

OUTDOORS: Created a detailed inventory of all trees in Pendleton

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come families. Crawford said there are OYCC crews in every Oregon county, and their tasks vary depending on the needs of the area. “I know crews that do trail maintenance, invasive species removal,” she said. “It’s generally strictly conservation.” All the groups focus on several components: environmental stewardship, workforce development, education and teamwork.

Pendleton crew leader Summer Szumski said watching the students problem-solve has been one of the best parts of the program. “It’s been interesting to see how they work as a team,” she said. At the beginning of the summer, some of the kids didn’t know each other and tended to work by themselves. “As they’ve gone on and we’ve encountered technical problems ... I’ve watched their relationships and communication develop,” she said. “They utilize each other’s strengths.” The students who were hired went through a group interview process where they spent a full day learn-



Julian Jimenez and Nahomy Claustro clean painting utensils on Wednesday at the Boardman Marina.

ing about the program, as well as honing their professional skills and doing practice interviews with their peers. Once they’re out on the job, tasks can vary. The Boardman crew spent a lot of time beautifying the property around the Boardman Recreation Center. It’s taught some of the students new skills. “I’d never done irrigation or landscaping before,” said

Emily Robles, an incoming senior at Riverside High School. “I’d never planted a tree. It’s all a learning experience.” On Wednesday, Robles and her teammates painted signs in Boardman Marina and RV park, and then moved on to pulling weeds. In Pendleton, students helped the Pendleton Parks department carry out one of their long-term goals —

having a detailed inventory for all public trees in the city. The teens have spent the past several weeks tracking the trees in city parks, neighborhoods and public streets. “To do an urban forest master plan, we need to know what resources we’re working with,” said Pendleton Parks director Liam Hughes. Maureen Davies, A Pendleton High School grad and



Emily Robles and Brenda Flores paint the lettering on a sign while working Wednesday at the Boardman Marina.

incoming college freshman, originally found out about the job through her biology teacher. “Since I’m moving away, I thought it was one last thing I could do for the community,” she said. Davies and her teammates are recording species, size and any issues with the trees such as disease or vulnerability, as well as taking photos of each tree. The students have been working on the project on their own, and had to do a lot of on-the-job learning. The first couple of days, Davies said, Dave Powell, who sits on the Pendleton Tree Commission, came and helped them identify

trees. The teens are also repainting Kiwanis cabins which are used for Outdoor School. Davies, who is interested in working in the medical field, said she was happy for the chance to do something different in the summer. She said she has grown up working on farms and in agricultural jobs, but this job covered new ground. “I enjoy the people I work with,” she said. “I know a lot more about trees now.”

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WILDFIRE: About 100 homes evacuated during fire’s height

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released from the scene. Although access to the south fork of the Walla Walla River remained closed, Holcomb said no structures were being threatened by the fire and residents were allowed to take alternate routes to return home. According to Holcomb, the sheriff’s office evacuated about 100 homes due to the fire. As of 3:45 p.m., the Oregon Department of Forestry estimated the fire to span 200-300 acres. Along with the Milton-Freewater crew, personnel from East Umatilla County Rural Fire Protection, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Oregon Department of Forestry

are on scene. Two helicopters could be seen dumping water on the fire from above and responders later reported a third helicopter joined them. Cindy Brumbach was among a group of residents who were watching the fire burn through a draw from a safe distance. Brumbach said she received a call at her Lefore Road home from authorities asking everyone who lived from 81000 Walla Walla Road to Harris Park to leave their homes. While Brumbach’s home was far enough from the fire that her home wasn’t in danger, and the message simply told those who didn’t live in the evacuation to stay prepared.



A Milton-Freewater Rural Fire vehicle drives down Lincton Mountain Road while responding to a wildfire in the South Fork Walla Walla River Valley on Wednesday in Pendleton.

FIREFIGHTERS: Paying attention while driving is a huge help

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water and meals at the fire camp that the Department of Forestry has budgeted for. Shaw said while firefighters “love to feel that they’re valued,” it tends to make more sense to check in with smaller rural fire departments — which often run on volunteers — with more limited budgets to ask if there is anything they need help with, rather than dropping off donations unannounced at government-run fire camps. One year, for example, a community ended up

dropping off “crates and crates of socks” to a fire camp even though firefighters were well-stocked with socks already. Danny Palomino of Hermiston is trying to go the rural support route by starting a Facebook page called “Watch my 6 I got yours” this week. He said he hopes to serve as a focal point for people to drop off donations they want to give, and then he can contact agencies in Umatilla and Morrow counties and see if they are running low on any of those supplies, instead of a

stream of community members dropping by fire stations unannounced. “It’s been pretty horrible with all of these fires lately, and I know people want to help but they feel helpless,” he said. He said he traveled to the Eagle Creek fire in the Columbia Gorge last summer to drop off Gold Bond, baby wipes and “pocket snacks” but had a lot of difficulty getting through to deliver them, which is why he thought coordinating with local fire departments was a better route.

