



ROLLOVER SENDS TWO TO HOSPITAL
PENDLETON/3A



REMATCHES ON TAP IN SEMIFINALS
FOOTBALL/1B



A tip of the hat to our local House Republicans
OPINION/4A

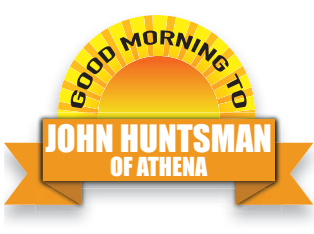
EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016

141st Year, No. 24

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Visit Elite Guns & Bows in Pendleton for a free hat

Elite Guns & Bows GROUP THERAPY

Your Weekend



- "Ravenscroft" at BMCC
- Bob Clapp Theatre
- "The Butler Did It Again" at Hermiston High School
- Oregon Grain Growers distillery grand opening
- Altrusa of Pendleton annual holiday bazaar

For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

Catch a movie



The wondrous world of witches and wizards returns to the big screen in "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them."

For showtime, Page 5A
For review, Weekend EO

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
49/36	50/39	55/39

2A Football Semifinals

Heppner vs. Regis
Saturday, Noon, at Liberty High School, Hillsboro



Stanfield vs. Kennedy
Saturday, 5 p.m., at Liberty High School, Hillsboro



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Vodka pours into a bottle as Cliff Bracher adds an empty to the six-spout filler while a crew bottles a batch of Ouragon Vodka on Thursday at Oregon Grain Growers Brand Distillery in Pendleton.

Homegrown spirit

Pendleton's first microdistillery prepares for grand opening

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The assembly line is taking bets. It's Thursday night and about a dozen friends and family have gathered at a re-purposed car dealership in east Pendleton to help Rodney and Kelli Bullington bottle a batch of vodka ahead of Oregon Grain Growers' grand opening Saturday. Cliff Bracher, whose a business partner with the Bullingtons along with his wife Judy, was taking \$1 wagers for anyone willing to guess how many bottles a transparent container of

newly proofed vodka would produce. The team quickly got to work after the bets were recorded, the crystal clear liquor flowing from the container to six machines

that quickly filled the bottles placed under them. From there, the bottles were handed to volunteer hands ready for a cap and seal, before moving further down the line to get the

"Ouragon Vodka" label slapped on them, a reference to the Beaver State's original name. "When we say everything is handmade, we mean it," Rodney Bullington said.

What Bullington and his partners think sets Oregon Grain Growers apart, besides being Pendleton's first microdistillery, is its commitment to agriculture and locally sourced ingredients. (Even the family's six-month old Newfoundland is named Barley.)

The red wheat used to make the vodka was is grown in La Grande while the corn used for Oregon Grain Growers' white whiskey is from the Brachers' farm just north of Pendleton. The grain sits in giant sacks on the distillery floor, some of the base ingredients used to start the two-week process. To start, the grain is ground into a coarse flour and thrown into a 1,000-ton tank of near-boiling water, which allows the distillers to remove the starch from the grain. After malt is added to sweeten the concoction, it's pumped into a fermenter where the temperature is



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Rodney Bullington gestures while talking about the distilling process at Oregon Grain Growers Brand Distillery in Pendleton.

"When we say everything is handmade, we mean it."

— Rodney Bullington, Oregon Grain Growers Brand Distillery co-owner

See DISTILLERY/3A

Body found at Sand Station investigated as a homicide

East Oregonian

Authorities believe a man found dead Nov. 4 near Sand Station was the victim of a homicide. The man was identified Thursday as Jose Antonio Leyva, 52, from Pasco. Leyva's body was found the afternoon of Nov. 4 near the closed recreational area located on the Columbia River, about 10 miles northeast of Hermiston. The Umatilla County Sheriff's office, which is leading the investigation, said it

took them days to identify the body using fingerprints, and days longer to locate relatives. His identity was not released publicly until Thursday. Jim Littlefield, Umatilla County undersheriff, said law enforcement does not know when or where the crime occurred, or "when the body was placed at Sand Station." Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan said his office is working with the Pasco Police Department. The case is under investigation.

LA GRANDE

Teen, DA reach plea deal in alleged school shooting plot

Conspiracy to commit aggravated murder charges dismissed

By JOSH BENHAM
La Grande Observer

The long and turbulent case against Micah Schultze, the La Grande High School student arrested in April on allegations of planning a school shooting, ended with a settlement at a disposition Thursday, Nov. 10. It offered a peek behind the curtain into the investigation from two distinct vantage points. Perhaps a statement at the tail end of the 1-1/2 hour proceeding from Union County District Attorney Kelsie McDaniel best

summed up the divide between the state and defense. "I think both parties disagree vehemently about what the facts actually mean and how (both sides have) interpreted them," she said. "And I don't think any amount of arguing at the court or at each other would be successful in changing either of our minds." Several days of settlement conferences brought forth an agreement — Schultze, 16, pleaded guilty to a pair of first-degree disorderly conduct charges, one a Class C felony, the second a Class A misdemeanor. The five counts of conspiracy to commit aggravated murder charges that the DA

See PLOT/12A

