



EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

SADDLED WITH DEBT



A pedestrian walks past the Hamley's store on Court Avenue on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Staff photos by E.J. Harris

Co-owners of Western shop and restaurant still at odds

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Hamley's businesses in downtown Pendleton are more than \$1.1 million in debt and faced foreclosure March 1, until co-owner Parley Pearce struck a last-minute deal with a new lender.

Blair Woodfield, the other owner of the historic saddle shop and adjoining restaurant, is suing to oust Pearce from the Hamley companies. Woodfield also wants to sell the operations to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for more than \$3.1 million, according to documents he filed Friday with Umatilla County Circuit Court.

The documents included an email Gary George, CEO of the tribes' Wildhorse Resort and Casino, sent Nov. 10, 2016, referring to a letter of intent between CTUIR and Hamley's.

"As we have previously expressed, the CTUIR/WRC will maintain Hamley's brand and tradition that the current owners (and past owners) have carried forward over the last 110 years!" wrote George.

Pearce, however, said he wants to keep Hamley's, and court documents show he has offered to buy out Woodfield's interest in the businesses for \$950,000. Woodfield's attorney, Steven Joseph of La Grande, in court filings described the offer as "low ball."

Woodfield's latest legal maneuver in the case came a month ago when Joseph filed a motion asking the court to appoint a receiver to take control of the iconic Western store and steakhouse. According to request, that third party would have the power to sell Hamley's.

See HAMLEY'S/10A



The Hamley's brand is stamped into the concrete sidewalk in front of the store in downtown Pendleton.

Hamley's by the numbers

\$1.1M — \$1.3M in debt

And Hamley's made just \$5,000 last year, according to attorney Steven Joseph.

\$140K profit

For the steakhouse in 2017, according to Blair Woodfield in court filings, but the Western store **lost \$135,000.**

\$800K gross revenues

Increase since 2010, Woodfield stated, while the store's gross sales declined \$678,336, its inventory dropped by more than \$300,000 and it has debt exceeding \$100,000.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Dr. Joel Rice speaks about opioid addiction Tuesday at the Eastern Oregon Forum at Blue Mountain Community College.

Subduing the opioid monster

Tide starting to turn in Oregon, experts say

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

The numbers are disheartening.

Someone dies from prescription opioids every 20 minutes in this country. The Oregon Health Authority reports that more Oregonians die from prescription opioids than any other drug — including alcohol, methamphetamines, heroin and cocaine.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 42,000 Americans died in opioid-related deaths in 2016. Oregon ranks sixth nationally for non-medical use of prescription pain relievers like Percocet and OxyContin.

In short, many of our fellow Americans are addicted to prescription painkillers.

A slate of experts discussed the epidemic of pill popping at Tuesday night's Eastern Oregon Forum — "This is Our Opioid Crisis" — at Blue Mountain Community College. Each one deals with prescription painkillers in one way or another. The panel included Dr. Joel Rice, pharmacist and pain management expert Eric Holeman, Dr. Chuck Hoffman, nurse

See OPIOIDS/10A

'Make Oregon Great Again' GOP candidate faces skepticism

Carpenter gets pushback from Hispanic Advisory Committee

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Gubernatorial candidate Sam Carpenter ran into some stiff criticism for his views on public employee unions, immigration and President Donald Trump when he visited Hermiston's Hispanic Advisory Committee on Monday.

Carpenter, a Bend-area Republican who owns a telephone answering service called Centratel, is one of 17 people running for Oregon governor. On Monday he touted his business capabilities, promised to get Oregon's economy growing at a faster pace and criticized Oregon's "out of control" bureaucracy and government spending.

The group at Hermiston City Hall was more interested in talking about his views on immigration, particularly a line in the brochure he handed out promising to end Oregon's sanctuary status for "illegal aliens."

Carpenter stated that he was only talking about removing people who had committed other crimes besides immigration-related ones.

"I'm sorry, they need to go away. Those folks are giving the Hispanic community a horrible reputation," he said, adding that they were "probably more of a danger to you than to the native Americans here."

See CARPENTER/10A

RHYTHMIC MODE: CHAMPIONSHIP EDITION



Photo courtesy Debby Green

Pendleton's Rhythmic Mode dance team won the school's eighth state championship last weekend. From left: Kacey Robbins (in blue), Emily Gilsdorf (in blue), Hannah Rasmussen, Paige Skinner (in blue), Gilliana Adams and Terika Christensen perform in their winning routine in the OSAA's 5A division.

