

SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
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REGION, A3

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TOURNAMENT

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# EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2019

143rd Year, No. 196

WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

## Your Weekend



• **URAL THOMAS & THE PAIN**, The Lodge, Pendleton

• **QUILTS OF VALOR EXHIBITION**, Heritage Station Museum

• **ASTRONOMY: THEN AND NOW**, Pendleton Public Library

FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS  
CHECK COMING EVENTS, A6

### Weekend Weather

FRI	SAT	SUN
78/49	87/55	94/63

## The Lodge gets another grant

PDC's facade committee approves second story grant

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Development Commission is the latest public agency to financially back The Lodge, but how much money it's giving has yet to be determined.

Charles Denight, the associate director of the commission, said the facade committee voted to approve a second story grant for the 14 S.E. Second St. bar and music venue at a meeting Wednesday, but the discussion over how much the project will get will be continued to the committee's next meeting in August.

Denight said in an interview Thursday that the complexity of the deal caused a meeting that normally runs 30 minutes to balloon to an hour-and-a-half.

One of the main issues, he

*See Grant, Page A7*

## PENDLETON BIKE WEEK



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan  
Carrie Bob (left) and Jose Gutierrez admire Bob's 2018 Indian Scout Bobber. Gutierrez and Bob both own Indian Scout motorcycles and took time to compare features and modifications on their rides.

# READY TO RIDE

By **ALEX CASTLE**  
*East Oregonian*

PENDLETON — As the sun was still rising Thursday morning, packs of bikers revved out from the Pendleton Convention Center for the Rattlesnake 400 and the .45 Caliber Poker Run as a part of the Pendleton Bike Week.

The Rattlesnake 400 is a self-guided ride of 400 miles that

stretches and winds through Idaho and Washington before returning back to the convention center, while the .45 Caliber Poker Run sends riders around to businesses in Umatilla County to collect six stamps and be entered for a chance to win a .45 Caliber Citadel 1911 Pistol.

From impromptu to prudent riders and the various choppers, cruisers, or sport bikes they

bring with them, Bike Week's rides welcome an assortment of people and bikes alike.

Jeff and Carrie Bob are from Beaverton and are attending Bike Week for the second year in a row. And this year, the married couple is well-prepared to complete the Poker Run.

"I've got it all mapped out," Jeff said as he began to illus-

*See Bike Week, Page A7*

# BMCC VOLLEYBALL KEEPS BIKE WEEK SHINING

By **ALEX CASTLE**  
*East Oregonian*

PENDLETON — If the bikes and motorcycles around the Pendleton Convention Center are looking fresh and squeaky clean this week, it may just be thanks to the Blue Mountain Community College women's volleyball team.

The BMCC athletes traded out their volleyballs and gym for washcloths and asphalt beginning on Wednesday for Bike Week, where over the past years head coach Ceanna Larson and her team have taken donations for washing bikes at the convention center's vendor village.

"We just try to raise whatever we can," Larson said.

Last year, Larson said the team raised around \$2,500. All of the

*See BMCC, Page A7*



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan  
Faythe Schafer washes a 2016 Harley Davidson Road Glide Special during a bike wash fundraiser for the Blue Mountain Community College volleyball team. The event was a part of the Pendleton Bike Week and starts daily at 12:30 p.m. through Saturday.

## UEC hit with lawsuit

Lawsuit seeks \$7.2M for whistleblower retaliation

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
*East Oregonian*

HERMISTON — Umatilla Electric Cooperative and its chief executive officer are defendants in a lawsuit seeking almost \$7.2 million for whistleblower retaliation and workplace harassment.



**Echenrode**  
Beth Looney of Portland filed the suit in early June in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

She worked from March 2016 to July 3, 2018, for Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative of Portland, which does business as PNGC Power. Umatilla Electric Cooperative general manager and CEO Robert Echenrode serves on the PNGC Power board of directors. According to the complaint, Echenrode pushed for a "UEC industrial customer" to receive special treatment with a "carve-out" of more than a certain percentage, which would have "posed disproportionate risks for PNGC and its members."

Looney claims she reported what she believed was evidence of Echenrode's breaches of fiduciary duty as a board member, and Echenrode's response to her attempts to unmask his actions were to bully, demean and degrade her and undermine her authority and reputation at the company.

She claimed she reported Echenrode's actions and attitude about her and his gender-based harassment, yet PNGC Power did not investigate her reports, and the company did nothing to discourage Echenrode's behavior nor ensure he would not adversely affect her job.

She claimed she met with Echenrode on June 3, 2018, to address their issues, but Echenrode again gave her "a demeaning and sexually appraising look." She contacted his fellow board members the next day, according to the complaint, and some apologized for his behavior.

About 10 days later, the company demanded Looney apologize to Echenrode, according to the complaint, and on June 19 began investigating Looney. The situation escalated during the board meeting of July 3, 2018, when she stated she told the board "this is more than bullying, this is harassment." The company fired her later that day.

Looney seeks more than

*See Retaliation, Page A7*



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