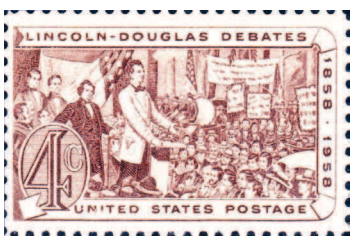
NO DEBATE ON NEED FOR DEBATE
OPINION/4A



FBI AGENT ON TRIAL
NORTHWEST/2A

MARINERS DOWN GIANTS
SPORTS/1B

EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2018

142nd Year, No. 189 | WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD | One dollar

Wilson Prairie blaze grows to 700 acres

Bull Prairie Lake campground evacuated as fire jumps containment and pushes south

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

More resources arrived Wednesday to take on the Wilson Prairie fire in Morrow and Grant counties.

Christie Shaw, spokesperson with the Oregon Department of Forestry, said the burn stands at 700 acres. The fire on Tuesday jumped the containment line to the south and pushed into the Porter Creek drainage.

"Three helicopters were used to drop water on hotspots while tankers were used to lay retardant lines in front of the fire to slow the spread so ground resources could engage and build fireline," Shaw said in a written statement. And while the fire grows southward, she said, firelines are holding north portion.

Shaw said resources continue to "scatter in" from all over to combat the wildfire, including a Type 2 incident management team. That unit hit the scene Wednesday afternoon, she said, took in a briefing and will take over management of the attack Thursday at 6 a.m.

Shaw explained the recent growth and complexity of the fire "prompted the agencies to bring in the Type 2 team to manage the increasing personnel and firefighting assets needed to contain the fire."

The fire prompted evacuation and closure of the U.S. Forest Service campground at Bull Prairie Lake and is burning near the Morrow-Grant County Off Highway Vehicle Park. Shaw said the park remains open, although some hiking trails could be closed. She said signs at the park display which trails are off limits, and she advised hikers and others in the outdoors at the park should be prepared for

See FIRE/8A

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Sunridge Middle School wood shop teacher Ken Jacobs gives instruction on how to assemble a pallet tray Tuesday during the Port of Morrow Camp in Boardman.

Nuts, bolts and thingamajigs

Morrow County students learn about manufacturing jobs

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Chris Stirk had a dilemma for a group of middle schoolers.

"I need you to help me solve a problem," he said. "How do I get from this —" he held up an unpeeled onion in one hand — "to this?" He held up a peeled one in the other.

Stirk stopped by the Port of Morrow's inaugural "Nuts, Bolts and Thingamajigs" camp, a weeklong program to help 18 Morrow County middle school students learn about careers in manufacturing, processing and technology.

Stirk, the Boardman Foods director of operations, talked to students about how onions are processed, helping them understand the purpose of different machines, production and waste.

Drawing diagrams on the whiteboard, Stirk showed students the devices they use to make processing more efficient.

He also talked to the students about the rise of automated machines to do jobs once performed by humans.

"What if the onion goes the wrong way?" He said. "Now, a person has to turn it. What I want to do is have a robot do it. Why?"

Students speculated — it's safer, you don't have to spend as much money — both things that Stirk said were factors.

He told kids that there were many opportunities right in their own city to work in mathematics, science and agriculture.

"Not everything in this world has been invented yet," he said. "Guess what we

See BOLTS/8A

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Alexis Partlow, 13, of Boardman uses a nail gun to secure two boards with help from OSU Extension outreach coordinator Anna Browne while making pallet trays during the Port of Morrow Camp in Boardman.

Teachers get industrial education

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

For the past two weeks, teachers from Umatilla and Morrow counties have been getting used to a different kind of classroom — work sites and factories at the Port of Morrow.

As part of a teacher externship sponsored by the port, five high school teachers from the area shadowed employees, heard from speakers at businesses around the port and toured several facilities in Boardman. The two-week program is aimed at math and science educators — as well as counselors and career advisers — to bring information about local jobs and trade schools back to students.

"I'd say most teachers feel pretty comfortable about the four-

See TEACHERS/8A

PENDLETON

Animal control district approved for ballot

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Lucy, a mixed-breed dog found wandering around Wal-Mart, looks out of her kennel at PAWS on Wednesday in Pendleton.

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The Umatilla County Animal Control District sponsored by the Pioneer Humane Society will appear on the ballot in Pendleton, but not without opposition.

The Pendleton City Council voted 4-2 to put the taxing district on the November ballot, with councilors Scott Fairley and Dale Primmer voting against it.

Fairley and Primmer feared that sending the issue to the ballot would open the door for other nonprofits to seek additional revenue via a taxing district. The city already pays the humane society $16,500 per year for animal control, and the councilors argued the city could avoid potential property tax compression if it renegotiated the allocation rather than create a new taxing district.

In the wake of measures 47 and 50, property tax rates in Oregon are "compressed" for municipal governments if the real market value of a property exceeds $10 per $1,000. The animal control district's 10-cent rate would bring Pendleton closer to compression, and some councilors worried that the creation of new taxing district would negatively affect city revenue.

Paul Chalmers, a city councilor and the Umatilla County director of assessment and taxation, said it was difficult to anticipate how much Pendleton would lose from compres-

See BALLOT/8A

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