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EAST OREGONIAN

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PENDLETON



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Warren Gerald Browning looks over his shoulder at his family before his sentencing Friday at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton.

Core member of Aryan gang goes to prison

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Warren Gerald Browning of Pendleton choked back tears Friday as he admitted his actions as a white supremacist gang member hurt his family and community. Those actions will cost him just shy of eight years in state prison, but he said he could have lost much more.

Browning, 36, faced sentencing in Umatilla County Circuit Court, Pendleton, after pleading guilty earlier this month to racketeering, second-degree attempted assault and felon in possession of a firearm. In exchange for the pleas, the state dismissed other charges, including conspiracy to murder.

Circuit Judge Christopher Brauer noted the district attorney's office and Browning and his defense lawyer, Robert Klahn of Pendleton, held "intense negotiations" to reach the plea deal not long before the case would have went to trial.

Browning is the last core member of the United Aryan

See BROWNING/14A

"I am sorry for the things I did. ... I made some mistakes."
— Warren Browning

STANFIELD

Two cops under investigation

Chief and lieutenant placed on administrative leave after accusations

By SEAN HART and JADE McDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Stanfield Police Department is down to one officer after both the chief and lieutenant were placed on administrative leave Thursday while they are being investigated by the Oregon

Department of Justice.

The four-person department was already missing one officer after the Oct. 26 termination of Ryan McBride, who filed notice Nov. 17 of his intent to sue the department and the city regarding his termination.

City Manager Blair Larsen said McBride was fired after an inves-

tigation into an August incident in which McBride was involved, but he would not comment further.

Larsen said he placed Chief Bryon Zumwalt and Lt. Monty Toombs on paid administrative leave Thursday afternoon after speaking to Oregon Department

See STANFIELD/14A



Zumwalt



Toombs

PENDLETON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Sunridge Middle School eighth-graders Collin Taber and Sami Spriet, top left, talk with a group of kindergartners at the Pendleton Early Learning Center during the first Friendsgiving Feast on Friday in Pendleton.

The first Friendsgiving



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Kindergartner Dylan Star jumps up to chase Sunridge Middle School eighth-grader Brooklynn Been while playing duck, duck, goose on Friday at the Pendleton Early Learning Center.

District's kindergartners share snacktime feast

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The main attraction of Pendleton Early Learning Center's Friendsgiving Feast is the kids table.

In its first year of existence, the converted Hawthorne school threw the inaugural feast, a Thanksgiving-themed meal for the school's 240 kindergartners.

The district's kindergarten class filed into the cafeteria Friday afternoon, sporting self-made hats depicting turkeys in various states, from the colorful plumage of a live turkey to the dark brown hues of

cooked drumsticks.

After reciting several Thanksgiving-themed poems, the kindergartners were then allowed to enjoy the fruits of their labor — fruit salad, blueberry muffins, homemade butter and pumpkin pudding.

Child development specialist Anne Sokoloski helped coordinate the event with the rest of the early learning center staff.

Sokoloski said kindergarten teachers have been throwing pre-Thanksgiving feasts for their students for years, but the tradition needed to be modified when the district transitioned this year to full-day kindergarten.

Half-day kindergarten allowed

See FEAST/14A

Group clears first step for abortion funding ballot measure

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — An initiative to ban state funding of abortions has passed the first hurdle toward a place on the 2016 ballot.

Chief sponsor Jeff Jimerson of Corvallis announced Friday that his group, Oregon Life United, has gathered the 1,000 signatures needed to obtain a ballot title for the initiative.

The group had garnered about 1,500 signatures as of early Friday. This marks the third time

Jimerson has sought to send the initiative to voters. He failed to secure enough signatures in 2012 and 2014.

"Each time we are getting closer and closer," said Alicia Marks, Oregon Life United spokeswoman. "We really do think we have a strong enough volunteer base this time to get it on the ballot for 2016."

Oregon Life United must obtain 117,578 valid signatures to place the initiative on the ballot.

About 40 percent of the nearly 5,000 abortions performed between January and October were paid for

with state funding, according to Oregon Health Authority.

The state paid about \$1.8 million for a total of 3,556 abortions in 2013-14, the most recent figures available Friday. Each procedure cost about \$500.

Oregon Right to Life supports the initiative but has made no financial commitment to the effort, said spokeswoman Liberty Pike.

The organization has chosen to spend its resources on supporting pro-life candidates in the upcoming election and lobbying lawmakers, Pike said.

"What we have found is the system is set up so that it costs hundreds of thousands of dollars to get a measure on the ballot," she said. "We have decided to use our resources in areas where we think we can get the best return on our investment."

A Planned Parenthood spokeswoman did not immediately have a comment on how it plans to respond to the initiative effort.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.



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