

The leaves on the trees overlooking the Umatilla River have begun transitioning into fall colors Monday near Rieth.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

142nd Year, No. 1

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

PENDLETON



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Two competitors in one of the periodic kids' bier stein lifting contests battle it out at Saturday during Oktoberfest. The last person holding their water-filled glass aloft won.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A member of "Will Play for Beer" sports orange beer socks while playing at the Oktoberfest on Saturday at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Joe Ford, of Pendleton, sips his beer and listens to music at the Oktoberfest on Saturday at the Round-Up Grounds.

Goodbye, Susie Arroyo

Woman with rare disease died after long battle for access to drug

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

The last time I saw Susie Arroyo sticks in my mind. Susie sat in her wheelchair at St. Anthony Hospital on that late-August day after receiving an IV infusion of a new drug, which she had petitioned the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to approve. She believed the drug would eventually help her live a more normal life. Susie could barely lift her arms, but flashed a dazzling smile when I leaned down to give her a hug.



KATHY ANEY
Comment

"Next time," she said, "I hope to be able to hug you back."

That hug would never come. On Friday, Susie died at age 28.

The news hit me and other Susie fans hard. Despite the Pendleton woman's severe health problems, we just figured she would continue to beat the odds. We had watched her cheat the Grim Reaper for so long. We had started thinking she had superpowers.

Susie got a diagnosis of a muscle-weakening disorder called Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy after her kindergarten teacher noticed the little girl was easily winded. The disease strikes one out of every 3,500 boys, but few girls. Susie estimated she was one of 20-or-so females in the country with Duchenne. The disease seemed to stabilize in her teens, but in 2009, she got up from her living room couch after sitting for an extended time and fell to the floor, breaking her back.

"I fell back and felt a coldness go from my spinal cord to my legs," Arroyo recalled afterwards.

She said she wore a full-body cast for months, and by the time her spine healed, an echocardiogram showed her heart was failing. Too weak to walk, she was forced to use a wheelchair.

The BMCC student needed a heart transplant but didn't even have enough money to pay for preliminary testing. The normally upbeat Susie fell into gloom. The community rallied with fundraisers and friends wore tie-dyed T-shirts that said "Team Susie."

BMCC English professor Shaindel Beers, who organized one of the fundraisers, said the

See SUSIE/10A

Oktoberfest explores flavors outside German borders

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Winter may be closing in, but it was hard to tell with the crisp blue sky, sun and cheery atmosphere at Pendleton's third annual Oktoberfest on Saturday. Held at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds,

the event drew beer vendors from around the state, and some out-of-town visitors as well.

Prodigal Son, one of the breweries represented at the event, had created a beer for the event, called "A Beer Named Uter."

"It's a Kolsch, a German-style beer," said Jean-Luke Alexander,

the brewer at Prodigal Son. He used Gold Rush Pilsner and toasted malt, with barley grown in Enterprise.

"It's a real easy drinking, light ale," he said. "I used meridian hops, so it's more citrus-y. When you put them in the whirlpool, you get more of a hop aroma than

bitterness. It's a Northwest take on a kolsch."

Tim Guenther, owner of Prodigal Son and a board member of Oktoberfest Pendleton, said this event was unique in its variety of beers.

See OKTOBERFEST/10A

Local firefighters deployed to California

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

A grueling fire season that has stretched resources thin across the country isn't over yet for Umatilla County firefighters deployed to southern California.

A strike team including four firefighters and a brush truck from Pendleton Fire Department, three firefighters and a brush truck from Umatilla County Fire District plus personnel and equipment from Union County headed

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Houses spared by fires bring joy and sense of loss
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AP photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez

Sonoma firefighters set a backburn along a hillside Friday in Glen Ellen, Calif. Firefighters from Pendleton and Hermiston have joined the effort, traveling to Southern California to assist.

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