

DEATH: Some refuse to worry

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placed in Ukiah where he grew up. Their wills and revocable trusts are in order. He refuses to worry about how and when he will die.

"You could die tomorrow in a car wreck, so why worry about it. Dying is a part of living," he said. "I don't get all shook up."

"If I could just drop dead someday, that would be wonderful," another mused.

After conducting seven of these sessions, Sasser has noticed some common threads. The director of the gerontology program at Port-

land's Marylhurst University said many expressed a desire for control over their deaths, while simultaneously admitting they are powerless.

"Some people have been very clear about wanting to be in control until the bitter end," Sasser said. "They have a really clear vision, yet they know it's probably not going to happen that way."

Others, she said, hope to die "with as much grace as they can, no matter what happens."

The topic is complicated and untidy, Sasser said. Death isn't a clean break from life. "Dying is not separate

from living. Human experience is a dance between living and dying," Sasser said. "Who knows what comes next?"

"Talking about Dying" isn't meant to provide answers, Sasser said, but rather a springboard for continuing discussion about death and other difficult topics.

"We see ourselves as conveners and igniters," she said. "We believe in the power of conversation."

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GUTEN: Party may move to grass next year

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"We were definitely overwhelmed and that was awesome," Guenther said. "It was a good problem to have."

Pat Beard, Travel Pendleton event recruiter, said he worked the concession booth and did an unofficial survey of attendees. He estimated 30 percent of the festivalgoers came from outside the area, with some traveling as far as Alaska, California and Wisconsin.

Guenther said he and a committee of organizers will meet later this week to discuss how much Oktoberfest earned in sales and what bills need to be paid off. The committee will also look at the feedback collected from

the event with an eye on improving next year.

Guenther said organizers approached the inaugural event with a "just get it done" attitude but intend to put more planning into a second Oktoberfest.

The committee went back and forth as to whether they should allow minors at Oktoberfest, but given the high number of families and children at the event, he was glad the committee opened the event to all ages.

Guenther said the committee planned for more children's entertainment, but some cancellations meant young attendees swarmed the few cornhole boards that were available. He said more games will be offered to

children next year.

In addition to making sure breweries have a more robust beer supply, Guenther said expanding the event has already been proposed. Confined to the southern concourse this year, some attendees suggested they move next year's edition to the grass in the center of the arena.

Beard also thought Oktoberfest would benefit from a relocation to the center of the arena in addition to more attractions that emphasize Oktoberfest's German origins like oom-pah bands and lederhosen contests.

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WOLF: Animal came from Umatilla pack

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However, the Grant County DA's office said the case has been transferred to Harney County prosecutor's office. District Attorney Tim Colahan said his cohort in Grant County has a conflict of interest because he knows the hunter's family, and asked Colahan to handle the review as a courtesy. Colahan said he is just now receiving case information from OSP and has not made a charging decision.

District attorneys in Oregon can present cases to a grand jury for possible indictment, bring charges themselves or decide the facts don't warrant prosecu-

tion. The man who shot the wolf was not identified.

The wolf, designated OR-22 by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, is at least the third to die in Oregon since late August, when the Sled Springs pair in Wallowa County were found dead of an unknown cause. State police suspended their investigation in that case, saying they didn't have probable cause to say the deaths were due to human action and that the cause of death couldn't be determined because the carcasses had deteriorated.

State police said the wolf shot in Grant County was a male that dispersed from

the Umatilla Pack. Young or sub-dominant wolves often leave their home packs to establish their own territory and find mates.

According to ODFW, OR-22 has worn a GPS tracking collar since October 2013 and dispersed from the Umatilla Pack in February 2015. He was in Malheur County for awhile, then traveled into Grant County. He did not have a mate or pups, according to ODFW.

Online ODFW spokeswoman Michelle Dennehey said information about distinguishing wolves from coyotes is available at www.dfw.state.or.us

DRONE: No official count for number sold

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only a pound or two or that can't fly higher than a few hundred feet are considered less risky, but heavier ones and those that can fly thousands of feet pose more of a problem.

To work out details, the FAA and the Transportation Department are setting up a task force including government and industry officials, pilots and hobbyists. They'll recommend which drones should be required to register.

It's hard to identify drones seen operating illegally near airports and planes or over crowds, and registration by itself won't change that. But it would allow the FAA to identify drones when they can be recovered after landing or crashing, a common occurrence.

Earlier this year, drones operated illegally crashed on the White House lawn and at the New York stadium where the U.S. Open Tennis Championships were being held. In both cases the drone operators came forward. But if they hadn't, the government would have had no way to identify them.

"There can be no accountability if the person breaking the rules can't be identified," Foxx said.

There's no official count of how many drones have been sold in the U.S., but industry officials say it is in the hundreds of thousands and will easily pass a million by the end of the year.

Foxx said he has directed the task force to deliver its report by Nov. 20 and hopes to have registration requirements in place by mid-December. The timeline is tight, but the urgency of the problem demands swift action, he said.

