

**EIGHT DIE
IN WRECK
NEAR CRANE**
REGION/3A



**CALIFORNIA
RETHINKING
POT RULES**
NORTHWEST/2A



EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A haze hangs over downtown Pendleton on Tuesday as smoke from regional wildfires has inundated the region. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has issued an air quality advisory for much of Northeastern Oregon advising residents to avoid prolonged outdoor activities.

PENDLETON

Smoke from Washington descends over Oregon

DEQ issues air quality advisory, forecasts it to stay through weekend

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

At various points Tuesday afternoon, Pendleton had the worst air quality in the state.

Due to wildfires in Washington, Pendleton had a particulate matter of 173 at 3 p.m., according to the Ore-

gon Department of Environmental Quality.

Considered “unhealthy” by the DEQ’s air quality index, Pendleton’s air quality was considered worse than several sites in Jackson and Josephine counties, which have been inundated with smoke from fires in southern Oregon and northern California for weeks.

DEQ spokeswoman Katherine Benenati said the department was issuing an air quality warning for much of the Interstate 84 corridor, including northeast Oregon.

Although the DEQ isn’t attributing the smoke to a specific fire in Washington, there are several fires in central Washington that have burned thousands of acres and are far from containment.

According to a DEQ press release, the smoke is expected to remain in northeastern Oregon through the weekend, although light winds may clear some of it on Thursday.

The Umatilla County

See **SMOKE/8A**

PENDLETON

Family alleges officer beat, injured teen

Police investigating actions after arrest during scuffle

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

A Pendleton police officer is under investigation following allegations of brutality. Chief Stuart Roberts said so far, those allegations don’t match with what police are finding.

But the 15-year-old boy and his mother said an officer choked him and struck him on his head when he was trying to return his dog home.

The *East Oregonian* generally does not identify minors facing criminal charges. The *EO* also has not identified the officers involved because they remain on duty and are not facing criminal charges.

The teen and his family live off Southwest 18th Street, which ends at the Umatilla River levee. They said the evening of July 29 several juveniles came from the direction of the levee and squared off to fight in the street near their home. About then, someone opened the front door, and Apollo, the teen’s 8-month-old pit bull mix, took off at a dead run and headed to the levee.

The teen said he gave chase and caught the dog a few blocks away at Trailhead Park. The juveniles who were in the fight also headed that way, he said, and police followed.

He scooped up the dog, but an officer told him to stop.

“I said no,” he said he responded, “I’m taking my dog home.”

The officer grabbed his right wrist, he

See **OFFICER/8A**

HERMISTON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Dr. Rose was a dentist who originally occupied one of the offices in the top of the old Swayze bank building on Main Street in Hermiston. Mitch Myers has remodeled the top floor of the old bank.

Old buildings get new lives

Fast-growing city faces challenges in protecting its past

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

There are pieces of Hermiston’s history that have been preserved in boxes of photographs at locals’ homes and a few scattered historic buildings.

An archway from the previous iteration of Armand Larive Middle School — once known as Union High School — stands near the public library as a testament to the many school buildings Hermiston has seen come and go over its more than century-long history.

But Hermiston doesn’t have any buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, despite being the biggest city in a county that has 42 sites on the registry (Pendleton has 16 of those; Echo has 10).

Carlisle Harrison, one of Hermiston’s

history enthusiasts, said some of the city’s lack of historical preservation has to do with how the town developed. It was small and very poor for the first few decades of its existence (the town was incorporated in 1907), then saw a population explosion during the building of the McNary Dam and Umatilla Chemical Depot in the 1940s. At that point no one was as worried about eye-pleasing architecture as they were about getting buildings up fast and cheap.

The results, he said, were a lot of buildings that were “nothing to write home about” and not built to last into the 21st century.

“Things were practical and inexpensive,” he said. “In Pendleton the moneyed wheat farmers came into town and built nice houses.”

Harrison said that wasn’t necessarily a bad thing — it contributed to the reputa-

tion Hermiston still has today of being a friendly, welcoming town where it doesn’t matter whether you were born there.

“In some respects, people had more to do with each other and not so much with the things we have,” he said.

It has also made it easier to develop and modernize without worrying about historic preservation.

The downside is that today Hermiston lacks the “historic downtown” approach to draw tourists. There is no grand, historic city hall building. The Oasis theater that used to sit on Main Street is gone, as is the old hotel. A tall brick cathedral with stained glass windows from the early days of the city was replaced with a Chevron station.

Dick Lowry, another of Hermiston’s unofficial historians, said Hermiston

See **BUILDINGS/8A**

“Things were practical and inexpensive.”

— **Carlisle Harrison**, Hermiston history enthusiast, on the city’s buildings in the mid-20th century

