

## PROPOSED SURGERY TO STERILIZE WILD HORSES RAISES HACKLES

NORTHWEST, A2

## HERMISTON SCHOOL DISTRICT WELCOMES FIRST DOCTOR TO CLINIC

REGION, A3

# EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019

143rd Year, No. 201

WINNER OF THE 2019 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

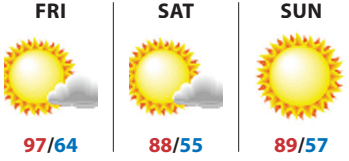
### Your Weekend



- **Irrigon Watermelon Festival**, Irrigon Marina Park
- **City-Wide Yard Sales**, Pilot Rock
- **Veterans Town Hall and Benefit Expo**, Pendleton Convention Center

FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS CHECK COMING EVENTS, A5

### Weekend Weather



## Treasurer for nonprofit arrested for aggravated theft

Police charge Robin Pickard with theft of more than \$63,000

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The former treasurer of an Athena nonprofit is behind bars for first-degree aggravated theft.



Pickard

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office in a news release reported deputies Thursday shortly after 11 a.m. arrested Robin Lynn Pickard, 39, of Athena, and booked her into the county jail in Pendleton. Picard handled the money for Sunset Housing, a nonprofit organization that owns, operates and maintains housing for

See Theft, Page A7

### HERMISTON

## Moving forward



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Dylan Duke (left) and Kayla Sandlyn search for a wooden fence board carved with the name of Dylan's father, Scott Duke, who passed away several years ago.

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The ball is rolling to rebuild Funland playground.

The beloved, castle-like wooden structure in the shadow of the Hermiston Butte burned down in May in a suspected case of arson. This will be the third time the community builds a playground there — the original structure built in 1996 was burned down in 2001 and replaced in 2002.

The committee leading the charge this time around held its first meeting Wednesday to discuss design, budget, and fundraising. They plan to open a new playground at the beginning of summer 2020.

"How often do you get to do this?" parks and recreation director Larry Fetter said.

"Too often, actually," city councilor Jackie Myers quipped.

Fetter told the committee, made up of seven community members, two city councilors and the mayor, that the insurance company has notified the



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

The charred remains of the main Funland play structure are seen through a warped railing at the park. The structures at Funland burned this last spring in an apparent arson.

city it will pay out \$750,000 for the damages. He proposed a goal of raising \$300,000 more by January.

That may seem like a lot, but Mayor David Drotzmann pointed out Hermiston residents' history of generosity and how

"near and dear" to the community's heart the project is. Committee member Ric Sherman, who is a member of the Rotary Club, said the project would be the club's top priority for the

See Playground, Page A7

## Tribes win auction for Hamley's

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation post winning bid of \$3.55M

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is the new owner of Hamley's.

The tribes was one of several interests bidding Thursday at a Portland law firm in an auction for the Hamley's steakhouse, coffee shop and western store, the result of the split between former Hamley's owners and business partners Blair Woodfield and Parley Pearce.

Pearce, the day before the auction, said some bidders with piles of money were coming and if the tribes wanted to win, "they better put their big boy pants on and bring their wallet."

The tribes did. Woodfield said the tribes won with a bid of \$3.55 million. He said he was pleased with the outcome and had every confidence the tribes would do a great job with the iconic Pendleton establishments.

Gary Burke, chairman of the CTUIR Board of Trustees, in a written statement said it was a fitting acquisition.

"The tribes have a long and storied history with the Hamley family and businesses that have spanned over five generations," Burke said. "We are pleased to keep this business in local hands."

Wildhorse Resort & Casino, which the tribes own, will handle day-to-day operations of the Hamley's business.

"We look forward to continuing operations and bringing our extensive business skills to bear," said Gary George, Wildhorse chief executive officer. "Hamley is a western icon and will continue to provide a service to the community for years to come."

The Hamley's family founded the business in 1905. Tribal members of the CTUIR

See Hamley's, Page A7

## Investor says Methodist church won't be razed

Sale of historic property brought speculation

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The investor who bought Pendleton's historic First United Methodist Church doesn't plan to raze the building. "That will not happen,"

said Craig Clemens, managing member of Calibrated Valuation LLC, which purchased the 113-year-old stone church in early June.

The congregation put the church on the market a couple of years ago for \$410,000 after realizing it couldn't afford repairs, maintenance and monthly utilities. Inside the sanctuary's south wall lurks extensive water damage that requires

something in the neighborhood of \$100,000 to repair. Challenges included asbestos, cracking and peeling, crumbling mortar and deferred maintenance.

The sanctuary features two huge stained glass windows and a vintage organ. Outside is a distinctive bell tower and a cornerstone laid in 1906. The church, on land purchased for \$4,000, survived several fires.

This spring, the congregation said a slow, sad goodbye to their house of worship, culminating with a final worship service on May 26 and then had what Pastor Jim Pierce called "the mother of all yard sales."

Clemens, by phone, said the church's stately exterior first drew his attention as a buyer.

"I was attracted to the

architecture, the tower, the stone," he said. "I really liked the building and it seemed like a good value."

The final purchase price was \$350,000.

Clemens's vision for the church is still evolving. In the days following the sale, locals speculated about what the company would do with the vine-

See Church, Page A7



CHI St. Anthony Hospital Family Clinic is recognized as a Patient-Centered Primary Care Home.

### What does that mean for you?

- Better-coordinated care.
- Listening to your concerns and answering questions.
- After-hours nurse consultation.
- Healthcare providers who will help connect you with the care you need in a safe and timely way.
- Healthcare providers who play an active role in your health.

CHI St. Anthony Hospital

844.724.8632

3001 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton  
WWW.SAHPENDLETON.ORG

Mon through Thurs, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. • Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Sat and Sun, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Walk-ins are welcome but appointments are preferred.



7 294671 10002 2