Umatilla County Fire District 1 operations chief Jim Forquer said the district has had to turn down some offers of support lately, but he hoped people understood it was because the district was incredibly busy and not because they weren’t grateful. “We’re really appreciative of our relationship with the community,” he said. “It doesn’t go unnoticed.” Forquer said the public can be a huge help to firefighters by paying attention while driving and getting out of the way quickly

when a truck or ambulance comes through with lights and sirens. He said the very biggest thing people can do to support the fire district was to stay safe — including precautions such as wearing life jackets and staying hydrated — and do everything in their power to prevent fires. “We’ve had several fires where folks weren’t following the burn ban, and that creates an additional work load,” he said. Vehicle maintenance can be an important component of that. Over the weekend

the district put out a series of seven small spot fires along Diagonal Road that Forquer said was caused by an improperly maintained catalytic converter on a vehicle throwing out small pieces of hot material. Other times a chain dragging has sparked the grass near a road. “It’s been a really busy fire season already, and I think we might be heading into worse,” he said.

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NATION BRIEFLY

Court strikes down Trump push to cut ‘sanctuary city’ funds

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A divided U.S. appeals court on Wednesday struck down a key part of President Donald Trump’s contentious effort to crack down on cities and states that limit cooperation with immigration officials, saying an executive order threatening to cut funding for “sanctuary cities” was unconstitutional. In a 2-1 decision, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with a lower court that the order exceeded the president’s authority. Congress alone controls spending under the U.S. Constitution, and presidents do not have the power to withhold funding it approves to pursue

their policy goals, the court majority said. “By its plain terms, the executive order directs the agencies of the executive branch to withhold funds appropriated by Congress in order to further the administration’s policy objective of punishing cities and counties that adopt so-called ‘sanctuary’ policies,” wrote Chief Judge Sidney Thomas, joined by Judge Ronald Gould, who both were nominated by Democratic President Bill Clinton. The court, however, also said the lower-court judge went too far when he blocked enforcement of Trump’s order nationwide after a lawsuit by two California counties — San Francisco and Santa Clara. Thomas said there wasn’t enough evidence to support a nationwide ban, limited

the injunction to California and sent the case back to the lower court for more arguments on whether a wider ban was warranted.

Facebook page’s removal angers Washington protest organizers

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP) — Facebook stunned and angered organizers of a protest against white supremacists when it disabled their Washington event’s page this week, saying it and others had been created by “bad actors” misusing the social media platform. The company said the page — one of 32 pages or accounts it removed Tuesday from Facebook and Instagram — violated its ban

on “coordinated inauthentic behavior” and may be linked to an account created by Russia’s Internet Research Agency, a so-called troll farm that has sown discord in the U.S. But the organizers of next weekend’s protest in Washington say Facebook has unfairly and recklessly tarnished their work by suggesting their event could be linked to a Russian campaign to interfere in U.S. politics. April Goggans, an organizer of Black Lives Matter DC, said protest organizers began planning the event before the Facebook page’s creation. Organizers have set up a new page, but Goggans fears Facebook’s crackdown left many people with the false impression that a Russian bot is behind their event. “Our participation may

take a hit because people are trying to find out what’s legit and what’s not,” she said Wednesday.

Tesla burns \$739.5 million in cash on way to record loss

(AP) — Electric car maker Tesla Inc. burned through \$739.5 million in cash last quarter, paving the way to a company record \$717.5 million net loss as it cranked out more electric cars. But CEO Elon Musk pledged to post net profits in future quarters, and on a conference call, he apologized to two analysts he cut off on the company’s first-quarter call. Tesla’s shares jumped 9.3 percent to \$328.85 in after-hours trading. The net loss more than

doubled from the same quarter a year ago, and was slightly larger than the first quarter. But Tesla’s cash burn in the second quarter slowed from about \$1.1 billion. On the call, Musk also said he expects the company to avoid returning to the markets for capital and to be “essentially self-funding on a go-forward basis.” Tesla would use money generated from sales to fund big projects such as an estimated \$2 billion new factory in China and another plant in Europe, he said. The company also said that Model 3 gross profit margins turned slightly positive during the quarter as it worked out expensive kinks in its manufacturing system.