



**FIRE
DAMAGES
DUPLEX
PENDLETON/3A**



**DAWGS
SPLIT
DOUBLE
HEADER
BASEBALL/1B**

**Oil in pipeline
under Missouri
River reservoir
NATION/7A**

EAST OREGONIAN

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141st Year, No. 116 WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

Mental health board staffs to merge, grow

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — In what has been touted as an efficiency measure, the staffs of two state boards the oversee Oregon’s mental health professionals plan to merge in the coming budget cycle.

But under Oregon Gov. Kate Brown’s proposed budget, spending

for the merged organization will be greater than for the two separate staffs.

The state’s nine-member Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners — which was recently renamed the Oregon Board of Psychology through legislation — is the licensing, investigative and disciplinary board for psychologists, who have doctorates. Likewise, the

eight-member Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists regulates licensed counselors and therapists, who typically have masters’ degrees.

The Board of Psychologist Examiners and the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists have shared one executive director since late 2013, after two years of significant staff turnover. In

the 2011-2013 budget biennium, the Board of Psychologist Examiners saw five executive directors.

Brown’s proposed budget of about \$3.48 million is a 21 percent increase from the budget approved by the Legislature for both boards’ staffs in 2015-17. The governor’s budget also says it “invests in an upgraded online database system and co-located office for the two

boards.”

The governor’s budget proposes giving the combined organization a staff of 11 full-time equivalents, compared to 4.5 each now.

If the Legislature approves the merger, the boards will keep separate their funding streams and expenditures.

See MERGE/10A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Many school districts across the country have adopted a year-round schedule where students forgo a long summer break for shorter breaks between seasons. Only one Oregon public school — Rosa Parks Elementary in Portland — is trying the concept.

Year-round school, once commonplace, being tried again

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Public schools across Umatilla County are on spring break, the last extended vacation for students and staff before the school year ends in June.

But what if school children got another two weeks off in the spring, along with two other three-week breaks throughout the year in exchange for a shorter summer break?

That’s the basic premise of year-round school.

Specifics vary from district to district, but thousands of schools have gone to a year-round schedule with the idea that a more even distribution of breaks in class time will prevent the backslide some students undergo throughout the two-and-a-month summer break.

Umatilla County is no stranger to unconventional

“When they came back, it would take us, in some cases, eight weeks to catch them up. It was like starting over.”

— Tamala Newsome,
principal of Rosa Parks Elementary School

schedules — the Pendleton School District has either taken a week off or started school in late September to accommodate Round-Up, and Pilot Rock and Stanfield students go to school four days a week to save money on support services.

Despite some local districts’ willingness to experiment, a year-round schedule hasn’t yet officially landed on the negotiating table.

Year-round in Portland

Tamala Newsome felt like something needed to be done.

The principal of Rosa Parks Elementary School in Portland was seeing that many of the

school’s students were struggling when they got back from summer break.

“When they came back, it would take us, in some cases, eight weeks to catch them up,” she said. “It was like starting over.”

So Rosa Parks made the switch.

Now in its third year, Rosa Parks’ 2016-2017 calendar began July 15 and will end June 9, with three-week breaks in the fall, winter and spring. Summer break spans about five weeks before school resumes again in July.

Although it’s considered a

novel approach these days, year-round school was fairly common in some parts of the country during the 19th century and early 20th century, according to a study compiled by the American Educational Research Association.

School in urban areas often operated on 11 or 12-month schedules, with schools in New York City having only a single two-week break in August.

Meanwhile, rural schools usually afforded their students five or six months of education that included a generous summer break and additional breaks for planting and harvesting in the spring and fall.

In the decades that followed, urban school years got shorter as rural educational calendars got longer, the nine-month schedule with the summer off emerging

See SCHOOL/10A

PENDLETON Opponents appeal Thur’s Smoke Shop decision to city council

Appeal objects site plan, calls for traffic study on Tutuilla

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The fate of Pendleton’s fourth cannabis retailer stands with the city council.

The Pendleton Planning Commission on March 9 voted for a conditional use permit to allow Bryson Thurman to open Thur’s Smoke Shop in a new building at 1292 S.W. Tutuilla Road. More than two dozen people testified against the recreational pot business.

Julie Chase, city permit technician, said Friday was the deadline to file an appeal, and one came in under the wire from Richard and Cindy Jennings and Roger Easling, all of Pendleton.

The Jennings own and operate Creative Signs, 1280 S.W. Tutuilla Road, which would be next door to the business, and Easling listed his address on the appeal as a few blocks away.

Cindy Jennings and Easling did not immediately return messages seeking comment. Their nine-page appeal list several objections to the planning commission’s decision.

They claim Thurman’s application with its hand-drawn plans for a building with dimensions of 30 feet by 64 feet lacked sufficient information for the planning commission “to make a credible decision whether the site is adequate for the use.” They questioned how the building, parking, setbacks and more would fit on a lot that’s 80 feet by 83 feet.

The planning commission, they also argued, shrugged of its obligation to not only review the use but require a detailed site plan.

Traffic is another problem they listed. Thurman estimated 200 customers a day, and city staff projected the business would attract 200-400 customers a day, more than most developments along Tutuilla Road. The objectors call for a traffic study to find

See MARIJUANA/10A



Photo by Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard

Oregon’s Mar’Shay Moore (center) leads her teammates in a cheer before taking on Texas-San Antonio for a non-conference game Nov. 21 at Matthew Knight Arena.

Former BMCC star plays in Elite Eight

Mar’Shay Moore helps teammates stay loose

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Roman Olivera settled into his front row seat at Webster Bank Arena and waited for the Duck women to appear for the NCAA Elite Eight game against University of Connecticut. When the Ducks burst onto the home court of the college basketball’s most dominant team for warmups, Olivera searched for one Duck in particular.

Mar’Shay Moore isn’t one

More inside

For more on Oregon’s game against UConn see Sports 1B

of the University of Oregon’s marquee players, but she holds the biggest place in Olivera’s heart.

The two met at Blue Mountain Community College where Moore played her first two years of college basketball and become the first person in her family to graduate from college.

See MOORE/10A



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