

**BAKER CITY**

# Black ice causes massive pile-up

East Oregonian

A massive early morning pile-up on icy Interstate 84 near Baker City closed 160 miles of the freeway for much of Saturday as emergency crews responded to multiple driver injuries and two vehicles carrying hazardous materials.

According to state police, 12 people were treated for injuries related to the pile-up at St. Alphonsus Hospital, Baker City.

Of those people, two were transported to other hospitals for serious injuries; one to Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, and the other to St. Alphonsus Hospital, Boise, Idaho. Two others were taken to Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande for further treatment.

OSP reported 26 vehicles were involved in the pile-up, with an estimated 50 to 70 vehicles either directly involved or trapped between crashes.

The vehicles collided while traveling eastbound

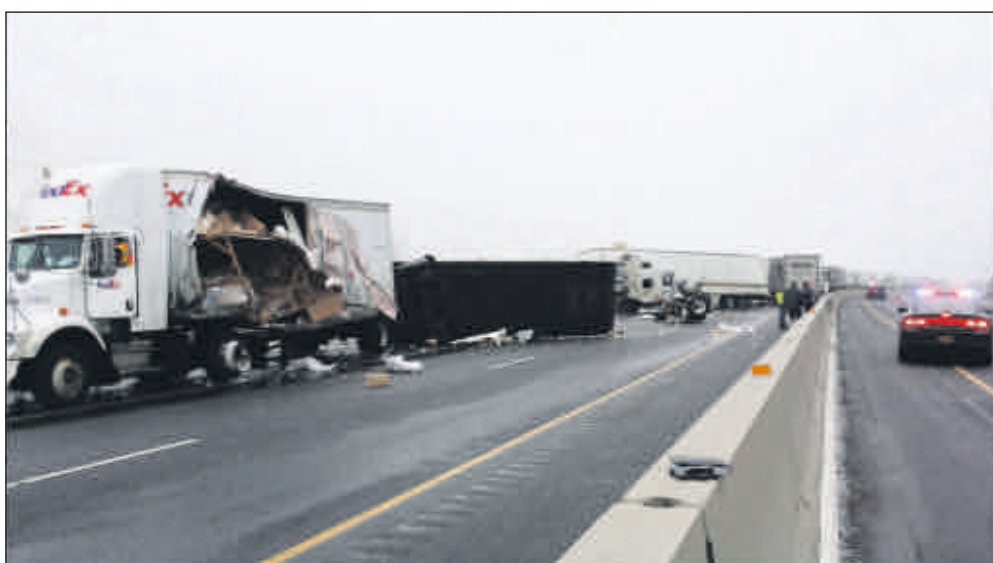


Photo contributed by Oregon State Police

**Both lanes of Interstate 84 were closed Saturday after an estimated 20 vehicles collided on the freeway near Baker City.**

on a patch of black ice near Milepost 318 just before 5 a.m. Saturday, according to an OSP press release.

The westbound lanes opened at about 3:30 p.m., but ODOT didn't report the opening of eastbound traffic until about 10:30 p.m.

Eastbound travel at Pend-

leton and La Grande has been reopened, while the site of the accident near Baker City still was restricted to one lane on Monday.

An ODOT release states the clean-up effort may last "a few days," and the department is asking travelers to watch for crews and equip-

ment in the closed lane of the freeway near the crash site, about 33 miles east of Baker City.

Two of the vehicles involved in the crash were carrying hazardous materials. After hazmat crews assessed the scene, they determined there were no leaks.

**BRIEFLY**

## Group promotes single-payer health care

LA GRANDE — A presentation on the effect of implementing a single-payer health care system on small businesses in Oregon is planned in La Grande.

Oregon Rural Action Health Care for All Oregon action team is hosting the event Wednesday at 7 a.m. at the Cook Memorial Library, 2006 Fourth St., La Grande.

Lee Mercer, an executive team member of Main Street Alliance of Oregon, will talk about why some small business owners want a publicly-funded single-payer health care program.

For more information, contact Jim Kreider at 541-975-2411 or healthcare@oregonrural.org or visit www.hcao.org.

