



EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018

142nd Year, No. 187 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

PENDLETON



Jodi Thackeray-Severe teaches Gita Yu, 8, of Hohhot, China, how to rope on Monday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Where young east meets Old West

Chinese speech winners learn about city where ‘John Wayne meets Mardi Gras’

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

New York, Boston, Pendleton. Odd bedfellows as they may be, all three cities were chosen as destinations for a group of Chinese students on a cross country trip to an international youth competition at Harvard.

The group of 10 students and their families made the trip to Pendleton on Monday, stopping at the Round-Up Grounds as a part of their tour.

As Pat Beard, manager of the Pendleton Convention Center, led the tour, he told the group about the hallowed grounds they were about to enter and the rodeo that was only a few months away.

“It’s kind of like John Wayne meets Mardi Gras,” he said.

Beard walked the group to the grass of the arena, where volunteers were standing with ropes and roping dummies.

A former rope maker who came from a ranching family, Beard demonstrated proper technique as the children imitated



Pat Beard gestures while giving a tour to a group of Chinese students and their chaperones on Monday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

his wrist movements.

The Chinese contingent tried their hand at roping next, and while most attempts ended with ropes on the ground, laughing, and sheepish looks, a few got the hang of it.

“My mom says I’m a natural cowgirl,” 12-year-old Felicity Wong said laughingly. Felicity is from Hangzhou and was one

See **STUDENTS/8A**

Merkley calls for border reform

After early hope for agreement, new bill may wait until after elections

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) continued his push for comprehensive immigration reform and humane treatment of people seeking asylum.

At town halls Sunday in Pendleton and Boardman, he touted the Senate’s 2013 immigration bill that died in the House of Representatives. It would have strengthened border security while creating pathways to citizenship for youth whose parents brought them into the United States illegally. Immigration reform had another shot in 2017, he said, when President Donald Trump told lawmakers to bring him a “love bill” on immigration. Trump promised to “take the heat” and sign the bill.

Two days later — after taking some heat from right wing press — the president backed out.

Merkley said immigration reform could rise again after the November elections, but he didn’t get into how it might look.

Merkley faced mostly supportive crowds at the two events — around 75 people came to the Pendleton meeting and less than 20 to the Port of Morrow. But he hit on similar topics at both, including his visit to the border in Texas to see first-hand what was happening to families seeking asylum.

Merkley said he found it hard to believe policymakers would sepa-

See **MERKLEY/8A**

Trump picks Kavanaugh for court

Conservative choice to replace retiring Kennedy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump chose Brett Kavanaugh, a solidly conservative, politically connected judge, for the Supreme Court Monday night, setting up a ferocious confirmation battle with Democrats as he seeks to shift the nation’s highest court ever further to the right.

A favorite of the Republican legal establishment in Washington, Kavanaugh, 53, is a former law clerk for retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy. Like Trump’s first nominee last year, Justice Neil Gorsuch, Kavanaugh would be a young addition who could help remake the court for decades to come with rulings that could restrict abortion, expand gun rights and roll back key parts of Obamacare.

“He is a brilliant jurist, with a clear



Kavanaugh

PENDLETON

Mystery tire crashes into South Hill home

By **BRITTANY NORTON**
East Oregonian

At about 1 a.m. Friday, Elmer Emmons heard a crashing sound — as if a tree limb had fallen onto his roof.

He assumed one of his grandkids knocked something over in another room and he didn’t give it another thought.

But Saturday morning he found that a tire, which he believes came from a semi-truck on nearby Interstate 84, had crashed through the roof of his house and come to rest in the attic above his bedroom.

From the front of the turquoise blue home, nothing looks out of



A tire and wheel sits in the attic at 114 South-west Kirk Avenue on Monday in Pendleton. The wheel came crashing through the ceiling.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

ordinary. The house is located about 100 feet from the westbound lane of I-84 on the South Hill in Pendleton. It isn’t visible from the freeway and the tire would have

had to careen over a hill, over two wire fences in his backyard and through a tree to land in the attic.

See **TIRE/8A**

See **COURT/8A**

