

# EAST OREGONIAN

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One dollar

**HERMISTON**

## Franchise fees hiked to pay for street projects

Average resident will pay \$48.72 annually to fund improvements

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
East Oregonian

Hermiston residents will see an increase in their bills that will add more than \$400,000 to the city's street repair fund.

The council voted Monday to raise franchise fees, part of an agreement that various companies selling electricity, natural gas, cable television, telephone landlines and internet have made with the city in exchange for placing cables and wires in the city's right of way.

Assistant city manager Mark Morgan estimated the increases — in most cases from 3 percent to 5 percent — will increase the average Hermiston resident's electric bill by about \$1.70 per month. Other impacts are harder to estimate, he said, because not all households pay for things like cable or natural gas, but it should average out to about \$2.36 a month per resident for everything else combined.

Total, the impact will be about \$48.72 per year for the average Hermiston resident.

The move will raise an estimated \$413,000 per year for street projects. Currently the city's total budget for street improvements is about \$200,000 per year. At that rate, Morgan said, it would take the city 59 years to complete its top seven capital improvement projects if it stopped spending money on any maintenance.

"Obviously, with inflation as it is, we would never actually catch up," he said.

With the extra money from the franchise fees, in addition to an anticipated \$400,000 a year from the gas tax increase passed by the legislature this summer, Morgan said that timeline shrinks to more like 11 years.

The city's five-year capital improvement plan for streets, which the city council also passed

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Calf roper Stetson Vest of Childress, Texas, says his parents' choice for his name originated from their love of the Stetson brand.

# Destined to rodeo

With names like Stetson, Tuf, Cash and Speed, it's no wonder these men grew up to be cowboys

By **EMILY OLSON**  
East Oregonian

What's in a name? A lot, depending on who you ask. Though it's still widely debated, some researchers swear that our names have an influence on the choices we make — everything from who we marry to what we wear to what careers we pursue. Scientists call it the implicit-egotism effect: We tend to gravitate toward the things that most resemble us. The Romans called it *nomen est omen*: Our name is our destiny.

Old West celebrities and showmen may have been privy to that logic when they shook their common names for flashier, suggestive aliases. Greats like Buffalo Bill (William Frederick Cody), Black Bart (Charles E. Boles) and Calamity Jane (Martha Jane Cannary) replaced their honest monikers to attract attention, avoid the law or reflect a lifelong nickname.

So what about rodeo cowboys? Are those western-perfect names on your Round-Up program the real deal?

Turns out yes, in most cases. They're not stage names; they're going by what their folks called them and what it says on their birth certificate.

That's true of Stetson Vest, a tie-down roper from Childress, Texas, who will compete Wednesday in the Pendleton Round-Up Arena. His name is a product of his parents' appreciation for the famous hat brand — a company that filed bankruptcy a year after Stetson's birth.

"My parents sort of didn't want to name me that anymore, but they were stuck with it," he said. Ultimately, he's glad.

Stetson grew up with a rope in hand, and people always told him that with a name like his, he'd have no choice but to become a champion cowboy.

"It was kind of meant to be," he said. "Names go along with personalities and lifestyles."

Having come from a long line huge tie-down ropers didn't hurt. His grandfather, Clifton Smith, was a two-time National Finals Rodeo qualifier. His uncle

See NAMES/8A

**"It was kind of meant to be. Names go along with personalities and lifestyles."**

— **Stetson Vest**, tie-down roper from Childress, Texas

**More inside**

• **Tough Enough to Wear Pink, Children's Rodeo coming Thursday to Round-Up 3A**

• **Slack kicks off 107th Pendleton Round-Up 1B**



EO file photo

Brooke Taynton of Canyon City signs her autograph on the inside of professional bronc rider Bobby Mote's hat outside of Hamley's in Pendleton in 2013.

## End of the rodeo trail for Bobby Mote

By **KATHY ANEY**  
East Oregonian

After terrorists flew planes into the twin towers in 2001, Americans reeled in disbelief and shock. They struggled to get back to everyday life.

For bareback rider Bobby Mote that meant climbing onto wild broncs for crazy, corkscrewing eight-second rides. A couple of days after 9/11 at the Pendleton Round-Up, the cowboy

settled himself onto a restless brute named Broadway. He remembers Toby Keith's "The American Way" coming through the speakers.

Then came an ear-splitting roar that cut Toby off in mid-bar.

"Two jets did a fly-over," Mote recalled. "They flew in low and loud. It made the hair on the back of my neck stand up."

See MOTE/8A

## Unique vendors look for Round-Up niche



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Lisa Porter cruises down a zip line operated by her family. The ride is located in a gravel lot on Southwest Court Place between Oxford Suites and Wal-Mart.

Zipline operator, antler artisan and cowboy masseuse try to lasso customers

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
East Oregonian

During the second full week of September in Pendleton, the cowboy hats, leather boots and food carts come out in force.

But amongst the legion of Western apparel booths and snack shacks, some vendors are selling a very different type of product.

At one new pop-up business in an empty lot near Wal-Mart, country music blares over the loud speakers and some of the workers are wearing cowboy hats. But rodeo atmosphere isn't the

main draw. Late Monday afternoon, four customers pay Porter Family Entertainment for a chance to climb a ride a zipline from a 25-foot tower the business erected on the gravelled lot.

The customers bumped fists and took videos during their descent before gently landing at the bottom, gently jostling the tower as they wait to be unharnessed.

Standing at the top of the tower, Caleb Porter joked that customers were getting an authentic rodeo smell, referencing the empty horse

See VENDORS/8A

