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EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017

141st Year, No. 57

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PENDLETON

Turner takes reins as mayor

Former BMCC president sets out vision for first term

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

Freshly sworn in as Pendleton mayor, John Turner gave the audience at city council Tuesday a preview of how he plans to lead over the next four years. "I want to make a promise to all of you that I will continue to pursue my (duty) with a sense of energy and quiet professionalism that have helped me in

good stead for the past forty-some years of public service," he said. Turner will be tasked with leading a council that was helmed for the last 12 years by Phillip Houk, the second longest tenured mayor in Pendleton history. In an interview before the meeting, Turner praised Houk, who he worked with when Turner was president of Blue Mountain Community College and Houk was on the BMCC Board of Education,

calling him an "excellent cheerleader" for the city. Although Houk personally recruited him to run for mayor, Turner was reticent to compare their leadership styles, saying that there were many effective ways to lead. Regardless of the style, Turner said city leaders would need to address some real issues, pointing out the city's deferred maintenance problems and slow growth.

See **TURNER/3A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton mayor John Turner is sworn in by Pendleton municipal court judge Will Perkinson before the start of the city council meeting on Tuesday in Pendleton.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Alistair Harris holds his newborn son, Alistair Jr., as his wife, Searra, looks on from her hospital bed at St. Anthony Hospital on Tuesday in Pendleton.

First baby arrives

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

Umatilla County's first baby of the year took his time. Alistair Harris II arrived Tuesday at St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, at 5:50 a.m. Less than an hour later at 6:18, a Hermiston mother gave birth to Good Shepherd Medical Center's first baby. That afternoon, Alistair's parents, of Pendleton, looked exhausted, but happy as they took turns cradling their tiny newborn. This is the couple's first child. Searra called her eight pound, four ounce son "the biggest blessing ever" and said sleep could wait.

"I can't help but stare at him," she said, her eyes glued to her sleeping son. "I just want to hold him. I'll sleep in three years." Alistair, the father, said he'd gotten about an hour of sleep since they checked into the hospital about 7 p.m. "I am exhausted, but super happy," he said. "I'm ready to take him home." Little Alistair, with a headful of fluffy dark hair, slept on. Shortly after birth, the baby had opened his eyes when laid on his mother's chest and instantly won her heart. "It was an awesome moment," she said. Last year, 311 babies were born at St. Anthony Hospital and 433 at Good Shepherd Medical Center.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Searra Harris holds her newborn, Alistair Jr., in her hospital bed at St. Anthony Hospital on Tuesday in Pendleton.

PENDLETON

Old city hall faces daily fines

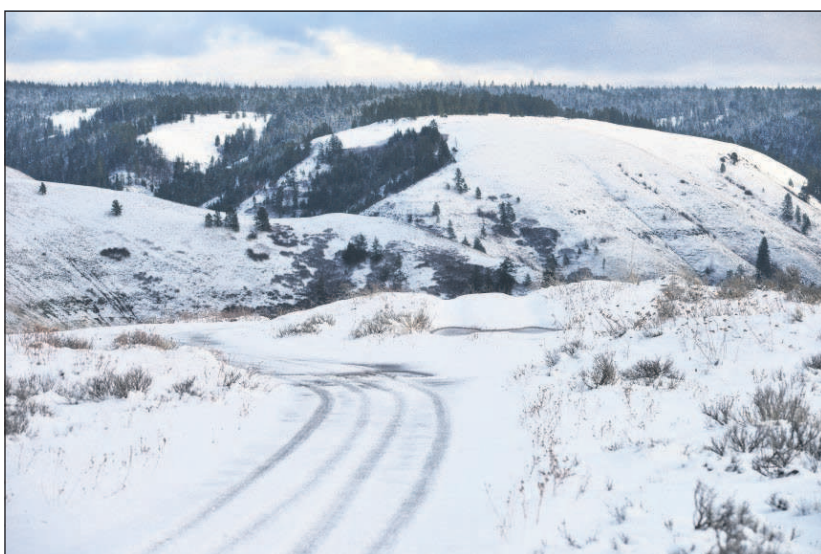
Winter weather delays completion of roof repairs

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The owners of Pendleton's old city hall ran out of reprieves. At a meeting Tuesday, the Pendleton City Council voted to begin enforcing the nuisance ordinance against the owners beginning Wednesday, meaning they could be charged up to \$500 per day. The effort to re-roof the burned out shell of old city hall has been under scrutiny of the city council since October. The city tried to cite the owners of the building, the Quezadas, after they failed to repair the fire and water damage more than a year after the building was severely burned in a firework accident in July 2015. In October, the council agreed to stave off the fines from the nuisance ordinance if the Quezadas put a new roof on the building by the end of the year. Although construction commenced, the roof appeared to be incomplete as the new year began and a city staff report confirmed it. "At this point only structural bearing walls and trusses have been installed," building official Ty Woolsley wrote on Tuesday. "No roof sheathing or roofing is in place at this moment. This leaves the structure susceptible to more weather damage as time continues." Fire marshal Shawn Penninger also inspected the building and delivered a similarly grim report, referring to the large amount of debris in the alley way behind the building as a fire hazard. "As we talked about last week this place is a mess and I haven't seen any real progress in the last couple of weeks," he wrote to fire chief Mike Ciraulo in an email Tuesday. "Sadly I

See **CITY HALL/3A**

December unusually cold, wet in Eastern Oregon



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Fresh snow blankets the foothills of the Blue Mountains east of Pendleton in this image from Nov. 2016.

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
East Oregonian

Bundle up, buckaroos. More brutal cold weather is on the way for Pendleton and northeast Oregon, with temperatures expected to dip into the low single digits Wednesday and Thursday nights. Jim Smith, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Pendleton, said there is also a 20 percent chance of snow Wednesday.

December was already especially cold for the region, with temperatures averaging roughly 5 degrees below normal for the month. The average temperature at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport was 28.1 degrees, with a high of 50 degrees recorded Dec. 3 and a low of minus-5 degrees recorded Dec. 16.

Now, Smith said another wave of

Feeling the freeze

Average December temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit

	2016	Normal
Pendleton	28.1°	33.2°
Hermiston	28.4°	33.5°
Heppner	30.7°	34.2°
John Day	24.7°	31.6°
Condon	26°	31.4°

Source: National Weather Service, Pendleton

Arctic air is pushing into the region, which should keep conditions below freezing through Saturday. Sunday should warm back up to near 40 degrees, though freezing rain and snow are once again in the forecast for early next week.

More than 18 inches of snow fell

See **WEATHER/3A**

