

**JOHNSON  
BIDS ADIEU  
TO TIGERS**  
SPORTS/1B



**HERMISTON/3A  
SUMMER  
READING  
MAKES A  
SPLASH**



**CYGANIK  
RECEIVES  
SERVICE  
AWARD**  
PENDLETON/5A



# EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2016

140th Year, No. 185

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Enjoy a free pass to the Heritage Station Museum in Pendleton



For more information see page 4A

## Your Weekend



- Wildhorse powwow all weekend in Mission
- Movie in the park in Pendleton on Saturday
- Quarterflash plays on Fourth of July in Ione

For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

### Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
90/61	87/61	87/56

## Fire east of The Dalles prompts evacuations

THE DALLES (AP) — Authorities say a fire is threatening homes about six miles east of The Dalles in the Columbia River Gorge.

Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue tweeted that the fire started at 5:35 p.m. and went from Interstate 84 uphill to 15 Mile Road. Fire officials tweeted Thursday night that 1,000 acres had burned.

Wasco County emergency manager Justin Huffman says people in Celilo Village and on 15 Mile and Old Moody roads have been issued a level three evacuation notice, which means people should leave their residences immediately.

Resources from Hood River, the Oregon Department of Forestry and Klickitat County are helping battle the fire. Fire officials said they were attempting to stop the fire farther uphill at Fulton Road.

## THE WIZARD OF WEED

### Pendleton botanist famous for cannabis breeding



Photo by Ralf Schuetz of Mushroom Dreams

**D.J. Short is an icon in the world of cannabis breeding stock, but is still something of an enigma.**

## Created some of the most popular pot strains

By **KATHY ANEY**  
*East Oregonian*

In the marijuana world, cannabis breeder Daniel John “D.J.” Short gets rock star raves while simultaneously keeping to the shadows.

The Pendleton marijuana man started tinkering with cannabis genetics about 40 years ago in Eugene and has crafted some of the most creative and well-known strains, including one that smells of fresh blueberries.

Short’s seeds and pot breeding skills earned him a spot in the High Times Seed Bank Hall of Fame, which commemorates “brave pot pioneers and trailblazers.” He was spotlighted as “The Willy Wonka of Pot” in a 5,000-word tome for the website Grantland, and wrote the 2003 book “Cultivating Exceptional Cannabis: An Expert

Breeder Shares His Secrets.”

A year after legalization of recreational marijuana in Oregon, Short continues to keep a low profile, awaiting changes to federal law. In the few photos of him online, he inevitably sports a fedora and sunglasses. During rare interviews, he capably avoids sharing much personal information.

The professor of pot opened up a bit recently while dining on bagels and lox at the Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co. in Pendleton. His sunglasses and fedora were nowhere in sight, revealing vivid blue eyes and gray hair pulled into a pony tail. He rose to his full six-foot-three-inch height, smiled and stretched out his hand before sinking back into his chair.

While sipping a microbrew, he disclosed why

See **SHORT/10A**

**“I’ve been functioning underground for so long. I’m going to do what I’m going to do regardless.”**

— **D.J. Short**, cannabis breeder

## PENDLETON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**Union Pacific Railroad has agreed to tear down the Webb’s Cold Storage building on Main Street in Pendleton.**

## Big plans for old lot

### Webb’s Cold Storage to be demolished on July 11

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

Plans to demolish Webb’s Cold Storage in Pendleton have not only heated up, an effort to further develop the land east of South Main is already underway.

Councilor Chuck Wood, the chairman of the Pendleton Development Commission, said Union Pacific Railroad has agreed to begin demolishing the dilapidated building south of the railroad tracks on July 11.

The Webb’s demolition is a boon to the Pendleton Development Commission, which has been trying to tear down the building for several years.

Union Pacific owns the 500 block of South Main Street, which is bordered by Southeast Frazer Avenue and Southeast Goodwin Avenue and contains railroad tracks the company uses to transport freight.

At various points a slaughterhouse, ice cream factory and cold storage facility, Webb’s has long been abandoned and in disrepair.

Wood said Union Pacific has incentive to tear down Webb’s because its structural instability and proximity to the tracks could affect railroad safety.

A Union Pacific spokesman did not return requests for comment.

Wood said Union Pacific is also on board with plans to further develop the area, which extends far beyond the Webb’s property.

“We’re confident we could put this to good use besides a parking lot,” he said.

A committee comprised of local governments and organizations has formed to further explore developing a plaza east of Main Street centered around food and health. It would also include a public parking lot, a Barhyte Specialty Foods warehouse and a work training program.

It’s all conceptual at this point, but early ideas for the plaza include a permanent home for the Pendleton Farmers Market, a local food cooperative, a Community Action Program of East Central Oregon distribution center, a commercial kitchen, a site for offering cooking classes and a festival area.

The plaza could also incorporate the soon-to-be-replaced Eighth Street Bridge and old signs

See **WEBB’S/10A**

## HERMISTON

## Head Start offers food and fun for free



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**Hermiston Police community watch and crime prevention officer takes a plunge in a dunk tank on Thursday at the Umatilla-Morrow Head Start in Hermiston.**

By **ALEXA LOUGEE**  
*Staff Writer*

Thrilled shrieks could be heard and smiles with missing teeth could be seen Thursday at Umatilla-Morrow Head Start’s Hermiston summer food service program.

It was “Eat Lunch with a Police Officer” day and local elementary school children were happily sending Officer Erica Sandoval splashing into a dunk tank donated by Cottage Flowers.

“I’m deathly afraid of going underwater, but if I can just make one of them (kids) smile, then it’s worth it,” Sandoval said, “Plus, it’s really, really hot.”

The UMCHS serves lunch every weekday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the back yard of its main office on Northeast Fourth

Street in Hermiston. Each day features some kind of experience for the kids. The day before, it was a bouncy house. There have also been water balloon tosses, face painting, dental checks, and Mayor David Drotzmann stopped by and made “oobleck,” a corn-starch mixture, with the kids.

Hannah Williams, a local mom, likes to bring her children as often as she can.

“It gives them something different to do during the day,” Williams said.

Williams’ seven-year-old daughter, Rabekah, ate lunch with three of six siblings and said she likes coming for lunch.

The program began last summer. Toni Eddy, the USDA manager for UMCHS, said last

See **FOOD/10A**



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