

**PENDLETON 10U
SOFTBALL WINS FIRST
ROUND AT STATE
TOURNAMENT**

SPORTS, B1



WEEKEND EDITION
**WALLOWA LAKE STATE PARK
ADDS 9-HOLE DISC GOLF COURSE**
LIFESTYLES, C1

**ANCIENT 'HYENA-PIG'
UNEARTHED AT JOHN
DAY FOSSIL BEDS**

REGION, A3

EAST OREGONIAN

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EUGENE

Short school day case faces motion to dismiss

By JESSICA POLLARD
Staff Reporter

EUGENE — An oral argument took place Wednesday for a class action lawsuit that could affect the educational future of children with disabilities facing shortened school days, following a state-issued motion to dismiss the case this April.

District Judge Ann Aiken will issue an opinion out of Eugene District Court within 60 days.

Seth Galanter of the National Center for Youth Law — one of the law groups that filed the case — said the judge showed little sign of dismissing it. Either way, the plaintiffs are hoping to hear an opinion from the court before the start of the school year.

The lawsuit, filed in January, seeks to ensure the state provides more oversight for special education programs in Oregon, and helps provide support for students to experience full school days.

Students like Aidin Schell, 9, attended three schools in Pendleton School District for a few years.

His mother, Jennifer, who spoke with the *East Oregonian* in January, said he had been receiving shortened school days against her wishes. She said she'd requested switching classrooms, and one-on-one support, but that the district told her they lacked the resources to support her son attending school for full days.

He eventually attended a program at Lifeways.

Schell said she was told that after he completed the program, he could receive full days at school. She said this didn't happen.

Today, Aidin is home-schooled. He is working through the fourth grade.

"He loves working independently, he doesn't have distractions," Schell said. "But on the social engagement side of things, he is at a disadvantage."

Schell said her son is involved in Special Olympics, and that

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EO SPOTLIGHT



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Whitney Adams and Kris Dersam keep cool in the blowup pool they brought to the Whisky Music Fest camping area next to the Round-Up Arena. This is the Creswell couple's first time to visit Pendleton.

WHISKY FEST brings thousands of camping tourists for the weekend

By ALEX CASTLE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — For the fourth year in a row, droves of tourists are camping out in Pendleton for Saturday's Whisky Music Fest at the Round-Up Arena.

Headlined by rappers Post Malone and 50 Cent, the festival is organized by Andy McAnally and Doug Corey. On Tuesday, an update posted to the event's Facebook page stated that they expected at least 17,000 people to be in the area with over 800 campers spread around the city.

The same update reported that all the hotels in the city are at max capacity.

While 17,000 is a considerable influx of people for the weekend, city manager Robb Corbett said the city is well-prepared given the annual Pendleton Round-Up regularly brings in at least 60,000 tourists.

"We are accustomed to dealing with large crowds of people coming from out of town," Corbett said. "This is what we do."

This year's festival didn't come without challenges though, as the organizers had to accommodate and prepare for a larger number of campers staying in tents rather than RVs like years past.

"You just adapt," Corbett said.

FOR MORE WHISKY FEST
PHOTOS SEE PAGE A7

The campers began arriving on Friday and are staying at Fallen Field, the Pendleton Convention Center, Bob White Field, the field behind the grounds, the Hatley Property next to Walmart, along with two newly added campgrounds at the Pendleton High School freshman football field and by West Hills.

Those arriving on Friday had the opportunity to get the weekend's festivities going early with the "Party in Pendleton" kickoff event hosted downtown from 6 p.m. to midnight. This year, the organizers expanded the party with musical performances from Kurt Van Meter and Precious Byrd along with DJ Sovereign-T.

For the campers on Friday, beating the heat was the name of the game. And some got creative.

Kris Dersam and Whitney Adams, a couple from Creswell making their first trip to Pendleton, bought a small inflatable pool just for the occasion. After arriving as the campsite opened at 11 a.m. and making a few trips to the nearby showers, they managed to fill it up just enough to soak their feet and cool off.

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Baker couple escapes harm

Bob Borders was home asleep when Colby Hedman stole his vehicle

By CHRIS COLLINS
EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — Bob Borders isn't sure whose voice woke him up Monday night at his home on Taggart Lane north of Baker City.

Was it the voice of someone who wanted to do him harm, or was it the voice of his protector?

The way everything turned out, the 65-year-old Borders is more inclined to believe he was protected when 23-year-old Colby James Hedman arrived at his door and entered his home about 10:30 p.m. Monday.

Borders, who works part-time at Thatcher's Ace Hardware, retired from his job as a hospital administrator about eight years ago.

Borders said he was home alone asleep in his chair in the living room when Hedman happened along Taggart Lane on Monday night.

Police believe Hedman stole a Toyota pickup truck from the man he is accused of murdering in Walla Walla, Washington, just a few hours before he arrived on the Borders' property just north of Baker City.

After Hedman was taken into custody, he told police he had run out of gas and had gone to the Borders' home where he found the Ford pickup with keys in it and drove away.

Borders said he called the dispatch center about 10:40 p.m. Monday to report that his Ford pickup had been stolen.

Borders did not know that the man he watched drive away was a murder suspect.

Hedman is being held on \$1

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As El Niño fades, winter forecast a 'crap shoot'

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The Pacific Ocean along the equator cooled in June and is expected to be at normal temperatures in a month or two, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported Thursday.

The cooling and rapid demise of an El Niño system was unfore-

seen a month ago by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. The drop in sea-surface and subsurface temperatures leaves long-range weather forecasters with no strong clue about the months ahead.

"The bottom line is that it's pretty close to a crap shoot for this fall and winter," Washington State Climatologist Nick Bond said. "The deck isn't stacked one way

or the other."

A weak El Niño formed in February. A month ago, NOAA said there was a 66% chance it would stay through the summer and a 50 to 55% chance it would last through the winter.

One forecasting model used by NOAA even predicted a moderate, rather than weak, El Niño in the coming winter. El Niño winters

are generally warmer than usual in the Northwest, and less snowpack accumulates for use in summer irrigation.

In a turnabout, NOAA now says the odds favor neutral conditions, beginning next month and continuing through the winter. "Neutral means things are more up in

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