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A girl waves during Saturday's Dress-Up Parade in downtown Pendleton. For more photos and story see Page 7A.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney



72/44

The weather is perfect for bucking. For a Round-Up week forecast, see Page 2A.

RODEO WEEK KICKS OFF WITH BULLS SPORTS/1B

# EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

140th Year, No. 237

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## Sundown's final ride



Courtesy of Wayne Low

Jackson Sundown waves to the crowd after winning the bucking competition at the Pendleton Round-Up in 1916.

## Irrigon man dies in Boardman shooting

East Oregonian

One man died Sunday night in a shooting in Boardman. Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson in a written statement said the Morrow and Umatilla counties major crime team is seeking "a juvenile person of interest in the case."

Police responded around 9 p.m. to Wilson Road Mobile Home Park, 600 Wilson Road, Boardman, on a report of a male with gunshot wound. Officers found Evencio Salas Birrueta, 28, of Irrigon, was the victim, and immediately began lifesaving measures. The efforts were unsuccessful, according to Nelson, and Birrueta died at the scene.

Nelson also reported the major crime team is using witness interviews and crime scene analysis to find a juvenile person of interest. According to the statement, "Law enforcement currently does not believe there is a danger to the public."

Nelson on Monday afternoon said police were working on two search warrants and still questioning people to find the juvenile. He also urged anyone with information concerning this case to contact the Boardman Police Department at 541-481-6071.

## HERMISTON

### Rodeo arena bid doesn't include lighting, restrooms

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

The Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center board awarded a contract for construction of the project's rodeo arena Monday, but it doesn't include restrooms or arena lighting.

Hendon Construction of Umatilla was the sole bidder at \$3.9 million. Board chair Byron Smith said the \$3.9 million meets the budget for the project but does not leave any extra money to add restrooms or lighting, which the board had separated out from the base bid after a first round of bidding produced bids well over \$4 million and was rejected.

"My encouragement to the contractor would be to look for some value engineering opportunities," he said.

Smith said at a previous meeting that if the money couldn't be found for arena lighting, a "worst-case scenario" would be that the Farm-City Pro Rodeo becomes a daytime event in 2017. However, he clarified after Monday's meeting that there were other options also being explored, including leasing lights or bringing over lights from the current rodeo arena as an interim measure until more money could be raised.

See EOTEC/10A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A bronze statue of Jackson Sundown graces Main Street in Pendleton as a testament to his accomplishments as a cowboy.

## Bronc rider finally earned Round-Up title at age 53 in his last appearance

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

With one of the flashiest monikers in rodeo history, Jackson Sundown lived up to his name.

One hundred years ago, at age 53 and at twice the age of any other contestant, Sundown won the bucking horse contest at the Pendleton Round-Up. The achievement etched his name into history as the first American Indian to win an event since the rodeo originated in 1910. The crowd loved the rider's flamboyant style and his long black braids tied in front.

The Nez Perce bronc rider instantly became a star in Indian Country. Roberta Conner, director of the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, said Sundown's name is still idolized along with Billy Mills, Jim Thorpe, Notah Begay and other native sports heroes.

"I grew up around rodeo and I don't

remember not knowing Sundown's name," Conner said "This man was an enormous inspiration."

Back then, saddle bronc riders needed extra grit and a full tank of self-confidence.

"In those days, there was no time limit," said Randy Thomas, a director on the Round-Up Association Board. "So you rode your horse until either the rider or the horse was exhausted or they both became one."

Sundown possessed an uncanny flair for staying aboard a spinning, twisting bronc by making his body morph into the perfect counterweight.

"He had fortitude and will and athletic ability," Conner said. "He played to his strengths and his strength was horses. His power was horses."

Filmmaker Cedric Wildbill and his wife



### More inside

For a full listing of Round-Up week events see Page 6A

Tania produced "American Cowboys," which chronicles the lives of Sundown and other cowboys in the American West. In researching the documentary, Wildbill interviewed tribal elders who had known Sundown and watched grainy footage of Sundown's rides again and again.

"He had a unique style," Wildbill said. "He would twist the bronc rein with his free hand in the air above his head."

The beginning of Sundown's story rivals the triumph of his later years. As a young boy in Oregon and Idaho, he learned the ways of the Appaloosa horses for which his Nez Perce tribe was known. He was 14 when he fled with Chief Joseph and hundreds of others to escape the

See SUNDOWN/10A

## PENDLETON Digitizing agriculture

State ag board views drone demonstration

By GEORGE PLAGEN  
East Oregonian

The Yamaha RMAX Type II drone growled like a motorcycle just before takeoff Monday at the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center.

Members of the Oregon Board of Agriculture watched from a safe distance as the unmanned helicopter hovered over a small plot of wheat stubble, carrying water to spray for imaginary weeds. Gusty winds cut the demonstration short after a few minutes, but it was enough to prove how

See DRONE/10A



Staff photo by George Plagen

Steve Lawn, drone pilot and system engineer with Digital Harvest, prepares the Yamaha RMAX Type II for a demonstration flight Monday.

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