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SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018

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A new hope for hemp

Congress considers legalizing versatile crop after decades in the shadow of marijuana

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
EO Media Group

Planting season for industrial hemp is well underway at a 3-acre farm near Boronia, where Adam Kurtz is testing new seed varieties to ensure they meet regulatory guidelines.

Kurtz is entering his third season grow-

ing hemp to make products derived from cannabidiol, a chemical compound found in cannabis that reportedly offers health and nutrition benefits ranging from pain relief to reducing anxiety and depression. He began his company, Oregon Fusion, in 2016 with business partner Ed McCauley.

"Here we do a lot of different trials," said Kurtz, kneeling to inspect one particular strain of hemp named Sour Space Candy. "We're testing genetics a year in advance so we can offer them to our partner farms."

Hemp growers such as Kurtz are opti-

mistic about the future of the industry, especially after the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee last week included the Hemp Farming Act in its latest markup of the 2018 Farm Bill. Sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the provision defines hemp as an agricultural commodity and removes it from the list of federally controlled substances.

A full Senate vote on the Farm Bill could come as early as July 4.

If the House goes along with the Senate,

See HEMP/12A

PENDLETON

Police arrest man who fired BB gun toward kids

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Pendleton police and surrounding law enforcement spent hours Thursday searching for a shooting suspect to no avail. On Friday, officers arrested a man suspected of firing a replica gas-powered BB gun.

No one was hurt.

Police Chief Stuart Roberts said law enforcement located the man Friday, and his weapon matched a description teenagers gave a day earlier.

"He was taken into custody, arrested, interviewed and officially charged with a crime," Roberts said.

Police at 3:47 p.m. Thursday received a report of man "dry firing" what looked like a silver handgun near the Rudy Rada Skatepark, 101 Northgate. Officers responded, Roberts said, and three youth flagged them down and said a white male in a blue T-shirt and blue jeans with a white plastic bag fired a gun over

See GUN/12A

HERMISTON

Boy in bike crash is out of coma

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Zeddrik Cota, the 12-year-old Hermiston boy who landed in intensive care after a bike crash, is awake and moving around.

Nick Gutierrez, a close family friend of the Cotas, said Zeddrik had a few weeks of rehab ahead of him and was drinking all of his food through a straw right now because of his injuries, but he was "still happy" and ready to go on more adventures once his body will let him.

"He's a tough kid," Gutierrez wrote in a Facebook message.

Zeddrik was riding his bicycle around the Campus Life skate park near Hermiston High School on June 14, according to his family, when he did not see a drop-off and "fell off the deep end face-first to the pavement below," according to Facebook post by his father Oscar Cota.

He was transported via Life Flight to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland,



Cota

See BOY/12A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Contestants rush down the raceway during the 12th annual Dogtona 400 wiener dog races on Friday in Pendleton. This year's final was won by Penny, a four-year-old dachshund owned by Elanore Bailey of Vancouver, Washington.

Hot doggy

Gretel, 5, waits to compete in the costume contest with owner Kathy Chapman of Pendleton at the Dogtona 400 wiener dog races on Friday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris



Old School shirts finds new home in Pendleton

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

Inspired by the town's sense of Americana, the owners of a New York City apparel company have decided to establish their flagship store in Pendleton.

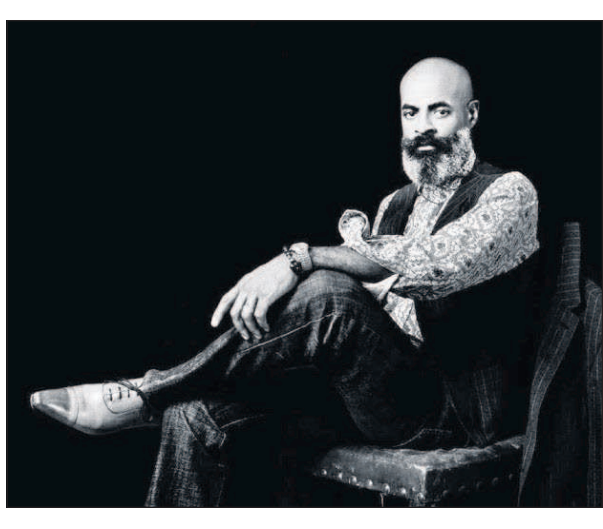
Kevin Stewart and his fiancée Kay Davis went on a recent cross country road trip from their home in New

York to Oregon before heading back east to Mississippi.

Stewart said he and Davis went through Pendleton and became smitten with Pendleton's aesthetic and sense of history.

His fascination with Pendleton came as a pleasant surprise to Davis, a native Oregonian whose family

See SHIRT/11A



A former fashion director for men's magazines, Kevin Stewart founded Old School Shirt Makers New York and designs shirts inspired by the American west.

photo courtesy of Kevin Stewart



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