



**BANTA BECOMES
FIRST OCCUPIER
TO TESTIFY**
STANDOFF TRIAL/2A

**BUNDLE GRANT
COULD REPLACE
PLAYGROUNDS**
PENDLETON/3A

**PENDLETON
GETS FIRST
LEAGUE WIN**
VOLLEYBALL/1B



EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

140th Year, No. 250 WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar



Visit the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce for a free charm trail starter bracelet

The Chamber means business!
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Your Weekend



- “City Girl” with live musical accompaniment
- Morrow County Harvest Festival at SAGE center
- Kayak Race Saturday in Boardman
- Heritage Luncheon Saturday in Pendleton

For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

Catch a movie



David Lee/Summit via AP
“Deepwater Horizon” tells the story of the worst environmental disaster in U.S. history.

For showtime, Page 5A
For review, Weekend EO

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
77/44	65/37	65/38

Watch a game



Weston-McEwen vs. Heppner
Friday, 7 p.m., at Heppner



Redmond vs. Pendleton
Friday, 7 p.m., at Pendleton

MILTON-FREEWATER

Officer charged with assault, misconduct

Accused of pushing handcuffed man into concrete wall

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Milton-Freewater police officer Brian David Scott faces felony charges after Oregon State Police reported that he assaulted a man in handcuffs.

Scott, 37, appeared via video Thursday afternoon from the Umatilla County Jail for his arraignment at the county courthouse, both in Pendleton. The district attorney’s office charged Scott with second-degree assault, unlawful use of a

weapon and first-degree official misconduct. The weapon charge is for using a wall to inflict harm, according to the charging document.

Attorney Robert Klahn represented Scott and entered pleas of not guilty to the three

counts. Circuit Judge Lynn Hampton set a preliminary hearing for Scott on Oct. 25.

Milton-Freewater Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer asked the state police Criminal Investigations Division to investigate Scott for possible misconduct following an arrest

See POLICE/8A



Scott

From wheat to wine



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Jim Duff grows several varieties of wine grapes in his Pendleton yard including this Malbec plant. At one time, Duff tried growing wine grapes on a commercial scale near Pendleton, but found the going tough.

Pendleton is a challenging place to grow a grape

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Like a lot of farmland surrounding Pendleton, Duff Ranches is dominated by dryland wheat fields that stretch over the vast, rolling countryside.

About 10 years ago, Jim Duff decided to try something different at the family farm off Highway 11. His son’s father-in-law is the founder and general manager of Eola Hills Winery near Salem, and Duff figured he could grow a few acres of wine grapes to sell to Eola Hills and, perhaps, establish a new blend.

Duff planted four different varieties of grapes, including Syrah, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. He spent two years completing viticulture classes at Walla Walla Community College to learn about different plants and how to control diseases.

Despite his preparation, the experiment didn’t end well.

“We knew it was going to be a gamble,” Duff said. “The vines grew really well, but never any fruit.”

After five years and \$60,000 spent, Duff decided to give up on grapevines. The biggest problem, he said, was untimely spring frost — whenever the vines started to grow buds, a hard frost would come along and wipe out the grapes before he could harvest.

“It’s very humbling,” Duff said. “You work so hard trying to get something to grow. In one night, it’s over.”

A successful vineyard requires the right combination of climate and environmental factors, collectively referred to as “terroir.” Walla Walla has it. Milton-Freewater has it. Echo has it. Pendleton, it seems, is right on the edge.

Evaluating potential

Kevin Pogue, professor of geology at Whitman College in Walla Walla and an expert on wine grape production, said he

See WINE/8A

Farmer’s prayers are answered decades later

Evangelist Luis Palau will speak in Athena

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Evangelist Luis Palau, dubbed by some as the Latin Billy Graham, travels around the world, attracting millions of believers and non-believers alike with his enthusiastic, personal style. Last summer, the popular Argentina-born pastor, radio host and author drew 60,000 people to a festival in Central Park.

For about 40 years, Athena farmer Bob Johns has been pestering Palau to preach in his tiny Northeast Oregon town. Next month, Johns will get his wish when Palau appears in the

Weston-McEwen High School gym. When Johns tells people about this, he gets looks of incredulity.

“They say, ‘You’ve gotta be kidding. Luis Palau in Athena, Oregon? No way,’” Johns said, grinning broadly.

The idea of Palau coming to Athena struck Johns in 1978 when he attended a leadership conference at Overlake Christian Church in Redmond, Washington, where he first heard Palau speak.

“The Lord leaned on my heart right then that Luis Palau was to come to Athena,” Johns recalled.

He phoned Palau’s Beaverton headquarters and requested an appearance. When they offered to send another

See ATHENA/7A



Photo by Brad Person, First Day Photo

Evangelist Luis Palau speaks last summer in New York City’s Times Square. The international speaker will come to Athena Oct. 15 to share his message



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