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WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

PENDLETON Fire station location down to two

City to decide between
former cinema, hospital

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The Pendleton City Council have narrowed down the potential list of fire stations to the sites formerly occupied by Pendleton Cinema and St. Anthony Hospital.

But the council and public's opinion on which would make for a better location are at odds.

The council discussed the city's fire station options and the bond the city would need to pass to pay for it at a workshop Tuesday.

Based on response times, Fire Chief Mike Ciraulo and his staff prefer the Pendleton Cinema site, which was purchased by Goodwill Industries of the Columbia to turn into a thrift store and collection center.

Although Goodwill has since abandoned those plans, Ciraulo said Goodwill wants to work with the city because it intends to open a store in three to five years at a different location.

The asking price for the Pendleton Cinema property is \$550,000 and demolition costs should be around \$50,000.

See **PENDLETON/9A**

Farmers sue Water Resources Department

Agency accused of failing
to protect water rights

By **GEORGE PAVEN**
East Oregonian

A group of farmers suing the Westland Irrigation District for allegedly cheating them out of water is also suing the Oregon Water Resources Department for failing to protect their senior water rights.

The second suit was filed in Umatilla County Circuit Court and accuses the Water Resources Department of standing by while the Westland Irrigation District "systematically misappropriated water" to benefit junior rights holders.

Plaintiffs in the case include ELH LLC, owned by Patrick and Dixie Echeverria; Oregon Hereford Ranch LLC, owned by Doug and Don Bennett; Paul Gelissen; Frank Mueller; Maurice and Lucy Ziemer; Craig and Cynthia Parks; and Richard and Kristine Carpenter. Together, they farm more

See **WATER/10A**

MONSTERS SWARM CITY

Pokémon Go
a hit locally,
nationally

By **WILL DENNER**
East Oregonian

Only a week since it has been released, Pokémon Go has become an instant cultural phenomenon.

Nintendo's latest entry in the Pokémon (a language twist on pocket monsters) franchise was released on July 6 on iOS and Android devices free of charge. Categorized as an "augmented reality game," Pokémon Go uses Google Maps technology to create a virtual map of the user's current location. With their smartphones, users have to physically walk around in order to find Pokémon. When Pokémon are nearby, people can swipe in the direction of the animal to throw Poké Balls and capture them.

To some, the concept might seem silly, but game participation is growing quickly. Pokémon Go is soon expected to surpass Twitter in daily active users. People are creating Facebook groups and events for users to meet up and play. Nintendo stocks climbed 25 percent Monday.

The game has caught on locally, too. Walk a few blocks in downtown Pendleton and you're bound to see someone wandering around looking down at his or her smartphone.

Parks, monuments and other distinguishable buildings are designated as Poké Stops, where players can pick up items and capture Pokémon. Players can also set "lures" at these locations, which attracts more Pokémon to the area for a temporary amount of time. People often flock to these lures simultaneously and have discovered an added social element from playing the game.

"I used to stay at home and play games online," said Tyler Heath, 17, of Pendleton. "Since I started playing this I'm never on social media anymore and I'm meeting people face to face now."

Certain locations are more advantageous for users. Take for example Pioneer Park at 400 NW Despain Ave, where there are four Poké Stops within

See **POKEMON/10A**



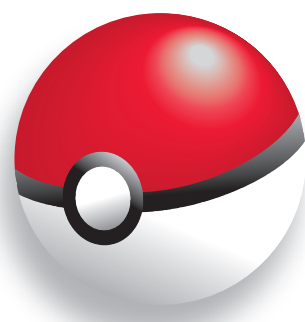
Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A group of Pokémon Go players sit underneath the "Let'er Buck" statue in Pendleton. The statue, like many other monuments, is a Pokéstop where players can collect game pieces and attract Pokémon to catch.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A Pokémon called a Nidoran appears on the screen of a smartphone outside of the Prodigal Son brewery in Pendleton. Pokémon Go is an augmented reality game in which the game interfaces with the real world.



UMATILLA

Toll of job forces fire chief to retire after 19 years

By **ALEXA LOUGEE**
East Oregonian

The Umatilla Rural Fire Department has handed leadership over to a new chief for the first time in 19 years.

Chief Mike Roxbury officially retired from the department in May, and new fire chief Steven Potts was sworn in on July 1.

Those years of service have come at a personal cost to Roxbury, who said despite everything he's seen he would not have chosen a different career.

"It's the best job I ever hated," Roxbury said. "And the worst job I ever loved."

Becoming a firefighter and paramedic was a natural path for Roxbury, whose father also served as a fire chief for Umatilla. All the years of responding to calls took a toll on his mental health.

"It came to a point where the only things

"It's the best job I ever hated. And the worst job I ever loved."

— **Mike Roxbury**, retired Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District Chief

that made sense were scenes of chaos and destruction," he said.

Roxbury said he stopped having a life outside of work, and the abnormal became his normal. He was more comfortable at a scene of a tragedy than sitting on his couch at home.

Around May 2015 those feelings became overwhelming. It was the 10-year anniversary of the drowning of Thomas

See **ROXBURY/9A**



EO file photo

Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District Chief Mike Roxbury sits in a 1977 water tender during a 2014 campaign for a tax to pay for new equipment for the fire department.

