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One dollar

Walden meets for roundtable discussion on opioid abuse



Congressman Greg Walden listens as Dwight Holton, CEO of Line for Life, explains some of the issues with pain killer addition in the state during a roundtable discussion with health care providers, pharmacists, hospital administrators and law enforcement Tuesday at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

Staff photo E.J. Harris

Kicking the addiction

Congress working on a dozen bills to counter painkiller dependence

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Rep. Greg Walden asked for advice this week on a subject that is grabbing plenty of headlines these days — abuse of prescription painkillers.

Walden met Tuesday with health care providers, pharmacists, hospital administrators, law enforcement and others at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston for an opioid roundtable. He is having similar conversations in Bend and Medford this week is working with his congressional colleagues through 12 proposed bills to tackle the opioid addiction epidemic.

"I don't think the general public knows how bad this is," he said. "I think my colleagues didn't know until we started to get into it."

Dwight Holton, sitting on Walden's left, provided some stats. Holton is CEO of a non-profit called Lines for Life which works to prevent suicide and drug addiction. He said the toll of opioid abuse is horrendous.

"About 15,000 people die from prescription opioid overdoses every year in America," he said. "Basically, it's a jetliner of people every week."

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Dr. Joel Rice of La Grande holds up an automated Suboxone dispenser. Suboxone is a drug that is used to wean addicts off of opioids.

Staff photo E.J. Harris



MILTON-FREEWATER

Shotgun, ammo, ski masks, duct tape found in suspect's car

Man shot by M-F police out of hospital, into jail

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Oregon State Police found three spent shotgun shells in the floor of Robert Sregzinski's car, following his shootout last week with Milton-Freewater police.

A search warrant affidavit also shows detectives seized three bottles of gun powder from the car, along with a 12-gauge shotgun, an ammo belt with 41 shotgun shells and a black tote with two black ski masks, one box of Skintx rubber gloves, one unused 9x12 foot drop cloth, a roll of duct tape and two boxes of Winchester .380 caliber bullets.

Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus in a written statement Wednesday reported Sregzinski, 19, is out of a Walla Walla hospital and in the Walla Walla County Jail on a detainer warrant from

See SHOOTING/8A

PENDLETON

Fire station bond flames out for Nov.

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

No site, no ballot measure.

That was the message the Pendleton City Council sent to Fire Chief Mike Ciraulo, who had proposed the city pursue \$9.85 million fire station bond in November despite not having identified a place to put the new fire station.

Instead, the council passed a resolution putting the bond measure on the May 2017 ballot contingent upon the city finding a site for a new station.

The city previously proposed putting a fire station on the old St. Anthony Hospital property, but negotiations between hospital officials and the city broke down over infrastructure commitments.

"I'll take the blame," Ciraulo said. "I was naive, in my being new to the city, that I could convince the hospital to make that donation. That was not originally part of the plan. I thought we had gained some traction but unfortunately it fell by the wayside."

See FIRE/8A

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: IRRIGON

Tuning in to the first-grade mind

Brenda Kittelson a Crystal Apple Award winner

By JENNIFER COLTON
East Oregonian

After lunch, Brenda Kittelson's students shuffle into the classroom and jump into lessons incorporating geometry, government, art, teamwork, leadership, tactile construction and English — and that's all within the first hour of a first-grade classroom.

A teacher at AC Houghton Elementary in Irrigon, Kittelson weaves her humor and down-to-Earth attitude with life lessons and a patience her young students appreciate. Kittelson, Morrow County's 2016 Crystal Apple winner, has found her home in the classroom.

Surrounded by teachers as a child,

"I am one of those people that even if I won the lottery, I would still work. I love my job!"

— **Brenda Kittelson**, teacher at A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon

Kittelson always knew she wanted to join the profession, but in college she felt the pull of a business degree. After a few years in the industry, however, she felt the nagging feeling something wasn't right.

"I just felt that drive like I wasn't doing

See TEACHER/8A



Teacher Brenda Kittelson works with her first-graders during a lesson on geometric shapes on Tuesday at A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon.

Staff photo E.J. Harris

