

**FARMERS
CELEBRATE \$5.6
MILLION GRANT
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**DREAMS
BECOME A
REALITY**

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**RIVERSIDE'S
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EAST OREGONIAN

JUNE 1-2, 2019

143rd Year, No. 163

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ROAD RAGE CASE ENDS WITH \$26.5M VERDICT

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Matthew and Sara Allison are beaming in the photo they took in front of Crater Lake, their last bit of Oregon sightseeing before leaving June 5, 2016, for home in Boise. He was 27, she was 30, they were married five years.

They never made it back.

Sara was behind the wheel of their Ford Focus so Matthew could rest during the drive on narrow Highway 20 east of Burns when James Decou of Clearfield, Utah, drove his flat-bed hauling semi head-on into the couple's car.

Matthew suffered broken ribs, a lacerated spleen, head trauma and more, and required a flight in an emergency helicopter from Harney District Hospital, Burns, to Legacy Emanuel Hospital, Portland.

Sara died in the crash.

Matthew Allison recounted the story May 7 in Pendleton while testifying in federal court during the civil trial for his injuries and his wife's death. Court records show he brought the urn containing Sara's cremains to the witness stand.

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**"THOSE ARE SOME OF
THE BEST MEMORIES
THAT I WILL HOLD ON
TO FOR THE REST OF
MY LIFE."**

Matthew Allison, told the jury he was glad they went to Crater Lake



Smoke's effect on wildland firefighters' health unknown

By JES BURNS
Oregon Public Broadcasting

When Timothy Ingalsbee thinks back on his days in the 1980s and 1990s fighting wildfires in the Pacific Northwest, he remembers the adventure of jumping out of a helicopter into the wilderness.

"Ideally we'd have at least one skid touching the steep slope," he recalled.

There was the camaraderie of sleeping with his crew out under the stars or smoke-filled skies. And then there were the colors.

"I had amazing vistas of crimson red sunsets over the mountains," he said.

But Ingalsbee, who went on to found the Eugene-based Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics and Ecology, doesn't want to remember everything.

"I tried to forget about all the forests I inhaled," he said. "I remember some seasons, I just had been so impacted by this smoke. I lost my sense of smell and taste for several months. It wasn't until maybe the next spring it started coming back."

Over the past few years, Pacific Northwest communities have been getting better acquainted with wildfire smoke. The issue has become a political, economic and public-health lightning rod. But even in the most affected places, people can get some relief by limiting time outside and using air filters and

See Smoke, Page A8

Oregon lawmakers recommend new ditch-cleaning bill

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

SALEM — A key group of Oregon lawmakers has recommended spending \$700,000 to implement new regulations allowing farmers to clean more sediment from ditches with less red tape.

Currently, farmers must obtain a state fill-removal permit to dredge more than 50 cubic yards of dirt from drainage ditches, which is considered an overly burdensome and frequently ignored requirement.

Under House Bill 2437, that limit would increase to 3,000 cubic yards of material per mile of drainage ditch over five years, as long as the channels are dry and uninhabited by sensitive salmonid fish, among other provisions.

Because additional government employees would need to oversee the pro-

See HB 2437, Page A8

Pendleton Class of 2019's rising Starr

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Every Pendleton High School senior who crosses the grass at the Round-Up Grounds Saturday accomplished something to reach graduation. But Morningstarr Redcrane might easily take the best name in the Class of 2019.

The senior, who goes simply by Starr, has stories for both of her names.

The name Morningstarr came from her mother, who came up with it as a childhood "dream name" for herself. The name stuck in her mind as she grew up, and when she bestowed it on Starr when she was born, it took on extra meaning because her daughter became the "brightest part" of her life.

An enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Starr's surname came from her mother's "great-great-

great-grandfather," who held the name Redcrane before it became the family's last name. A boarding school changed her grandfather's last name to "Crane" before the family restored it for Starr and the rest of the grandchildren.

But Starr didn't earn a high school diploma and get a near full-ride scholarship to Oregon State University based on her incandescent name.

When she was interviewed on Thursday, Starr had just gotten her

braces removed.

As she adjusted to her freshly straightened teeth, Starr recalled how she and her orthodontist were talking about the ins and outs of dental school and what her options were.

Starr wants to join the pre-dentistry program once she arrives in Corvallis.

"Everyone hates going to the dentist," she said. "When I go to the dentist,

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