The Consumer Electronics Association predicts that 700,000 drones will be sold this holiday season, and Foxx said it's especially important that new drone users be taught the responsi-

bilities that come with flying.

Registering drones that could pose safety risks "makes sense, but it should not become a prohibitive burden for recreational users who fly for fun and educational purposes and who have operated harmoniously within our communities for decades," Dave Mathewson, executive director of the Academy for Model Aeronautics, said in a statement.

And Daniel Castro, vice president at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, urged the government not to "rush into new rules that could have unintended consequences down the line."

Regulations devised by the task force "will have long-term implications for free speech, privacy and the commercial development and deployment of this nascent technology," he said

in a statement.

Foxx was vague when asked about the FAA's authority to require registrations, especially on an expedited basis that will provide little if any opportunity for public comment first. It typically takes the agency years to put new regulations in place. Also, a 2012 aviation law includes a provision exempting the model academy's 180,000 members from drone regulations.

Jim Williams, a principal at the law firm Dentons who formerly headed the FAA's drone office, said he believes the agency can get around having to go through the cumbersome rulemaking process by formally determining small drones are a new type of aircraft and therefore fall under existing FAA regulations that say all aircraft must be registered.

WALDEN: Tour ends in Boardman

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transmission project, talk with patient advocates about the 21st Century Cures Act and stop by the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

HAREC visit
At Oregon State University's Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Walden got a tour of new features — including the recently built Don Horneck Memorial Building.

Phil Hamm, the center's director, said a bill Walden helped pass keeps the extension center land in OSU's hands. He also said the bill means the center can now be a "good neighbor" if a potential developer needs to build a railroad spur across a corner of the extension center's land, and it means the land can be sold someday if Hermiston continues to expand.

Hamm and board chairman Bryan Wolfe said without Walden's help the "reversionary clause" would have continued to hamper the experiment station. Wolfe said Walden has visited the station several times and, as someone who grew up on an Oregon orchard, said he understands "what this station means to our growers."

"We're blessed to have him as our representative," Wolfe said, adding that Walden also has "the best staff of anyone in Washington, D.C."

Walden said he was proud of all the experiment station had accomplished and was happy to lend his support.

"This is the one time I'm actually proud to wear the orange and black," joked Walden, who graduated from the University of Oregon.

Medical research roundtable

Walden also visited Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston where he met with patient advocates to share information and gather feedback on the 21st Century Cures Act.

The act, which passed with strong bipartisan support in the House and is now headed to the Senate, seeks to cut red tape and provide incentives to work on cures for diseases ranging from Parkinson's to Alzheimer's.

"We're on the cusp of incredible breakthroughs in medicine and technology and this legislation is designed to move that forward more quickly," Walden said.

Among the bill's provisions are incentives, such as patent extensions for drug companies that pursue cures for rare diseases. Walden said scientists think the cure "isn't very far away" for some diseases, but putting money toward curing a disease that only affects 1,000 people isn't very profitable without some extra incentive to do so.

The bill also sets aside \$8.75 billion for new medical research and clears some legal hurdles to using telemedicine in rural areas.

Walden said Tim Cook, CEO of Apple, recently shared a story with him of a young man who noticed thanks to a health app on his Apple watch that his heart was behaving erratically and went in to see a doctor. The doctor told him if he had played football the next day as planned he likely would have died on the field.

Walden said the 21st Century Cures Act also provides a pathway for medical breakthroughs via the "datascope." He said in the United States alone there is 65 petabytes, equaling hundreds of millions of gigabits, of data on cancer patients. If researchers can access that data in an anonymous form, using cloud computing that calculates in minutes what used to take decades, patterns would surely emerge that would help in the search for a cure. The bill would allow for that to take place.

Boardman to Hemingway

In his visit to Morrow County, Walden heard from county officials and area landowners on the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line project.

The project, which would allow Idaho Power to run a new transmission line from Boardman to Hemingway, Idaho, drew opposition from locals who pointed out the line's path would take valuable agricultural land out of commission.

Landowners updated Walden on a potential compromise in Morrow County that would locate approximately eight miles of transmission line along already-established lines on the west side of Bombing Range Road instead of on agricultural land.

The road is leased by the county from the U.S. Navy, and county officials said the Navy hadn't made a commitment to an easement for the line, but things looked promising.

Port of Morrow manager Gary Neal said he felt the compromise was a good one.

"From the Port's perspective I thought this was the best solution," he said.

Morrow County planning director Carla McLane said there were still a lot of issues that needed to be worked out, including the fact that the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife was dragging its feet on a decision of whether to classify a species of ground squirrel as endangered, which would have an impact on where the lines could be located.

Walden thanked the group for giving him an update, noting that even though the Boardman to Hemingway project wasn't directly a federal issue, it was always good to be apprised of issues in his district so he could be on the lookout for opportunities to put in a good word or otherwise lend a hand behind the scenes.

"You never know," he said. "Being in the loop helps."

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