## M-F chamber seeks banquet sponsors

MILTON-FREEWATER — With the Milton-Freewater annual awards banquet only a month away, organizers still have sponsorships available.

Table sponsorships for the Feb. 19 event are \$35 plus decorations.

For more information, contact Cheryl York at mfmdfrog@mfchamber.com, 541-938-5563 or visit www.mfchamber.com.

## Tot Time offers twice the fun

PENDLETON — Colorful play things and silly music are included as Tot Time offers twice the fun during the week.

Offered through Pendleton Parks & Recreation Mondays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. at the Pendleton Recreation Center, 501 S.W. Dorion Ave. The activity time is for children not yet in school. The cost is \$1 per participating child. Also available are a bouncy house, trampoline and tumbling mats.

For more information, go to www.pendletonparksandrec.com or call 541-276-8100.

## Pumpkin seeds could be future cash crop

ONTARIO (AP) — Eastern Oregon and western Idaho already produce many of the nation's decorative pumpkins.

Now an economic development official is exploring whether the area could support production of pumpkin seeds for healthy snack foods.

Kit Kamo of the Snake River Economic Development Alliance tells *The Argus Observer* that at least one food company is seeking a U.S. producer of pumpkin seeds. She says American retailers prefer to buy domestic foods, but most pumpkin seeds in snack foods come from China.

Kamo says she met with officials from Kathie's Kitchen, which produces the SuperSeedz brand of seasoned or flavored pumpkin seeds.

Kamo says there are local farmers interested in growing the seeds, and a researcher from Oregon State University is developing a cost estimate for producing and handling them.

**PENDLETON**

# DA charges white supremacist gang members

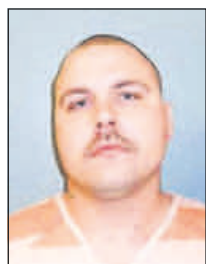
By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

The man Pendleton police claim is the founder of a white supremacist gang pleaded not guilty last week to weapons charges.

The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office charged Jeremiah Jerome Mauer, 30, of Pendleton, with four counts of felon in possession of a firearm and fifth count of unlawful possession of a firearm. Court records show Mauer gave not guilty pleas to all charges Friday in Pendleton, and Circuit Court Judge Christopher Brauer set Mauer's bail at \$40,500.

District Attorney Dan Primus reported Mauer could face more charges.

Pendleton police on Jan. 10 arrested Mauer the day after a female reported someone shot her car north of Pendleton. The Umatilla County Sheriff's



Mauer



Tinnell

Office is investigating the incident, but Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts said her information helped detectives capture Mauer, the founder of the United Aryan Empire.

Mauer's first court appearance was Jan. 12 in Pendleton via video from the Umatilla County Jail. Mauer acted up, according to court records, and Brauer found him in contempt for disruptive and unruly behavior. The judge then slammed Mauer with 10 days in jail.

Gregory Charles Tinnell, 43, of Pendleton, also remains in the county lockup. Police arrested him Jan. 13. Roberts reported Tinnell is associated with or a member of Mauer's gang. The district attorney's office charged Tinnell with unlawful use of a weapon against another, unlawful discharge of a weapon and attempted assault for firing bullets — all felonies — for firing a gun into a Pendleton residence the night of Nov. 23, 2014. No one was injured, but court records show there were two victims of the crimes.

Steven Ray Grangood, 32, of Pendleton, is another gang member, according to Roberts, and he remains out of jail but faces a charge of unlawful possession of a firearm. His next court hearing is Feb. 15 in Pendleton before Brauer.

Roberts also said the investigation into the Aryan gang is on-going and more arrests could come.

**HEPPNER**

# Morrow Co. crowns Macy Gibbs as 2015 queen

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

The kindness of a pair of Morrow County Fair & Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo court members nearly a decade ago left a lasting impression on Macy Gibbs.

Showing sheep with 4-H, Gibbs always looked forward to the fair each year. However, in 2005 she got really sick. A visit by Jessica Wainwright-Schiller, the 2005 queen, and princess Heather (Yocom) Tritt raised the spirits of the youngster.

