

GREENWOOD
PARK GETS
NEW LIFE

REGION, A3

PARANORMAL TEAM INVESTIGATES
GEISER GRAND HOTEL

LIFESTYLE, C1

NICHOLS,
ROMERO LEAD
ALL-EO TRACK
TEAM

SPORTS, B1

EAST OREGONIAN

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Pendleton no longer can jail poor for court debt

Settlement in 2018
helped spearhead new
policyBy PHIL WRIGHT
East OregonianPENDLETON — Angela
Minthorn in 2017 spent 55 daysin jail for owing little more than
\$1,000 to the Pendleton Municipal
Court.She sued the city in 2018
because of that incarceration. The
city settled with her in April and
agreed to pay out \$130,000. The
city also had to stop throwing
poor people in jail for owing
money.Pendleton City Manager Robb
Corbett referred questions about
the case to city attorney Nancy
Kerns. She said the city had no
comment about the settlement but
confirmed the city court adopted
the new policies specifying how
the court can collect money while
banning the use of jail time for the
indigent. The policy took effectApril 18 at the direction of municipal
judge. That action came the day
after the city and Minthorn
reached the deal.“No person shall be incarcerated
for the inability and lack of
financial resources to pay financial
obligations to the Court,” the

See Poor, Page A11

PENDLETON

City looks to
commission
impact study
for UAS rangeBy ANTONIO SIERRA
East OregonianPENDLETON — In recent years,
city of Pendleton officials have shared
anecdotes about busier restaurants,
full hotel rooms, and even purchased
houses to demonstrate the value of
Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems
Range and the significant public
investment that's funding it.Now the city is seeking numbers
to back it up.At a Tuesday meeting, the
Pendleton City Council will consider
awarding a bid to NEXA Advisors to
perform an economic impact study
for the Pendleton UAS Range.In a staff report, Steve Chrisman,
airport manager and economic
development director, wrote that the
Virginia-based company would provide
“(a)ccurate information about direct,
indirect and induced revenue, jobs,
taxes and investment is critical for
attracting more public and private
investment.”NEXA managing partner
Michael Dymant wrote in his pitch
to Chrisman that the company has
experience doing a similar study for
New York and its UAS range project.Comparing the development of
UAS to the development of the
printing press, the automobile, and
the internet, Dymant wrote that its
prior studies have been used to
“strengthen negotiations supporting
investment, strategic partnerships and
trade.”NEXA will make its calculations
using data from the U.S. Bureau of
Economic Analysis, interviews with
Pendleton UAS Range staff and
drone industry employees, and
economic projections done by the city.The study comes hot on the heels
of the council agreeing to spend \$7.4
million from the water and sewer
funds to provide infrastructure for a
UAS industrial park.On top of an expected \$3 million
grant from the U.S. Economic
Development Administration, the
city hopes the UAS range will
continue to grow if it provides drone
companies with shovel-ready ground
for hangars and other facilities.According to a Wednesday
interview, Chrisman thinks the study
will help justify the city's investment.Chrisman recently compiled an
economic projection for the UAS

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EO SPOTLIGHT



Staff photo by E.J. Harris, File

A U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife firefighting vehicle drives toward a burning stand of trees of the Old Emigrant Highway on Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018, west of the Deadman's Pass rest areas outside of Pendleton.

Average fire season predicted for region despite forecast
for warmer than usual July and AugustBy KATY NESBITT
For the East OregonianPENDLETON — Due to recent
wildfire starts across the
region, Monday is the official
start of fire season for North-
east Oregon.Fire managers and weather forecasters
look for an average fire season for the
Blue Mountains, but dry conditions
are attracting concern for large
wildfires between the Cascades
and the Oregon Coast.Dan Slagle, forecaster at the
National Weather Service in
Pendleton, said there is no
strong signal that the summer
weatherpatterns would be unusual, but
July and August are predicted to
be warm.“We are trending toward cooler
and drier weather the next one to
two weeks, but longer trends
favor warmer than normal
conditions,” he said.

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Former Hermiston city manager remembered

Tom Harper served
city for 26 yearsBy JADE MCDOWELL
East OregonianHERMISTON — Hermiston's
first city manager, Tom Harper,
died Tuesday at the age of 96. He
was oneof the final living members of a
generation of city leaders who
helped move Hermiston from a
small town with few paved roads
to the largest city in Eastern
Oregon.“It's the passing of an era,”
Beverly Harkenrider said.Harkenrider's husband Frank
Harkenrider, who served as
mayor of Hermiston for 10
years and a citycouncilor for 40, frequently
said before his death that hiring
Harper as Hermiston's first
city manager was the best
decision he and the council
ever made.Harper served as city manager
for 26 years, from 1961 to
1987, after the city council
decided Hermiston had
grown large enough to need
a full-time manager outside of

the mayor.

At the time Harper was hired,
Hermiston held about 4,000
residents. Under his
management the city built a
library, public works building,
wastewater treatment plant,
opened a new city hall and
built the public safety building
that

See Harper, Page A11

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