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WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

PENDLETON



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Ron Gonshorowski, of Dallas, Oregon, wipes his eyes during an emotional moment at the Doolittle Raiders anniversary event Saturday at the Pendleton National Guard Armory. Gonshorowski served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War.

RAIDERS REMEMBERED

Gala commemorates 75th anniversary of air raids on Japan during WWII

By ANTONIO SIERRA East Oregonian

Each veteran and military personnel had their reasons for being at the Oregon National Guard Armory in Pendleton Saturday.



Merkley meets with Pendleton

Senator talks revived health care bill, new fossil fuels plan

By ANTONIO SIERRA East Oregonian

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley's Umatilla County constituents took a shotgun approach to the questions they wanted him to answer.

Sporting a Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range cap, the Democratic senator fielded queries on health care, political representation, filibusters and more at a town hall at a two-thirds full Bob Clapp Theater at Blue Mountain Community College on Sunday.

Regardless of political affiliation, nary a Congressional town hall goes by without a discussion about Republicans' health care bill, and Merkley's event was no different.

Merkley explained the American Health Care Act's latest developments, a bill that would repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act.

See MERKLEY/2A

Child porn investigation took years to conclude

Jarvis Buck to change plea Friday

The National Guard partnered with the Pendleton Air Museum to organize the Doolittle Raiders Gala, a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the air raids on Japan during World War II led by Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, and featuring 80 soldiers based in Pendleton.

The gala was a day-long affair that featured vendors, a display with World War II-era weapons and equipment, and military planes and vehicles from both World War II and modern day.

Ron Gonshorowski sat on a bench across from the "Heavenly Body" B-25 bomber flown from Madras to the National Guard air field specifically for the event.

Along with his dog Rhys, Gonshorowski traveled from his home in Dallas, Oregon, on a fact-finding mission.

A veteran of the Vietnam War who served with 22nd Tactical Air Support Squadron, the Gonshorowski said he's been researching whether he's related to Bill Farrow, a Doolittle raider who was killed after being captured by the Japanese.

While Gonshorowski's quest goes on, he arranged to fly in the "Heavenly Body" Sunday morning.

The "Heavenly Body," a mural of a woman in a one-piece swimsuit and cape diving Staff photo by Kathy An

A ceremonial wreath is hung on the nose of a B-25 bomber during Saturday's Doolittle Raiders 75th anniversary event at the Pendleton National Guard Armory.

through the air painted on its side, became front and center when the National Guard did a wreath laying ceremony later that afternoon.

As a F-15 fighter jet flew over head and the National Guard honored the Army Air Corps' 17th Bombardment Squadron, Staff Sgt. Armondo Borboa of Oregon National Guard 3-116 CAV Battalion explained the story of the Doolittle Raiders.

As a response to Pearl Harbor, the Army arranged a one-way bombing mission on April 18 over Japan.

Although the mission didn't inflict significant damage to Japan, it was meant as a

See DOOLITTLE/10A

By PHIL WRIGHT East Oregonian

Jarvis Donald Buck of Echo has a hearing Friday to change his plea to charges he possessed child pornography.

The deal comes almost two years after

police received the initial tip that led to his arrest.

Hermiston police chief Jason Edmiston explained the Oregon Department of Justice — by way of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children — contacted his department in June



2015 about potential child pornography at an internet protocol address related to Buck. An IP address is a numeric designation that identifies a computer's location on the internet.

Hermiston detectives started working the case, Edmiston said, but ran into a significant hurdle about a week later when internet service providers Charter Communications and CenturyLink

See BUCK/10A



Photo contributed by Skyler Burrows

Halictus ligatus, a species of sweat bee, is one of more than 180 species of native bees documented along Meadow Creek in the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range.

The secret strife of bees

Research shows large mammals compete with insects for flowers

By GEORGE PLAVEN East Oregonian

Netting wild bees is not as scary as it sounds. At least that's what Sandy DeBano says.

"It's really not that bad," said DeBano, an associate professor of entomology at Oregon State University's Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center. "Bees rarely sting you, and they're really pretty amazing to look at."

Over the past three years, DeBano has collected

thousands of bee specimens buzzing along Meadow Creek in the Starkey Experimental Forest between Pendleton and La Grande. The goal, she said, is to determine how the diets of deer, elk and livestock may overlap with native bees competing for the same flowers.

So far, DeBano said their research shows there is potentially some overlap between ungulates — especially elk — and all types of bees, feasting on plants such as common yarrow, mountain aster, clover and beardtongue. The findings were recently published in Natural Areas Journal, with fieldwork scheduled to continue this summer.

"Elk had the highest level of overlap, given the types of plants we see here in Eastern Oregon," she said.

Pollinator research is nothing new to scientists, especially considering the conspicuous decline of honeybee populations. According to the American Beekeepers Federation, colonies took a massive 44 percent hit between 2015 and 2016.

DeBano is quick to point

See BEES/9A