"I had to go home ... I couldn't show lambs and was really disappointed," Gibbs recalled. "The queen and princess came over and signed a poster and a special note and sent me flowers. They were really nice and encouraging."

Over the years, that kind gesture has stuck with Gibbs, who is now 18. As she's embarking on her own journey



Gibbs

as the 2015 fair and rodeo queen, Gibbs looks forward to opportunities to make an impression on the lives of girls who may want to serve as court royalty in the future.

The coronation of Gibbs was held Thursday during the Town & Country Community Awards at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. Kristin Powell, the 2013 queen, crowned Gibbs during the program.

Born in Pendleton and

"I want people to see why it's important to keep agriculture alive."

— Macy Gibbs, 2015 Morrow County fair and rodeo queen

raised in Heppner, Gibbs is the daughter of Jay and Sue Gibbs. She has two brothers, Garrett, who attends Eastern Oregon University, and Keegan, an eighth grader in Heppner.

A Heppner High School senior, Gibbs has been active with 4-H, FFA and FBLA. Also, she has participated in basketball, cheer leading and golf.

Gibbs and Rookie, her 9-year-old quarter horse, are gearing up for an active parade and rodeo season. Gibbs is especially looking forward to meeting other royalty

court members and traveling around Oregon

"I really enjoy the environment of rodeos, so it will be a lot of fun," she said.

Another bonus during her reign as queen, Gibbs said, is being able to hang around with her mother. In addition to acting as the court chaperone, Sue Gibbs competes in barrel racing.

"It will be a cool bonding time for us," the queen said.

After high school, Gibbs plans to attend Oregon State University, where she will pursue a degree in agricultural business management. She hopes to eventually work in the field marketing agricultural related items.

"I want people to see why it's important to keep agriculture alive," Gibbs said. "It makes the world run."

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

**PENDLETON**

# Pioneer Park improvements on the city council agenda

East Oregonian

More than two years after an arson destroyed Pioneer Park's playground, the Pendleton City Council will consider putting leftover insurance money toward further improvements at a meeting Tuesday.

A report from Donnie Cook, parks superintendent, states the Pioneer Park Steering Committee is requesting the city approve the installation of a picnic shelter on the west side of the park, additional seating and landscaping for the park path and the replacement and relocation of a water fountain compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The excavation needed for the project would take place at the site of the historic Pioneer Cemetery.

To get the required approval of the state Historic Preservation Office, the

committee commissioned a ground penetrating radar study, which revealed no objects related to the cemetery under the park.

As a part of the office's approval, the committee will pay an archaeologist \$600 a day to be on site during the excavation. If an object is found during the excavation, work will be forced to halt until the archaeologist can assess the object.

Using money obtained from the final payment from the park's insurance company, the committee has already paid for the radar study and would be on the hook for retaining an archaeologist. The cost of labor and equipment will be handled by the city's Park and Recreation Department at an estimated cost of \$13,000.

Cook wrote in his report that the city's financial commitment for the two to three day project could be

reduced depending on the use of volunteer labor.

The committee made use of volunteer labor when the park's playground needed to be rebuilt following an intentionally lit fire in October 2012.

Even after the play-

ground was rebuilt, the steering committee has continued to fund improvements for the park.

Cook's report states additions like security cameras, safety mats and ADA signs has already been installed, with more on the way.

## SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

Back to the 40's

**When:** Friday, February 27th • 6-9 pm  
**Where:** Hamley's Slickfork Saloon  
**What:** • no-host bar • hors d'oeuvres  
 • silent auction • music by the PHS Jazz Band  
 • dressing up optional but encouraged  
**Cost:** \$40 pre-registration • \$50 at-the-door  
**Tickets:** Armchair Books & Heritage Station Museum  
 (541) 276-0012  
 Presented by:

## SKIN CANCER SCREENING

January 23rd • 1:00 -4:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd Medical Center • Conference Room #2  
Hermiston, OR

“Melanoma & Funny Moles”

Center for Excellence in Dermatology is proud to announce we will be hosting a FREE skin cancer screening. Dr. Robert Hopp, Board Certified Dermatologist, will be giving a presentation and will follow up with skin exams! Please call 509-735-1100 to reserve your appointment time!

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