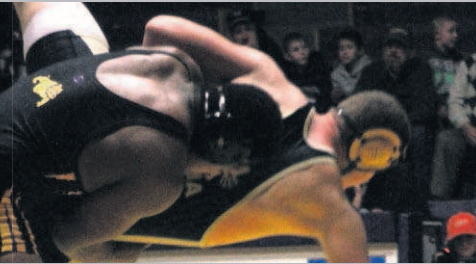


**CHRISTMAS EXPRESS READY TO ROLL** REGION/3A



**BULLDOGS CLUB KAVEMEN** WRESTLING/1B



**Kick in the pants to Abeinsa** OPINION/4A

# EAST OREGONIAN

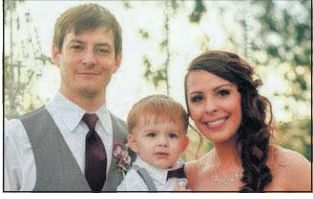
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2015

140th Year, No. 46

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## Your Weekend



- Spaghetti fundraiser for GrosJacques family
- Folk Night at Pendleton Center for the Arts
- Paul Gorham Memorial Scholarship Breakfast

For times and places see **Coming Events, 5A**

### Catch a movie



Film Frame/Lucasfilm via AP

The highly-anticipated sequel finally arrives. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens"

For showtime, Page 5A  
For review, **Weekend EO**

### Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
46/28	37/28	42/36

### Watch a game



Enterprise vs. Pilot Rock  
Friday, 7:30 p.m.  
at Pilot Rock

## Cannabis research task force begins work

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A new cannabis research task force began work Monday to try to clear the way for more research in Oregon on the medical benefits of cannabis.

Created by legislation earlier this year, the task force is laying the groundwork for a state-backed medical marijuana research program that might include participation by state universities and the private sector and establishment of a state garden.

"Hopefully, at the end, we can put some kind of program

See **CANNABIS/10A**

## PENDLETON

# Round-Up revels in remarkable year

By **KATHY ANEY**  
East Oregonian

After a year like 2015, who could blame Pendleton Round-Up aficionados for indulging in a little reminiscing and braggadocio?

About 175 of them gathered on Thursday at the Round-Up Grounds to replay some of the sweeter moments of the year and gaze upon the spoils of victory.

The rodeo got plenty of respect this year in the form of two major awards. This month, the Round-Up was named the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association's Large Outdoor Rodeo of the Year. The honor came on the heels of receiving the Remuda Award for having professional rodeo's most consistent pen of bucking stock.

Round-Up's close sibling, Happy

See **ROUND-UP/8A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Happy Canyon President Jason Hill and Round-Up President Bill Levy cut cakes during a party celebrating the awards the Pendleton Round-Up won this year and the 100th anniversary of the Happy Canyon Night Show on Thursday in Pendleton.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

William Wehrli, left, and Matthew Titus face off with light sabers dresses as Star Wars characters in the lobby of the Wildhorse Cineplex before the premiere of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" on Thursday in Mission.

# FORCE AWAKENS FANS

## Star Wars fanatics flock to theaters for midnight premiere

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
East Oregonian

Thursday marked an unofficial addition to the 2015 holiday season.

The Pendleton faithful convened at the Wildhorse Resort and Casino Cineplex for the premiere showing of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

Large crowds lined the cineplex's main hall for the long anticipated seventh installment of the "Star Wars" franchise, covering all ages and demographics.

Caitlin Ball was surprised to find herself the first person in line when she arrived at the theater at 1:15 p.m.

A cineplex employee, Ball was issued the third ticket when the pre-tickets were made available more than a month ago.

For Ball, waiting in line for blockbuster movies is a tradition all its own.

In addition to waiting in line to see the "Harry Potter" and "Twilight" franchises, Ball remembers waiting

See **STAR WARS/10A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Carrie Bohnenkamp, from left, Zach Batterton, Scott Smith and Caitlin Ball play the Star Wars: Episode I Monopoly game while waiting in line for the premiere of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

## Umatilla family looking to start over after house fire

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
East Oregonian

A week after their home burned down in Umatilla, Courtney Sullivan and her three children are still trying to adjust to the reality of everything they lost.

The furniture. The clothes. The television. The Christmas presents. The new washer and dryer.

All of that pales in comparison to the items that no amount of donations will ever replace.

"I think the most I'll miss is my son's baby blanket and all the kids' baby stuff and the pictures," Courtney said.

The single mom and her three children — Josslynne, 6; Braden,

4; and Vincent, 1 — are living with her mother Christina Sullivan for the moment but are hoping to find a place to rent soon and start rebuilding their life.

Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District fire marshal Steve Potts said the cause of the mobile home fire is undetermined. Courtney said she has no idea how it started. All she knows is that at about 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 10 Josslynne and Braden came running down the hallway yelling "Mommy! Mommy! Fire!"

She ran out into the living room, she said, to see flames devouring the wall and the couch, just feet from where Vincent was sleeping in his

See **FIRE/10A**



Contributed photo by Rob Tooley

Firefighters battle the blaze that burned down Courtney Sullivan's home on Wildwood Lane in Umatilla on Dec. 10.

