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# EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015

140th Year, No. 15

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## PENDLETON



Browning

## Last of Aryan gang pleads

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

The last central member of a white supremacist gang that operated in Pendleton last year has taken a plea deal.

Warren Gerald Browning, 36, traveled Wednesday morning from the Umatilla County Jail to Circuit Court in Pendleton where he pleaded guilty to racketeering, attempted assault and felon in possession of a firearm.

Court records also show the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office in exchange for the pleas dismissed other gun charges, an assault count and two charges of conspiracy to commit murder.

The plea bargain came less than two weeks before the start of Browning's trial for his involvement in crimes as a core figure in the United Aryan Empire, the brainchild of Jeremiah Mauer, 31, also of Pendleton. Police and prosecutors held the gang responsible for firearms violations, assaults and murder plots in and around Pendleton. Police in January took down the gang in a series of busts.

Mauer cut a deal in July and pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit murder and two counts of second-degree assault. That earned him a 13-year prison sentence. Other members of the small gang and people associated with it also made deals in the wake of arrests and heavy charges.

Circuit Judge Christopher Brauer set Browning's sentencing for Nov. 20.

Contact Phil Wright at [pwright@eastoregonian.com](mailto:pwright@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0833.

## Umatilla Co. gives \$600K to EOTEC

Tables decision to help Pendleton drone range

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Umatilla County Board of Commissioners voted 2-0 Wednesday to give \$600,000 to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

The county's contribution to the event center matches what the city of Hermiston gave last week to fill in the project's \$2.2 million budget hole.

The remaining \$1 million is to come from a hotel tax increase.

The county board, though, held off giving \$150,000 to help with a grant match for a radar system for Pendleton's drone aircraft range.

The move to fund EOTEC came after what was to be a construction update about the future home of the Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo. The entirety of

that update came from Ed Brookshier, the event center's board chairman, who said a 50,000-square-foot hall would be complete in March 2016.

After that, he, Hermiston attorney George Anderson, former county commissioner Dennis Doherty and fair board member Don Miller spent the better part of an hour pitching why the county should give

### More inside

Pendleton council approves match for \$1.5M airport radar Page 3A

the \$600,000.

"All this is money we need now," Brookshier said, so the center could be ready in 2017 for the fair and rodeo. Miller said if the project does not move forward soon, there is no place to hold the fair after 2016. Doherty, a former member of the EOTEC board, told

See EOTEC/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Warehouse assistant Tom Little puts together a food order for the Stanfield food bank Wednesday at the CAPECO warehouse in Pendleton.

## Food banks prepare for holiday rush

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

Things are about to get very busy at food banks across the country.

The flurry of activity will come as no surprise to seasoned employees and volunteers. It happens every year as the holidays roll around and suddenly it seems like every school, church and business is sponsoring a food drive.

"Around the holidays I'd say we get about 80 percent more donations," CAPECO Food Programs Manager Diana Quezada said.

On Wednesday Quezada was preparing for the boost in donations with a growing checklist pinned to the wall of her office at the CAPECO warehouse in Pendleton.

### Most wanted food list

Donating to a food drive? Consider items on CAPECO's "Most Wanted" foods list:

- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Tuna and other canned meat
- Peanut butter
- Beans
- Pasta
- Boxed, canned meals like chili
- Boxed milk
- 100 percent fruit juice
- Unsaturated cooking oil

Some food pantries like the Agape House in Hermiston stockpile nonperishable food to get them through the lean donation times in

See CAPECO/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

CAPECO distributes nearly 1.2 million pounds of food locally every year.



AP Photo/Chad Garland, File

In this May 2014 photo, Nathalie Marquez holds a sign modeled after an Oregon driver's license during a rally at the Capitol in Salem

## Driver card lawsuit would reinstate law

By GOSIA WOZNIACKA  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — An Oregon nonprofit filed a lawsuit Wednesday seeking to reinstate a state law that would have allowed people to get driver's cards if they can't prove they are in the U.S. legally.

The law was approved by the Legislature in 2013 then overturned by voters the following year in a referendum.

In its lawsuit, the Oregon Law Center says it's illegal for Oregon to enforce Measure 88 because it was motivated by a desire to regulate immigration laws and that's the job of the

federal government.

The group says the measure took driving privileges away from immigrants who lack legal status for reasons that have "no rational relationship to traffic safety or any other state interest that is legitimate."

The lawsuit also says the measure was driven by animosity and the desire to punish or to avoid rewarding a politically unpopular minority, and targets a group of people for unequal treatment based on their Mexican and Central American national origin.

As a result, it is discrimi-

See LAWSUIT/8A



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