

**FRIDAY
AT FARM
CITY
RODEO/1B**



**Humans of
the Umatilla
County Fair
LIFESTYLES 1C**



**REGION:
Concert celebrates
ending of WWII 2A**
**ENTERTAINMENT:
Hip-hop shockwaves
rippled to Oregon 3C**

EAST OREGONIAN

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Background check law firing blanks

Requirement for private sales difficult to fulfill, enforce

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Oregon's new law requiring background checks for private gun transactions has local law enforcement leaders doubtful it will keep guns out of the wrong hands. And prominent local gun businesses this

week reported no one has come to them for the checks.

Not that it would matter much — most gun retailers are not even offering the service for private transfers.

Senate Bill 941 went into effect Sunday, Aug. 9, and expands background checks to include most

private and online gun transfers. The law requires both parties in a private gun transaction go together to a licensed gun dealer who would charge a fee to conduct the background check on the buyer to make sure that person is not a felon or has other prohibitions in place from having a gun.

Gun background checks in Oregon go through the Oregon State Police. SB 941 authorizes state police to notify appropriate law enforcement agencies when a check flags the recipient. Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said his department already deals with such referrals.

"These types of cases are losers from the get-go because in theory both parties have culpability," he

stated. "Therefore, their motivation to cooperate is significantly diminished either due to their strong belief that the new law is an infringement on their constitutional right or a host of other reasons."

Roberts also questioned if the law would keep firearms out of the hands of criminals, but that does not mean Pendleton police will ignore

See GUNS/10A

Smoke, dust in the wind

Smoky skies affect air quality, shut down I-84

By GEORGE PLAVER
East Oregonian

High winds fanned the flames of numerous Eastern Oregon wildfires Friday, ushering in a thick haze over Pendleton and shutting down Interstate 84 eastbound at Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

The National Weather Service issued a blowing dust advisory through Friday night as gusts reached 45 mph and reduced visibility to one mile in some locations. A red flag advisory also remained in effect until 11 p.m., combining heat and wind to create prime conditions for fire.

Lightning hammered the Umatilla National Forest on Thursday, which sparked 17 new fires scattered across the Walla Walla and Pomeroy ranger districts — mostly within the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness. All fires were initially reported less than an acre, but had doubled or tripled in size by Friday afternoon, according to the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center in La Grande.

Joani Bosworth, spokeswoman on the Umatilla National Forest, said the fires could be managed together as part of a complex. Meanwhile, firefighters backed out of the area Friday due to the unpredictable wind and difficult terrain.

"It really is a serious situation out there," Bosworth said.

Increased smoke should reduce air quality in Pendleton and Hermiston over the next several days, according to the Umatilla County Health Department. The Oregon Department of Transportation also shut down I-84 eastbound at Pendleton and westbound at Ontario Friday, spanning 167 miles of highway.

Tom Strandberg, ODOT

See SMOKE/10A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Pendleton Farmer's Market gets underway as a heavy haze blows into the area on Friday in Pendleton. A combination of smoke, dust and wind prompted the Umatilla County Health Department to declare an air quality advisory. The Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston was also affected by the windstorm, which blew tents and pamphlets across the fairgrounds. See Page 3A for more on the fair.

MILTON-FREEWATER



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Avery Wells, 19, of Milton-Freewater watches her 18-month-old sister, Alyx, as she reaches out to pet Izzy the Camel on Friday at the Muddy Frogwater Festival in Milton-Freewater.

Celebrity camel steals show at froggy festival

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The frog may be the unofficial mascot of Milton-Freewater's Muddy Frogwater Country Classic Festival, but its main attraction isn't amphibious.

Resting comfortably in the shade of a tree Friday, Izzy didn't seem likely to hop, croak or swim. But that didn't stop both children and adults from stopping by the Izzy's small enclosure to pet and admire the eight-year-old dromedary camel.

According to Izzy's owner, Tawnya Richards of Waitsburg, Wash., it didn't take long for the camel to reach regional stardom.

In 2009, Richards' husband bought Izzy at a Boise horse show from a petting zoo owner looking to get out of the business.

Having never been around other camels, Richards said Izzy is uncommonly tolerant of human contact and doesn't bite or spit.

Izzy's docile nature led Richards to book his first public event at a Waitsburg car show.

The event combined with Izzy's visual prominence at the Richards' ranch by U.S. Route 12 led to more bookings, including educational events at schools and as entertainment at children's birthday parties.

Richards started touring Izzy across the Northwest, with Muddy Frogwater added as a stop six years ago.

See CAMEL/10A

Conference addresses intergenerational trauma in Indian Country

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

American Indian history includes plenty of injustice on the part of the United States

government. Native children ripped from families and placed in boarding schools. Tribal designations and land stripped away. Tribal languages outlawed. Indians relocated or killed such as the approximately 300

who died in the Sioux massacre at Wounded Knee. The ugly trail of dominance and disrespect still stirs up plenty of anger in Indian Country.

Recent sessions in Mission were not about reliving past atrocities, however, but rather on moving forward despite them.

Trainers Jillene Joseph, an enrolled member of the Gros Ventre tribe in Montana, and Robert Johnston, who is Muscogee (Creek) and Choctaw, spent two days at the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute inspiring teenagers to make healthy choices. On Wednesday morning

at the Wildhorse Resort & Casino, they engaged a mostly adult crowd on the topic of

See TRAUMA/9A



Johnston



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Jillene Joseph, a member of the Gros Ventre tribe in Montana, laughs Wednesday during an exercise at a seminar that examined historical trauma. Joseph is a trainer with the Native Wellness Institute.



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