



EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016

140th Year, No. 145

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- Thomas Paul at the Pendleton Arts Center
- Cruisin' for Scholarships Car Show at BMCC
- Cinco de Mayo festivals in M-F and Boardman

For times and places see Coming Events, 6A

Catch a movie



Captain America clashes with Iron Man in "Marvel's Captain America: Civil War."

For showtime, Page 5A

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
80/52	82/56	72/46

Salmon advocates cheer BiOp ruling

Discussions could shift to dam removal

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Once again, a federal district court judge is telling government agencies to reconsider how they operate hydroelectric dams in the Columbia River Basin to better protect endangered salmon runs.

The ruling Wednesday drew cheers from conservation, sport fishing and tribal representatives, who pushed for new solutions to buck the status quo — up to and including removing all four dams on the Lower Snake River.

Todd True, an attorney with the environmental group Earthjustice, spoke during a teleconference Thursday and said the system needs to operate more like a natural flowing river, and

See SALMON/12A

Expanding the classroom

Umatilla, Morrow county students take in outdoor school

By JENNIFER COLTON
East Oregonian

The classroom is a bit bigger for fifth- and sixth-graders this month.

Each year, school districts in Umatilla and Morrow counties take the classroom outside and travel up to the mountains and down to the coast for outdoor school.

For some students, outdoor school will be the first time they have gone camping or spent a full day in the mountains. For most, it is a chance to learn new skills and experiences.

"Outdoor school provides kids an opportunity to learn in a different manner than what we might do in a classroom," Helix sixth-grade teacher Sharilyn Newton said Wednesday. "It allows kids to shine who might not with a pen or pencil."

Most school districts in Umatilla and Morrow counties participate in an outdoor school program.

Some schools, including Stanfield and Echo, head up to Tupper above Heppner, Irrigon Elementary travels to Camp Hancock in Fossil and Boardman's Windy River Elementary sends students to the Oregon coast. Some districts will send as few as 15 students to an outdoor school program this year; the Hermiston School District will send 475 fifth-graders.

This week, students from Helix and Pilot Rock visited Meadowood Springs near Tollgate for an outdoor school experience.

Smaller schools, such as Pilot Rock and Helix or Echo and Condon, often combine to maximize the use of the camp facilities — and to expose students to new people.

"I think it's great that we join with Helix because we are a small school and it's an opportunity to meet new kids," Pilot Rock sixth-grade teacher Laura Byrnes said.

Newton agreed. "This is a nice opportunity for them to see we're really very much alike. You can compete in sports but still be friends," she said. "Some older kids have kept in touch with the friends they made at

See OUTDOOR/12A



John Nelson of Pilot Rock learns how to butterfly roll a fire hose from suppression specialist Tyler Arbogast at a combined Helix and Pilot School school district outdoor school Wednesday at Meadowood Springs near Tollgate.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: PILOT ROCK

It's never too late to teach



Pilot Rock teacher Laura Byrnes takes a photo on an iPad of students making artwork on Wednesday during outdoor school at Meadowood Springs near Tollgate.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Mother goes back to school to start career as an educator

By JENNIFER COLTON
East Oregonian

Laura Byrnes has 23 children this year.

She attends Little League games and musical performances, she keeps up with their accomplishments and their struggles, and she calms them when they are upset.

Byrnes even keeps up on each child's homework — a task simplified by her position as the class teacher.

After taking an unconventional path to education, Byrnes is now in her sixth year of full-time teaching. Raised

See TEACHER/12A

"I've raised my kids, so I pretty much know anything a kid can pull as a sixth-grader. That's an advantage."

— Laura Byrnes, Pilot Rock teacher

PENDLETON

Tonya's House gets a new headmaster



Shawn MacGregor moved to Pendleton from Minnesota to become director of Tonya's House.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

New director comes from Minnesota

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

It was cold the day Shawn MacGregor left Northern Minnesota for Pendleton. Although already April, MacGregor said the temperature was 22 degrees and snow was still on the ground when she left the North Star State for the Round-Up City.

"Those cold Minnesota winters, I hate them," MacGregor said with a laugh.

Sitting in her lime green office in the basement Tonya's House Wednesday morning, MacGregor recalled her journey from some of the coldest reaches of the Midwest to Oregon's high desert, all to serve

as the director of the Pendleton nonprofit.

The purpose of Tonya's House is to provide temporary foster care to teen girls in need of place to stay while they sort through rough family situations, a purpose MacGregor said her experience is well matched to meet.

MacGregor grew up in Minnesota and ran a daycare for eight years in Arden Hills, a Minneapolis suburb before packing up for Bemidji in 1993, a Northern Minnesota town not too far from the Canadian border.

MacGregor moved to Bemidji to work for the nearby Leech Lake Indian Reservation, first in the tribe's health division before moving on to its child welfare department.

MacGregor was proud of

See MACGREGOR/12A



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