



EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018

142nd Year, No. 173 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar



This August 2017 file photo provided by Inciweb shows a wildfire near Sisters.

Fire season set to spark

Oregon summer wildfire potential ‘above normal’

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Oregon’s fire risk has been right around normal though June, but that’s going to change for the worse for the rest of the summer. State and federal forest managers and staff Monday during a media conference call discussed the outlook of wildland fire for 2018. Noel Livingston, fire man-

agement officer on the Walla-Walla National Forest, said a normal summer “really did ring true right up until about now.” But the warm May melted off the snowpack two weeks early, he said, and the green forests of eastern Oregon are drying out. Southern and central Oregon will be “above normal” for significant wildlife fire potential in July. And come August — the peak of the hot, dry summer — northeast Oregon also enters that red zone. Livingston said late summer

will carry the highest potential for large fires on the eastern sides of Oregon and Washington, plus most of Idaho and Montana. The northeastern and southwestern parts of Oregon remain above normal through September, as does the swath from eastern Washington through most of Montana. According to Predictive Services, only the Willamette Valley and most coastal areas stays in the normal range throughout the

See FIRE/8A

State law seizes guns from those who may do harm

By GORDON R. FRIEDMAN
The Oregonian/OregonLive

PORTLAND (AP) — Jason had but one item on his shopping list when he pulled into the store parking lot, rage seething within him: a .40-caliber Smith & Wesson handgun just like his father’s. Jason’s life was coming apart. He was 35 and the previous day, his wife of eight months had told him she was having an affair. Stunned, he tried to talk things through with her. She began packing her bags instead. All night Jason stewed. He’d come to get the gun because he wanted to go blow off some steam, he said. Head to the hills near his home in rural Brookings to blast some tin cans. But Jason, who asked to be identified only by his first name, didn’t go to the hills that February morning. He drove home where his wife waited and headed inside, carrying the pistol still in its box. An American’s right to own guns is enshrined in the Second Amendment, and broadly speaking, little except a felony, domestic violence conviction or commitment to a mental hospital can block it. But Oregon lawmakers felt a growing sense of unease about people in potentially life-endangering circumstances like Jason’s hav-

See LAW/8A

Coming in for a landing



An osprey lands Monday in a nest east of Pendleton between Southeast Court Avenue and the Umatilla River.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney



David and Dona walk their dog on Monday at McKay Park, next to McKay Creek Elementary School. The city is considering trading the piece of property to the school district for the former site of the school district offices.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

PENDLETON

Land swap off between school district and city

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

A proposed land swap between the city of Pendleton and the Pendleton School District has been shelved, according to district and city officials. Michelle Jones, the district’s director of business operations, said the two sides couldn’t find a way to make the value of the land match up. Initiated in 2017, the district offered the “east block” of the Pendleton Early Learning Center — an empty lot where the district’s central office used to stand — in exchange for McKay Park.

The district was interested in McKay Neighborhood Park because it shares a property line with McKay Creek Elementary School. If the district wanted to build a new McKay School, it could have built it on the park property while the current facility remained in use. The district employed a similar method during the 2015-2016 school year as the new Washington and Sherwood Heights elementary schools were being built. The \$55 million bond that made the two new elementary schools possible was also supposed to

See SWAP/8A



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Proceeds will Benefit the St. Anthony Hospital Alternative Therapy Program (including Pet Therapy) and P.A.W.S. Animal Shelter in Pendleton.
For more information call 541-278-2627 or email EmilySmith@chiwest.com

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