



EAST OREGONIAN

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142nd Year, No. 209

WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Home for the summer



Staff photos by E.J. Harris

The trophy saddle for the 1959 Pendleton Round-Up was made to honor Oregon's centennial anniversary. TOP: A medallion with the Oregon state seal engraved on it adorns the top of the saddle horn.

A saddle with a distinct style, mysterious maker finds its way back to Pendleton

By **BRITTANY NORTON**
East Oregonian

Hamley's store is filled with opulent goods and big-ticket items ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars.

But in the back of the store, the saddle shop has one of the most valuable items: the trophy saddle for the 1959 Pendleton Round-Up, which was made to honor Oregon's centennial anniversary.

"When Oregon celebrated its centennial in 1959, the Pendleton Round-Up was still basically the world championships," said Hamley's co-owner Parley Pearce.

The store acquired the saddle on a loan from its owner — Jim Bergevin, who received it after it was passed down from his father Joe Bergevin, the champi-

onship steer roper for that year.

Penny French, a manager at Hamley's, had a friend who knew the Bergevins and that's how the store was able to borrow it, she said.

They are studying the saddle for its style — called "northwest style" — which is one of the many ways to craft a saddle. The Oregon centennial saddle is believed to have been made by Bill Knight, a prominent saddle maker during that time.

"Finding work done by him is difficult because his name wasn't in the saddle records," said French.

Hamley's keeps documentation of all the saddles made in its store, including the date, who it was made for and the initials of the person that made it. But there were no references of "B.K.," which would have been

See **SADDLE/8A**

PENDLETON

Data center company returns with hotel pitch

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The company behind a proposed data center in the Airport Road industrial park is asking for the city's help building a hotel at the airport itself.

At a council workshop Tuesday, City Manager Robb Corbett distributed a memo that detailed an airport hotel proposal from Horse Valley LLC, a subsidiary of the Vancouver, Washington company Makad Corp.

According to Corbett, Makad has financing through a U.S. Department of Agriculture loan to build a \$11.5 million hotel with three-stories, 74 rooms, a restaurant, and a bar.

Instead of a standard land lease, which Corbett estimated would bring the city \$2,100 per year, Makad is proposing it pay its rent through a percentage of gross revenue, maxing out at 2 percent per year starting in the seventh year of the lease.

In exchange for signing a 50-year lease, Makad wants an incentive package that includes in-kind site preparation and environmental engineering work, water and sewer connection fee waivers and a permit cost reduction based on the number of full-time employees up to 50 percent.

Corbett said the city has been discussing the proposed hotel with

See **HOTEL/8A**

HERMISTON

Theft suspect disappears into cornfield

East Oregonian

Police spent nearly five hours searching for a man who crashed a stolen vehicle into a guard rail near Hermiston and ran into a nearby cornfield.

Six police agencies surrounded the 150-acre cornfield near the intersection of Interstate 84 and Interstate 82, deploying both dogs and drones, but to no avail.

The search began at about 9:30 a.m. and at 2:30 p.m. it was called off, though Oregon State Police Sgt. Seth Cooney said police continued to look for the man.

See **THEFT/8A**

"This is meant to encompass what a small community is"

— **Raymon Smith**, superintendent of Echo School District



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A group of Echo fifth-graders hang out in their new classroom on Wednesday during an open house for the new addition of the Echo School.

New digs for Echo

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

A new addition to Echo school will be enjoyed by all the city's residents. About 150 people gathered on Wednesday to celebrate the school's new facility, which includes new classrooms and a new gymnasium, art room, wood and welding shop, public workout room and community center.

"This is meant to encompass what a small community is," said Raymon Smith, superintendent of Echo School District. "To meet all the needs of the community, not just one aspect."

The project, on which construction began in July 2017, cost \$8 million and

was funded half by a school bond and half by a grant from the state.

After the ribbon-cutting, students and their families toured the new facility and visited their new teachers and classrooms.

Sophomore Zoe Russell said she was excited to have a school and a gym that was on par with other districts.

"It's really cool and modern," she said. "I just like the space."

Keith Holman, Echo School principal and shop teacher, said the new space will allow Echo students more opportunities.

"It's given us room to do the things

See **ECHO/8A**

