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EAST OREGONIAN

JULY 18-19, 2015

139th Year, No. 197

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

Meth a constant in drug scene

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Methamphetamine remains a constant threat in the local illicit drug scene, while heroin is becoming a bigger part of the drug picture. But Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said there is no shortage of diversity among illicit drugs.

Roberts is the board chairman of the Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team and serves on the

executive board of the Oregon High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program. Oregon HIDTA released its latest report in June, which shows meth use and trafficking increased in Oregon, and most of that is coming from Mexican drug cartels. Those drug trafficking organizations are also making heroin more available locally.

"We're probably the last region in the state to really see it," Roberts said.

Heroin tends to be more concentrated in the west side of Umatilla County, and cocaine at the north end and in the Walla Walla Valley. Meth, he said, stays "pretty consistent" throughout.

BENT has stayed busy, Roberts said, and just a few weeks ago made four raids. More are in the works, and those likely will be low-key takedowns. The team has not publicized recent busts in large part because giving out the information

would jeopardize other cases that involve state and federal agencies.

"We've got to be very guarded with that information," Roberts said. "The downside is the public doesn't necessarily know."

Since 2014, Oregon HIDTA participating agencies have identified 105 drug trafficking organizations, including 10 more in the first five months of this

See DRUGS/8A

East Oregonian wins general excellence award

By award-winning East Oregonian staff

The *East Oregonian* is back on top, winning the General Excellence award Friday from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association for the fourth time in five years.

"The General Excellence award is the true team effort award for Oregon newspapers," said managing editor Daniel Wattenburger. "It factors in every piece of the process, from front page stories and photos to sports coverage to creative advertising to print reproduction. It's an honor to win the award and speaks to a staff dedicated to creating a high-quality daily newspaper."

The Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association General Excellence award is judged on three randomly selected copies of the paper from different months and days. It is based on news, editorial, photos, design, advertising and reproduction.

"Winning the General Excellence award is an honor shared by the entire *EO* staff, but most of all a tribute to the professionalism of our editors and reporters who work hard to cover Umatilla and Morrow counties," said publisher Kathryn Brown.

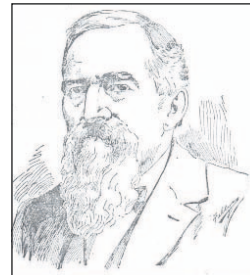
The *East Oregonian* took home numerous other individual awards in the competition. Phil Wright won first place for best news feature story for "Brother, Killer, Mystery," which ran March 1. In addition, photographer E.J. Harris won best sports photo with "Boozier Siblings." *East Oregonian* staff won first place for best headlines, with Drew Langton, Daniel Wattenburger and Tim Trainor supplying most of the puns. The final first place award won by the newspaper was for the Round-Up Magazine, which won best special section. Patrick Mulvihill and E.J. Harris did much of the work for the magazine.

Additional awards: second place, business reporting went to George Plaven for "Pipe Dreams"; second place, lifestyle to Kathy Aney and Antonio Sierra for "Homeless stories"; second place, sports story to Kathy Aney "Lacrosse"; second place feature photo to E.J. Harris documenting a Milton-Free-water woman who lost her leg in a car accident; and second place news photo, also to E.J. Harris, for a picture of a fatal shooting by police in Athena.

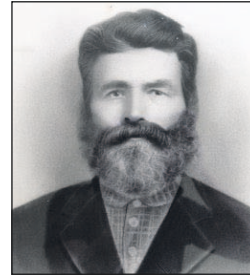
Farms in the family for 150 years



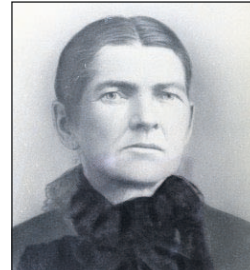
An uncut field of soft white winter wheat grows next to the barn and some old farm equipment at the original homestead of the Lieuallen Century Ranches on Thursday outside of Athena. Staff photo by E.J. Harris



J.F. Adams.



Josiah Lieuallen



Joannah Lieuallen

Generation to generation, work changes with the times

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Wheat harvest is a busy time of year for John W. Adams and his family's 150-year-old farm north of Pendleton. Schedules are tight, and he carries a cellphone in the breast pocket of his shirt to communicate with workers in the field.

Technology has come a long way from the early days of farming when his great-grandfather, John F. Adams, became the first to homestead the area in 1865.

"Basically, it's gone from mules to GPS tractors and combines, with

a lot in between," said John W., the fourth-generation owner and manager of JK Adams Ranches Inc.

The Adams ranch is one of three farms and ranches in Umatilla County celebrating their sesquicentennial, or 150th anniversary, in continuous operation by the same family. AB Lieuallen Century Ranches, of Athena, and James Monroe Hemphill Farm, of Pendleton, have also reached the sesquicentennial mark.

More photos online



Farmer John W. Adams, a fourth-generation farmer, says he will pass JK Adams Ranches Inc., outside of Adams, to his son, John H. Adams, and keep the 150-year-old farm in the family. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

See FARMS/10A



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Stretch to the sky

Yoga broke out on the grass inside the Pendleton Round-Up arena Friday morning on the second day of the Yoga Roundup. Most of the sessions took place inside the Pendleton Convention Center. See Tuesday's *East Oregonian* for a full story on the weekend's Yoga Roundup

PENDLETON

City council to approve utility fee, consider others

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Having already affirmed its commitment to pursuing a 5-cent gas tax for the November ballot, Pendleton City Council will now try to chart a course for a successful campaign.

The council will hold a work session Tuesday to discuss a communication strategy for selling the tax and a \$5 transportation utility fee that will increase funding for the city's disintegrating road system, followed by a council meeting in which members

will consider voting for a resolution that will approve the language used for the gas tax ballot question.

A report from City Attorney Nancy Kerns to the city council states a companion ordinance with the exact details of the gas tax will be drafted and considered by the council at a future date but won't take effect unless voters approve the tax in November.

The council also overwhelmingly supported a \$5 transportation utility fee, which doesn't require a ballot

See COUNCIL/10A



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