



Brad Goodrich turns in a time of 9.4 seconds to win the calf roping round Thursday at the Pendleton Round-Up. For more on rodeo events see **Sports 1B**.
Staff photo by Kathy Aney

EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

140th Year, No. 240 WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

Your Weekend Galleries



A Round-Up photo gallery is on display at the Pendleton Center for the Arts



Crow's Shadow pop-up gallery is on display at the old Main Street bank



EO Scenes perform Friday at the Center for the Arts



James Apollo performs Saturday at Great Pacific

Round-Up Calendar, 6A
Coming Events, 5A

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
85/58	76/60	73/46



Visit Garner's Sporting Goods in Pendleton for one hat

Garner's Sporting Goods



Cowboys and cowgirls for a day

Youngsters shine during annual Children's Rodeo

By **WILL DENNER**
East Oregonian

Rocking back and forth on a hand-controlled bull, Isaac Burden of Echo smiled and waved to the Pendleton Round-Up crowd.

And the crowd went wild, chanting, "Isaac! Isaac! Isaac!"

About 160 of his kindergarten through fifth grade classmates made the trip from Echo to cheer him on during Thursday morning's Children's Rodeo.

When his eight seconds were up, Burden asked: "Can I go again?"

The helpers obliged.

For a full hour on Thursday morning before the second day of the Pendleton Round-Up, 50 children experienced the jubilation that comes with being a real-life cowboy or cowgirl.

Children aged 5-12, with varying special needs, traveled from across northeastern Oregon to participate in the 32nd annual rodeo. Events included bull riding, steer roping, barrel racing on stick horses and a new addition to this year's rodeo — Frank Rendon's "Legendary Longhorns" from Sweet Home, where the kids sat atop Shot Gun and Show Gun and got their picture taken.

As participants made their way out

See **CHILDREN/12A**



Before the Children's Rodeo Madelein Alonso-Trujillo from Sam Boardman school gets fitted with a cowboy hat.
Photo by Joe Tierney

Northern invasion

Canadian cowboys becoming a force in PRCA

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

In one of the most American sports, a Canadian could conceivably ride away with a trophy at one of its premiere events.

An increasing number of rodeo cowboys from the Great White North are climbing the national leaderboards and the Pendleton Round-Up features plenty of Canadian competitors.

Across the Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association's 10 events, nine Canadians are ranked in the Top 15 — the cutoff to make the National Finals Rodeo. If they all keep their positions, it would be the most Canadians in the NFR since 1997.

Canadian cowboys tend to excel in the bronc riding events, with 156 Canadian qualifications in saddle bronc and 56 in bareback since the NFR started in 1959.

While they continue to do well in those events, their success is starting to expand into team roping, where two headers and a heeler are in the Top 15. The previous — and only — Canadian team roper to make it to the NFR was in 2007.

A handful of Canadians have had solid Round-Up weeks so far.

Clay Elliott of Nanton, Alberta, ranked ninth in the world in saddle bronc, tied for third with 82 points in Wednesday's competition.

Unranked Alwin

See **RODEO/12A**



Layton Green of Meeting Creek, AB, Canada, rides Robin Hood for 79.5 points in saddle bronc riding Thursday at the Pendleton Round-Up.
Staff photo by E.J. Harris

No easy fix for PERS debt

Pension bond among proposed strategies

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

As Oregonians talk budgets and the economy, the Public Employees Retirement System has become the \$22 billion elephant in the room with no easy answer in sight.

The system currently has about 71 cents in assets for every dollar it owes, creating a \$21.8 billion debt for the state. Schools, cities and other public employers are already struggling to pay their share, and the latest report from the system's actuary shows those employers will be asked to find an extra \$885 million in their budgets next biennium — a 44 percent increase from the \$2 billion they're currently paying.

There are a few solutions proposed that will help chip away at the numbers, but no magic get-out-of-debt-free card. As a result, Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner) is looking into what it would take for the state to refinance with a pension obligation bond that would not erase the debt, but would provide certainty for employers as they budget each year.

"The state of Oregon is going to pay this bill," Smith told the *East Oregonian's* editorial board Wednesday. "We're not going to declare

See **PERS/7A**

Oracle settles Cover Oregon lawsuit for \$100M

Deal ends suit over failed health exchange website

By **NICK BUDNICK** and **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

The state of Oregon and Oracle, the vendor on the \$300 million Cover Oregon website debacle, have settled their wide-ranging legal dispute for more than \$100 million in goods, services and cash.

Oracle will supply funds, software and services to the state to settle a case in which Oregon had accused the Redwood City, Calif., software giant of fraud and racketeering on the state's one-stop-shopping health insurance website project that never worked as planned.

The state had been asking for roughly \$6 billion.

"Today's settlement agreement ends years of turmoil and taxpayer expense related to a troubled health care exchange program I dissolved in March 2015," Gov. Kate Brown said in a statement.

The agreement, announced early Thursday by Brown at OMSI, includes only \$35 million in actual cash. Of that, \$25 million will go to legal costs. The other \$10 million will go toward science, technology, engineering and math education in

public schools, to be branded as "Oracle STEM Education Grants."

The state's \$105 million valuation of the settlement also includes \$60 million in free customer service support for yet-to-be-obtained Oracle software.

State officials were expected to notify the federal government of the settlement later Thursday morning, Brown said. Brown declined to

See **ORACLE/7A**