

Rain falls in a puddle filled with leaves Thursday in Pendleton. For the weekend forecast, see 2A. Staff photo by E.J. Harris



EAST OREGONIAN

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140th Year, No. 26

WINNER OF THE 2015 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend

Catch a movie



Murray Close/Lionsgate via AP

Jennifer Lawrence stars in the series conclusion, "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2"

For showtime, Page 5A
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Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
42/19	38/18	39/22

PENDLETON Corp to take over as CBARC director

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

In a surprise announcement Thursday, Valtcho Jeliazkov — the man hired to replace Steve Petrie as director of Oregon State University's Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center — told growers he has resigned after one year on the job.

Mary Corp, regional administrator for OSU Extension Service, will take over the position starting Monday. Corp will continue to head up university outreach in Umatilla, Morrow and Gilliam counties.



The news came as members of a liaison committee between farmers, CBARC and the federal Agricultural Research Service met Thursday morning at the Pendleton station for an open house and program updates. They were joined by Dan Arp, dean of the OSU College of Agricultural Science; Tom Shanower, associate area director of the ARS; and Blake Rowe, CEO of the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

See CBARC/9A

House votes to curb refugees

Democrats join GOP to prevent presidential veto on rules for Syrians, Iraqis

By ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a stinging rebuke to President Barack Obama by Republicans and Democrats, the House ignored a veto threat Thursday and overwhelmingly approved GOP legislation erecting fresh hurdles for Syrian and Iraqi refugees trying to enter the United States.

Forty-seven Democrats joined all but two Republicans as the House passed the measure by a veto-proof 289-137 margin, a major setback to the lame duck president on an issue — the Islamic State group and the refugees fleeing it — that shows no signs of easing. The vote exceeded the two-thirds majority required to override a veto, and came despite a rushed, early morning visit to the Capitol by senior

administration officials in a futile attempt to limit Democratic defections.

Thursday's roll call came six days after a burst of bombings and shootings in Paris killed 129 people, wounded many more and revived post-9/11 jitters in the U.S. and Europe. The attacks have turned the question of admitting people

More inside

• What Democrat shift on refugee policy means for Obama. Page 6A

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Weekend Weather

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Marie Johnson of Hermiston places water in a cat trap Friday at a home off of Baxter Road outside Hermiston.

CAT TRAP FEVER

Rescuers fight to stay ahead of increasing cat population in Hermiston

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

For the network of people who are taking hundreds of stray cats off the streets in Hermiston each year, nothing is more frustrating than hearing someone say letting their cat roam free without being spayed or neutered is "no big deal."

It is a big deal, Cat Utopia director Cindy Spiess said. It's a big deal because cats can have three litters a year, meaning one male and one female can have 400,000 descendants in seven years.

"I don't think the community at large has any idea the number of stray and abandoned animals here," she said.

Cat Utopia is a Pendleton-based rescue, but Spiess said 60 percent



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Marie Johnson of Hermiston sets a cat trap at a residence off Baxter Road on Friday east of Hermiston.

of the 342 cats taken in by the organization during the last 12 months were from Hermiston. That doesn't count hundreds more taken in by Pet Rescue, PAWS, Fuzzballs, the

Purrfection Crew and a number of private individuals in a fight to slow the rising tide of feral and abandoned

See CATS/10A

More Mexicans leaving U.S. than coming

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — More Mexicans are leaving than moving into the United States, reversing the flow of a half-century of mass migration, according to a study published Thursday.

The Pew Research Center found that slightly more than 1 million Mexicans and their families, including American-born children, left the U.S. for Mexico from 2009 to 2014. During the same five years, 870,000 Mexicans came to the U.S., resulting in a net flow to Mexico of 140,000.

The desire to reunite families is the main reason more Mexicans are moving south than north, Pew found. The sluggish U.S. economic recovery and tougher border enforcement are other key factors.

The era of mass migration from Mexico is "at an end," declared Mark Hugo Lopez, Pew's director of Hispanic research.

The finding follows a Pew study in 2012 that found net migration between the two countries was near zero, so this represents a turning point in one of the largest mass migrations in U.S. history. More than 16 million Mexicans moved to the United States from 1965 to 2015, more than from any other country.

"This is something that we've seen coming," Lopez said. "It's been almost 10 years that migration from Mexico has really slowed down."

See MEXICANS/9A

HERMISTON

Top teen debaters learn to see issues from both sides



Staff photo by Sean Hart

Hermiston High School Advanced Placement Language & Writing students Vanessa Ambriz-Mendoza, left, and Valentino Whitesell review notes during a debate finals Tuesday at the school.

High school's best take turns arguing pros and cons of domestic surveillance, whether or not they agree

By SEAN HART
East Oregonian

In a student debate Tuesday about whether the United States government should curtail domestic surveillance programs, both sides emerged victorious.

In two separate debates between two-student teams, one team arguing in favor of curtailment and one team opposed won after the judges' votes were tallied in the Hermiston High School auditorium.

The students participating were juniors in the high school's Advanced Placement language and writing course who prepared for the public policy

debate over the summer. After two rounds of debate during school, the top eight were selected to compete in the final event Tuesday.

In the first debate, Matthew Rada and Frederick Gonzales argued that the National Security Agency's collection of metadata from phone and Internet communications was in violation of the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits "unreasonable searches and seizures." If the government is not kept "in check," Rada said, citizens would lose more rights. And by straying from its founding principles, the democracy could become a socialist

See DEBATE/10A



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