



# EAST OREGONIAN

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WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

**"He's a phenomenal roper, and an even better human being."**

— **Jake Stanley**, roper and member of BMCC team



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Retiring BMCC rodeo coach Larry Patterson heads a steer while team roping Wednesday outside of Pendleton.

## A legacy of quiet leadership

Patterson competed for BMCC rodeo team at age 17, spent 30 years with team

By **KATHY ANEY**  
*East Oregonian*

Some might remember the old E.F. Hutton commercial. As a client starts to share his stockbroker's advice with a friend, the noise level at the restaurant immediately plummets to pin-drop levels. Everyone leans in to hear.

"When E.F. Hutton talks, people listen," an off-camera male voice says.

Larry Patterson is like E.F. Hutton, except in the form of a college rodeo coach. When he speaks, his athletes lean in.

The long-time Blue Mountain Community College rodeo coach retired recently (for the second time) from coaching at BMCC. During his 30-plus years with the team, a multitude of athletes learned to appreciate his low-key, unpretentious style.

"He was never the kind of coach who was busy critiquing every single thing. He wasn't a rah-rah, overbearing kind of guy," said Jason Stewart, a member of the 1994 team. "He was the guy who let you figure it out. When he spoke, something really substantial came out of his mouth."

"He only said what needed to be said," said Jake Stanley, on the team from 2002-05.

Patterson helped shepherd both ropers into the rodeo limelight. Stewart, of Heppner, is a two-time National Finals Rodeo qualifier. He won the steer roping event at the Pendleton Round-Up in

2003. Stanley, a roper from Hermiston, qualified for the NFR in 2008 and won team roping at the Pendleton Round-Up in 2014 with his partner Bucky Campbell.

Patterson has loved rodeo since boyhood.

"My dad started me roping when I was a little boy," Patterson said. "I went to my first jackpot roping when I was 10. I was hooked after that."

Patterson arrived at BMCC in 1974 to join the school's rodeo team. The Idaho native hadn't planned on Pendleton until a rodeo friend suggested the college and convinced him to join the team.

The 18-year-old rode bareback, roped calves, competed in team roping and wrestled steers. He later competed for Washington State University where he also earned an animal sciences

See **COACH/8A**



McLeod-Skinner Walden

## Democrat drives 35,000 miles seeking upset in Trump country

By **ANDREW SELSKY**  
*Associated Press*

REDMOND — One of the largest U.S. congressional districts voted overwhelmingly for Donald Trump in 2016, yet an Oregon Democrat campaigning against a Republican incumbent doesn't see it as hostile territory.

Buoyed by electoral wins by a couple of Democrats elsewhere in Trump territory, candidate Jamie McLeod-Skinner is undaunted, traveling a district that's as big as North Dakota in her Jeep and tiny trailer that she sometimes sleeps in.

McLeod-Skinner is enduring all this because she doesn't think the incumbent is focused on the district's issues. She's driven 35,000 miles in 14 months of campaigning.

When a parade in the small town of Joseph was set to start in July, she walked up to an antique convertible carrying Rep. Greg Walden, who's running for his 11th term, and challenged him to a series of debates.

"I look forward to debating you. We'll figure out a schedule that works," Walden replied. Five weeks later, a debate has not been scheduled.

Nationally, Democrats are hoping a "blue wave" in November will give them a majority in Congress. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is financing selected candidates through its Red to Blue program, hoping to flip seats in Republican-controlled districts.

McLeod-Skinner's campaign isn't one of them. If the Red to Blue's 73 candidates are long shots, ones like McLeod-Skinner — running in very conservative districts — are real Hail Marys.

Walden, who typically wins around 70 percent of the vote, had a war chest currently totaling around \$3.2 million in late June — 31 times bigger than McLeod-Skinner's.

See **DRIVES/8A**

### Note to readers

Due to press maintenance, today's East Oregonian will be presented as one 14-page section. The sports section begins on Page 9A and comics can be found on 14A.

## Doggie dippin'



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Triton, center, and Dre fetch the same Frisbee in the multi-use pool Wednesday during doggie-dip day at the Pendleton Family Aquatic Center. Triton, a black lab, is owned by Mindy Madgett of Pendleton and Dre, a lab/pit bull mix, is owned by Cierra Madgett. Dozens of area dog owners brought their pooches to the pool for doggie-dip day, which is the last day of the year the pool is open.

## Hermiston, Pendleton enrollment on the rise

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**  
**AND ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

As the school year begins, the two largest school districts in Umatilla County are both seeing growth, but at varying rates. The Pendleton School District is starting to see a gradual uptick in its student population, and hopes the numbers will translate to additional funding from the state. Hermiston School District has seen consistent growth, and is trying to figure out how to accommodate all of its students in its existing facilities.

### Pendleton schools

Following years of dwindling enrollment, the Pendleton School District received some encouraging news Wednesday.

According to Matt Yoshioka, the district's director of curriculum, instruction and assessment, the district counted a total of 3,106 students on Sept. 5. That represents a modest increase from the 3,072 students that were in attendance on the same day last year.

Almost every level of school saw a small increase in

See **SCHOOLS/8A**

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