



E MUD WARS OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Sophomore Ellie Glover falls on her back into the mud pit while battling with team Luau against the Hippiies on Wednesday during the Mud Wars in Pendleton. TOP: The junior team, Piggies in the Mud, struggle in the pit.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

HEPPNER

Morrow County to drop judge position

Will take effect in 2017

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Big changes are coming to Morrow County government.

Commissioners voted Sept. 16 to effectively eliminate the county judge position that acts as county administrator and presides over juvenile court.

Instead, juvenile cases will be absorbed into circuit court and the county will hire a full-time administrator who reports to three part-time commissioners. Currently, county government operates as two part-time commissioners and one full-time judge.

The county began recruiting a new administrator in June, and interviewed three finalists for the job Oct. 12-13. Human Resources Director Karen Wolfe said they hope to make a hire soon.

See JUDGE/8A



Freshman Riley Sorensen looks back toward the crowd covered in mud while taking part in the Mud Wars on Wednesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

More photos online

Muddy tug fest celebrates 20 years

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Wednesday night's Mud Wars wasn't exactly good, clean fun.

It was good and it was fun, but it definitely wasn't clean. Mud oozed and splattered. The adrenaline-charged girls who faced off for the annual slimy tug fest at the Happy Canyon arena began the night with pristine fashionable costumes that soon turned a uniform shade of chocolate brown.

Nineteen Pendleton High School teams took turns plunging into the 10-inch-deep mud pit for epic battles of tug-o-war. Many of the girls had used duct tape to ensure their shoes and socks would remain on their feet.

To begin the evening, the Nerds, looking appropriately geeky, and Pajama Jam, dressed for a slumber party, stepped into the muck. The girls bent frozen

See MUD/8A

Obama takes aim at Rx drug abuse

By KATHLEEN HENNESSEY
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Traveling to a region in the throes of a drug abuse crisis, President Barack Obama promised Wednesday to use his bully pulpit and federal programs to try to combat the "epidemic" of heroin use and prescription painkiller abuse that is upending communities across the country.

"This crisis is taking lives; it's destroying families and shattering communities all across the country," Obama said at a panel discussion on opioid drug abuse. "That's the thing about substance abuse; it doesn't discriminate. It touches everybody."

On stage at a crowded community center, Obama heard from advocates, health care workers, law enforcement officials and policy makers about the depth of a problem that has long

See DRUGS/8A

Supporters can't agree on low-carbon measures

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

On its face, Oregon's low-carbon fuel standard has a simple promise: It will reduce carbon emissions from transportation fuel used in the state by 10 percent over a decade, starting in 2016.

As it turns out, even supporters of the underlying law disagree over how the state should calculate that reduction. The standard is supposed to account for the total amount of carbon generated by gas, ethanol, electricity and other fuels across their life cycles, from the field or power plant to the tailpipe.

Fuel importers and producers will likely meet the standards through a combination of cleaner biofuels blended into gas and diesel, as well as carbon reduction credits the state will issue to owners of electric charging stations and other alternative fuel infrastructure.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality proposed rules last month that would follow California's lead to include the impact of new demand for biofuels crops such as corn and soybeans. This factor is known as the indirect land-use change and as recently

See FUEL/8A

Travel writers Let 'er Buck

Chinese bloggers explore Oregon's seven wonders

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Pat Beard raised his coffee cup Tuesday morning to the two men across his table at the Pendleton Coffee Bean.

"Let 'er Buck," toasted Beard, event recruiter for Travel Pendleton.

The two Chinese travel bloggers, Lintao Li and Anzhen Teng, didn't speak English, but they were familiar with the catchphrase. They had just visited the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame. They had ogled photos of cowboys riding broncs and watched rodeo action on a video. Around Li's neck hung a long green-and-yellow scarf he'd received from the visit, emblazoned with the words "Let 'er Buck" and

the rodeo's iconic bucking bronc.

During the coffee break, the pair of travel writers, aided by translator Vivian Liang, asked Beard to define the phrase. Beard, a rodeo cowboy wearing a big cowboy hat, obliged.

"When you are about to do something daring or reckless or fun, you say 'Let 'er Buck,'" Beard told them. "It's the slogan of the Pendleton Round-Up."

He grinned at them and gave them a lesson in pronunciation. When they parted, there were let 'er bucks all-around.

The men were on their second day of a tour of the Seven Wonders of Oregon — Crater Lake, Painted Hills, Smith Rock, the Wallows, Mount Hood, the Columbia River Gorge and the Oregon coast — and places in between. The night before, after visiting Boardman's Sage Center, they dined at the Hamley

See TRAVEL/8A



Lintao Li and Anzhen Teng, of China, are travel bloggers who are on a tour of the Seven Wonders of Oregon. They pose Tuesday outside the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute after a tour.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney



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