

OREGON ORDERS BOATERS TO MOVE ON
NORTHWEST/11A



BULLDOGS LOSE TO MILWAUKIE
BASEBALL/1B



SEARCHERS FIND BODY PARTS FROM EGYPTIAN JET WORLD/12A

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PRIVACY FEARS

Panel has advice for drone use

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer

DALLAS — A panel of privacy experts and technology companies organized by the Obama administration has issued guidelines for using drones without being overly intrusive.

The suggestions are voluntary, but some business interests involved in the debate hope the guidelines head off tougher regulations that they fear could smother the drone industry in its infancy.

News organizations are exempt from the guidelines on free-press grounds.

Supporters say drones could provide huge benefits, from inspecting power lines to delivering medicine to remote areas. Google Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. want to use them for deliveries. Falling prices have made drones popular among hobbyists, too.

However, their small size and ability to go just about anywhere — while carrying cameras and sensors — have raised privacy concerns.

The Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration on Thursday released the "best practices," which were supported by

See DRONES/9A

Recall petition against Harney judge validated

Says he won't step down

Associated Press
and Oregon Public Broadcasting

A recall petition against a Harney County official who didn't support the armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge has gathered enough signatures to force him to resign or face a recall election.

The *Oregonian/OregonLive* reports that the Oregon Secretary of State's Office notified Judge Steve Grasty Thursday in a letter that the petition had been validated. He has until Tuesday to resign or submit a "statement of justification" that would appear on the recall election ballot.

Grasty, who acts as chairman of the county commission, says he won't step down. His term ends at the end of the year.

He has been criticized for demanding that Ammon Bundy and his supporters

See JUDGE/14A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Former Marine interpreter Skip Nichols holds a piece of shrapnel from a North Vietnamese rocket that killed a fellow Marine right next to him during the Tet Offensive in the Vietnam War.

Return to Vietnam

Marine goes back to face wartime memories

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

In his mind, Skip Nichols often returned to Vietnam.

Sometimes memories sidled into his consciousness. Other times they reached out, grabbed him and plunged him back into the thick of the war. He tried banishing them to the basement of his psyche. When that didn't work, he worked with a counselor to bring the memories out into the open as a way to diminish their power. But nothing, it seemed, could totally silence the voices of Vietnam.

So he decided to go back. Nichols and his wife Paula took a battlefield tour called Return to Vietnam. The Walla Walla couple flew to Hanoi on March 6 and joined a group of Vietnam veterans who

were intent on returning to the country that had affected them so much. The 12 veterans determined the itinerary for the two-week tour. Each chose a few locations where they had experienced something profound and often disturbing. Also along on the trip was the daughter of a soldier who had died in Vietnam.

More to the story

For photos of the trip, see **Lifestyles, Page 1C**
For video of Nichols telling his story, visit eastoregonian.com

Almost five decades had rushed by since Nichols had last set foot on Vietnam soil. In the interim, he met Paula on a blind date in Texas, fell in love, married and raised two daughters. He carved out a successful career in journalism, retiring in 2013 as managing editor of the *East Oregonian*. Through the years, the impact of his Vietnam experience simmered behind his easygoing disposition.

Nichols' Vietnam journey started at age 18 when he and a friend joined

the military on the buddy plan after a Marine recruiter dropped into high school study hall to chat. After graduation in 1967, Nichols attended boot camp, went to radio school and learned Vietnamese. Soon he was landing at an airfield in Da Nang. He received his orders, a flak jacket, helmet, weapons and ammunition. He took another flight and a long ride in a cargo truck to an artillery base called Camp Carroll, which was south of the Demilitarized Zone and home to the 3rd Marine Regiment. Arriving at Camp Carroll is still vivid in his memory.

"We threw our sea bags off the truck to the ground," he said. "They sank into the mud."

As a radio man, he and other Marines patrolled dangerous ground. He got used to frequent ambushes.

"It was a pretty hot area," Nichols said. "That was home for five months."

Other memories are tougher for

See VIETNAM/14A

"Honestly, I have always felt guilty. It still eats at me. Maybe I could have made a difference."

— Skip Nichols, on being sent home before the end of the war



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Farmer Lowell Saylor has already had to stop drawing water from Butter Creek to irrigate his crops because of low water levels.

High temperatures melt Butter Creek

Farmers impacted by rapid change in weather

By GEORGE PAVLEN
East Oregonian

With near-average snow-pack and precipitation early in the year, Lowell Saylor figured he would get a decent amount of irrigation water out of Butter Creek this spring.

By April, his optimism began to dry as fast as the creek itself.

Temperatures in Hermiston averaged 5 degrees above normal for the month, while the area received less than half

an inch of rain. Snow on top of Arbuckle Mountain, the basin's highest point, melted off quickly and dramatically, leaving Saylor without enough water for his wheat and alfalfa fields.

"We've had dry years before, but this was a little bit strange," Saylor said. "It looked like a good water year, but it didn't turn out that way."

Butter Creek, which flows out of the Blue Mountains, wasn't the only basin to feel the heat. The Natural Resource Conservation Service reported record-breaking high tempera-

See WATER/9A



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