

# EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017

141st Year, No. 166

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



A group of soon-to-be graduates smiles for PHS athletic secretary Anita Lewis Saturday morning before processing to their commencement ceremony at the Pendleton Round-Up Arena.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

## Bus buff has drive to ride every U.S. route

Checks Hermiston Hopper off list in 15-year quest

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
*East Oregonian*

It would be hard to find anyone who loves buses more than Loring Lawrence.

When he boarded the Hermiston Hopper on Friday, he was adding it to the hundreds of bus systems he has ridden all over the world.

"My long range goal is to ride every city bus system in the United States," he said.

Lawrence, a travel agent from Manchester, New Hampshire, estimates he is about three fourths of the way to his goal, which he started pursuing in earnest about 15 years ago. He plans his vacations around hitting bus systems he has never tested out before, and only travels by air if he is going overseas.

"Some states I've done completely, like North Dakota. They only have four systems," he said. "I only have three left to do in Florida. Usually I travel by bus or train, but if there is no service between

See BUS/10A

## Congrats class of 2017

Graduates, parents reflect on the past and future at PHS graduation

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

Rather than a unified force, the audience that assembled in the Pendleton Round-Up arena were informally organized into well over 100 cheering factions at the Pendleton High School graduation ceremony Saturday.

As the green-gowned seniors filed onto the field, recognized for their accolades and handed their diplomas, family and friends whooped and hollered from disparate sections of the grandstands.

Two students saw their cheering section pop confetti when their names were called to receive their diplomas.

A consistent theme from parents was how quickly time seemed to fly as their sons and daughters grew from small children to the verge of adulthood. Ingrid Larsen said it

See GRADUATION/10A

More photos online



Caden Smith stands up as he is announced as a scholarship recipient during Saturday's Pendleton High School graduation at the Round-Up Grounds.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

**185**  
Pendleton High School graduates

**7**  
Nixyaawii Community School graduates

**18**  
Hawthorne Alternative High School graduates (plus 4 GEDs)

**296**  
Scholarships awarded

**\$2,060,572**  
in total scholarship

**\$243,182**  
in local scholarship

## Legislators propose plan to save \$1B in budget

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**  
*Capital Bureau*

SALEM — Legislators Monday released a series of cost-cutting proposals that they say could eventually save more than \$1 billion in the state's budget.

However, the impact in the short term — as legislators are trying to reconcile a \$1.4 billion shortfall between revenue and expenses in the upcoming two-year budget — would likely be considerably lower.

The \$1.4 billion gap corresponds only to the state's General Fund and Lottery Funds. Savings incurred by changing public employee compensation and benefits would be felt not only in agencies tapping those funds, but throughout the entire state budget, which includes agencies that rely also on fees and federal funds.

Cuts are part of the equation when it comes to closing the gap, but Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, said in a prepared statement that passing one of the bills, which makes changes to the

See BUDGET/10A



Pendleton High School graduates watch as diplomas are awarded Saturday at the Round-Up Grounds.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

### PENDLETON

## A rodeo with an uplifting message

Safety conference hosts forklift contest

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

Safety is rarely guaranteed for competitors at Pendleton rodeos, but at the Pendleton Convention Center Tuesday, the safest rides took home the prize.

At the Blue Mountain Occupational & Safety Conference, 21 attendees plunked down \$50 for a chance to test their mettle at

the forklift rodeo.

People have been competing in forklift obstacle courses for 20 years, but the rodeo is going on its second year at the Pendleton workplace safety conference, organizer Chuck Long said.

Long won the rodeo last year, but he decided to sit out the 2017 contest when he became the chair of the conference's rodeo committee.

The obstacle course is timed, but a fast run won't automati-

See FORKLIFT/10A



Kenny Langton of Baker City negotiates an obstacle during the forklift rodeo Monday at the Blue Mountain Occupational Safety and Health Conference in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

