

# EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

ROWDY ROUND-UP

## Broken teeth, bad drivers and black-out drunks

Police chief says  
crowd more aggressive  
than in recent memory;  
it's usually the locals

**More inside**

For the full public  
safety log from the  
weekend, see Page 5A.

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
*East Oregonian*

Pendleton police responded to more than 800 incidents during Round-Up week, from car crashes to bar fights. Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said he has worked 23 Round-Ups, and folks in town this year were more aggressive than years past.

"This year was — from the perspective of managing the event — one of the worst I've seen," Roberts said. "We had 849 incidents that we dealt with throughout the course of the week. We had 61 arrests — 41 misdemeanors and 20 felonies."

More than 20 arrests, he said, came from the enforcement unit — a team of police and parole/probation officers — that works the streets and bars of Pendleton to target people with warrants. Those are folks likely to cause

trouble, he said, so it makes the city safer to find and get them in jail.

"The predictable is preventable to some point," he said.

Still, police took plenty of calls for disturbances and fights, sometimes responding to the same bar multiple times in the span of an hour or so.

"We had a lot of broken teeth and bloody noses and black eyes and that kind of thing," the chief said, but no one suffered a stabbing or cracked skull, which usually happens during the week of the event.

Roberts also said Pendleton bars hiring strippers for Round-Up only added to the headaches.

Early Friday morning may have been the roughest stint of the week. Officers wait until bar traffic clears the streets, then at 4 a.m. start

See **ROUND-UP/10A**

## Refuge employees talk of damage during takeover

By **CONRAD WILSON**  
*Oregon Public Broadcasting*

The testimony of two Malheur National Wildlife Refuge employees on Monday offered firsthand accounts of how work on the refuge was affected during the 41-day takeover of the grounds.

Fish biologist Linda Beck testified that the occupation of the refuge delayed work she was doing to deal with invasive carp.

Testifying for the prosecution in the trial of seven occupiers, Beck said she and other U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service workers planned a large operation to reduce the carp population in Malheur Lake and its tributaries at the end of January 2016. But Beck, who works at the

refuge and owns a ranch in Harney County, said she could not get onto the refuge to perform the removal duties because of the takeover.

Prosecutors showed photographs of Beck's office that appeared in the media. Several photos showed Ammon Bundy, Ryan Bundy and Shawna Cox using her space. There were also several photos of people holding weapons in her office and guns leaning against the wall in her workspace. Prosecutors asked Beck whether the weapons were hers. Her response: "I'm not allowed to have guns in my office."

She also described her return to the refuge on Feb. 17 after the occupation ended: "I would describe it

See **REFUGE/10A**

## Oregon cowboy's Round-Up dream comes true



Shane Erickson of Terrebonne, Ore., poses with the *East Oregonian* All-Around trophy Saturday after winning the Pendleton Round-Up.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Erickson's epic week

By **ERIC SINGER**  
*East Oregonian*

Before he was a professional cowboy, Shane Erickson knew the prestige of the Pendleton Round-Up.

The Terrebonne resident and Washington native attended Blue Mountain Community College for one year in 1999, and after experiencing the Round-Up that year he started to dream about someday winning the rodeo.

Fifteen years after earning his pro card, Erickson's dream became a reality by winning the all-around title at the 106th Pendleton Round-Up on

"I've been wanting one of these buckles for a long time. It's one of the rodeos you always want to win."

— **Shane Erickson**, Terrebonne, Ore.

Saturday afternoon.

"I've been wanting one of these buckles for a long time," Erickson said with a big smile. "It's one of the rodeos you always want to win, and it's so tough here because of all the elements." "I will be proud wearing the buckle, I know that."

It's also the first time in four

years that someone other than Trevor Brazile won the *East Oregonian* Let'er Buck Trophy, as the legendary Texas cowboy departed the PRC after the 2015 season to help start Elite Rodeo Athletes. Erickson said while it would have been sweeter

See **ERICKSON/9A**



Alex Aguilera drinks from one of the safe drinking fountains Monday at McKay Creek Elementary School.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

**PENDLETON**

## Schools try to put lead to bed

Testing, replacement has  
cost district around \$8K

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

As elementary schools open in Pendleton, district officials will track "parts per billion" as closely as they'll follow student growth, attendance rates and other statistics.

Parts per billion is the unit of measurement schools use to gauge lead in drinking water supplies, which has been a persistent problem for schools across the state.

This problem is particularly acute at McKay Creek Elementary School in the Pendleton School District, which started its school year Monday along with Washington Elementary School, Sherwood Heights

Elementary School and the Pendleton Early Learning Center.

Despite replacing some of the front-end hardware like faucets and drinking fountain bubblers after an initial round of testing, the district announced Thursday that 7 out of 10 water sites that failed the test the first time still showed amounts of lead above the action level suggested by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Lead is a neurotoxin that's especially harmful to young children and can cause learning disabilities, behavioral problems and even death.

Following the fallout from a lack of public lead testing in Portland Public Schools, Pendleton joined other district across Oregon in commissioning lead testing for their schools.

See **LEAD/10A**

