

EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018

142nd Year, No. 189 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

Humane society proposes taxing district

Leaders call operating plan 'unsustainable,' will ask for taxpayer support

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The Pioneer Humane Society is looking to expand its paw print. Board members from the nonprofit went before the Pendleton City Council as a part of a series of meetings to gain access to the November ballot for the Umatilla County Animal Control District, a new taxing district that would take in 10 cents per \$1,000

of assessed value to support operations at the Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter. Humane society officials said the resulting \$300,000 might be the only way they can keep the doors open. Opened as a no-kill shelter in 2012, PAWS has sheltered 2,200 dogs and 2,800 cats in the past five years, according to the society's presentation to the council. PAWS also runs a spay and neuter program that has fixed 773 animals, a figure

that doesn't include sheltered dogs and cats. In 2017, the humane society funded these services with \$224,400, which was mainly derived from donations and user fees. Board members say its current funding level is unsustainable, and under the proposed taxing district, the society expects to expand its budget to \$511,500. Besides stabilizing or bolstering existing services, the society wants to use

additional funding to build its own pound. Pendleton maintains a pound at the city's public works shop at 1501 S.E. Byers Ave., but has an agreement with PAWS to house the animals longterm. At PAWS current shelter facility at 517 S.E. Third St., the society would use the larger budget to repair roof leaks, provide air conditioning to the kitten room, and

See HUMANE/8A



EO file photo
Volunteer Shane Manke fills a water bin for dogs confiscated from a home near Hermiston at PAWS on November 27, 2017, in Pendleton.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Day stalker

A great blue heron stalks through a patch of algae on Wednesday in the Umatilla River near the Main Street bridge in Pendleton.

UMATILLA

Remembering the town before the dam

Museum collecting interviews with residents from the 1940s and '50s



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

Rita Creamer, left, talks to Nikolas Schuening about her memories of growing up in Umatilla. Creamer was one of several people being interviewed for a project by the Umatilla Museum.

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

Long after memories fade, there will be a record of Umatilla's formative years — thanks to efforts of a group of history buffs. The Umatilla Museum is in the process of interviewing longtime residents of the town, focusing on people who grew

up there during the 1940s and 1950s. They are filming interviews and plan to compile them onto a disc that people can reference to learn about the town's history. The city was established in 1864, but museum members are trying to collect memories of those who were growing up around the time the McNary Dam was built and the town

began to take the shape it is today. Sam Nobles, president of the museum and a longtime resident, graduated from Umatilla High School in 1954. "There's a lot of history in Umatilla," he said, recalling the town's origins as a trade center and the importance of the railroad. Many of the residents being interviewed worked on McNary Dam as it was being constructed from 1947 to 1954, or remember a flood that devastated the town in 1948. Previously, most of the town was built closer to the river, which is now referred to as "old town." It was moved to higher ground in 1968 due to projected flooding from the building of the John Day Dam. Museum members hope to collect the memories of older residents, but don't have a specific set of questions. "We get them started, and then just let them talk," said Leslie Smith, vice president of the Umatilla Museum. "It's not really an interview so much as recalling and documenting those memories."

See MUSEUM/8A

Hammonds welcomed back home to Burns

Ranchers' lawyer says they are considering civil suit

By **ANDREW SELSKY**
Associated Press

SALEM — Father and son ranchers, who were the focus of a battle about public lands and were freed from prison after receiving a presidential pardon, were welcomed home Wednesday in Burns by relatives and horseback riders carrying American flags. A lawyer for the family of Steven and Dwight Hammond said they remain focused on their attempt to restore grazing rights on Bureau of Land Management acreage. Friction between the family and federal officials, and the sentencing of two members to five-year prison terms under an anti-terrorism statute, triggered the takeover of a nearby federal wildlife refuge by right-wing militants in 2016 that grabbed world headlines. "We're exploring potential civil suits on behalf of the family to make sure they have their rights over land restored to them, that they're protected from more harassment and overzealousness of government agencies," attorney Morgan Philpot told The Associated Press. The family also wants a dialogue between ranchers, politicians, federal agencies and bureaucrats, he said. A news conference that had been set with family members outside the high-desert town of Burns was canceled when their convoy was delayed by a roadblock set up to allow a wide-load vehicle to pass.

See HAMMONDS/8A



Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian via AP

Rancher Dwight Hammond Jr. is embraced by his wife Susie Hammond after arriving by private jet at the Burns Municipal Airport, Wednesday in Burns.

