



WHEAT WORRIES
NORTHWEST/2A



LILLARD TIME IN RIP CITY
SPORTS/1B



MEETING IN THE WORKS NATION/7A

EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018

142nd Year, No. 102

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- "A Soldier's Tale" at Bob Clapp Theatre
- "Gotcha Covered" rocks Wildhorse
- "Searching for Meaning" Sunday in lone

For times and places see Coming Events, Page 8A

Catch a movie



"A Wrinkle in Time" brings classic children's sci-fi tale to the big screen.

For showtime, Page 3A

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
54/31	56/35	58/35

Watch a game



BMCC softball vs. Southwest Oregon
Doubleheader Saturday

Round-Up financials show rodeo on the grow

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Round-Up Association has been trumpeting that 2017 was one of its best years. Last week it officially released the numbers to back it up.

The Round-Up released its financial statement for the fiscal year — Nov. 1, 2016 to Oct. 31, 2017 — at its Feb. 27 stockholder's meeting. The statement shows the nonprofit rodeo organization in a good financial standing going into 2018.

• After tallying all the revenue and expenses, the Round-Up made \$295,846

See ROUND-UP/8A



Sherwood Heights Elementary School counselor Lisa Roberts smiles while watching a slideshow prepared for her by students and teachers during an assembly Thursday in Pendleton. Roberts is battling breast cancer and the administration and students put on the assembly to show their support.

Love through it all

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

The kids kept the secret for three weeks. On the sly, Sherwood Heights Elementary students practiced a special song during recess and times when counselor Lisa Roberts was away getting cancer treatments. They planned to sing Martina McBride's "I'm Gonna Love You Through It" to Roberts as a way to encourage her through the ordeal. The students spent part of each music class rehearsing the song. Principal Theresa Owens instigated the idea. The administrator often encourages the children to sing. She herself sings every morning during announcements.

"I firmly believe singings builds community," she said. So it seemed the perfect way to uplift Roberts, who has breast cancer. They would sing their support.

On Thursday, it was showtime. The school's 500 students quietly filed into the school gym and waited on the bleachers in hushed expectation. Owens' guitar sat at the ready. Someone was dispatched to get Roberts. "They told me a student was having a meltdown," Roberts said later that day with a smile. The child development specialist, who strode



A group of students have daffodils in the air while singing the Martina McBride song "I'm Gonna Love You Through It" during an assembly. For video of the song, visit eastoregonian.com

into the gym expecting to find a child in distress, looked momentarily stunned as she took in the scene. Owens directed her to a row of folding chairs where members of her family, including husband and police chief Stuart Roberts, sat waiting for her.

"We love you and want you to know we've got your back," Owens told her into a microphone.

Roberts smiled as fourth and fifth graders sang the first verse. As they got to the chorus, the

younger students joined in. "When you're weak, I'll be strong When you let go, I'll hold on When you need to cry, I swear That I'll be there to dry your eyes When you feel lost and scared to death, Like you can't take one more step Just take my hand, together we can do it I'm gonna love you through it." As they sang, they waved daffodils, which they would later give Roberts. After the song came a video featuring individual shots of children holding handwritten messages for their counselor. The sentiments melted one into another.

"You are a rock star," said one. "You are brave." "You are powerful." "You are strong." "You are loved." "We believe in you."

Roberts soaked in the love. As students filed out of the gym, Roberts gave them hugs. When they had gone, Roberts reflected on the three weeks since chemo started. She said the students have supported her with encouragement and thoughtful gifts. One day, four siblings pooled their money and bought flowers. On another, a boy brought her his favorite toy car.

"Every day has had silver linings," she said. "The kids have been so sweet."

Blue Mountain Wildlife flutters into the future



Spirit, a great grey owl, flies up to a perch in one of the flight pens at Blue Mountain Wildlife on Thursday outside of Pendleton. Spirit was found near Deadman's Pass in 2004 after being hit by a car and has lived at Blue Mountain Wildlife as an education bird ever since.

Center relies on donations, grants

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The bald eagle should be dead.

Blue Mountain Wildlife, Eastern Oregon's leading animal recovery center, took in the ill female juvenile raptor in January and ran a lead test. Staff had to dilute the eagle's blood twice to obtain a lead level low enough to register on the machine. The result: 813 micrograms of lead per deciliter.

Lynn Tompkins, the center's director, said that was the highest lead level the center has measured. A level of 20 is toxic.

"She's still hanging in there. We just got her moved outside three days ago,"

Tompkins said. "It's kind of a miracle that she's still alive."

Blue Mountain Wildlife had its own surprise in the fall when it needed a new x-ray system to assess animal injuries. The x-ray machine is portable, can take images of animals as small as bats and songbirds and about costs about \$1,300. But the computer that digitizes the images costs about \$26,000.

Tompkins asked for donations in the center's weekly newsletter. One donor, she said, committed to \$10,000, and within two weeks the center had \$19,000.

"That was a pretty overwhelming response," she said.

See WILDLIFE/8A



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