owl numbers have continued to decline, and the species is estimated to number less than

See OWL/8A

