

# AFRICA: Will avoid known unstable countries such as Sudan, Niger and Chad

Continued from 1A

physically demanding and we didn't want to wait until we retired."

Simpson and Usinger first met on a blind date. They married in 2005 and spent their honeymoon in South Africa. In 2010, they returned to South Africa to watch World Cup soccer.

Along the way "we fell in love with Africa," Simpson said. They decided on more adventure there, sketching out a highly flexible route that starts in Johannesburg, South Africa, and meanders through Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya up to Ethiopia. They will swing south and then west across the continent, before skirting the west coast to Morocco. It's all subject to change.

"It's wherever the road takes us," Simpson said.

They plan to travel roughly 150 miles a day, about three out of every five days. As the couple developed this multi-year journey, they puzzled about whether to buy a vehicle in Africa or ship their cherished Jeep overseas. They chose the latter. Before Snort could leave the U.S., however, the Jeep would get a makeover at Bruiser Conversions in Florida to beef it up for rough African roads.

The couple flew to Florida in early April to retrieve the vehicle. Snort had been transformed into the Incredible Hulk of overland/off road vehicles. The Jeep sported tougher axles, wheels and tires, a diesel engine instead of the old gasoline one, anti-

sway bar, a snorkel to replace the previous lower air intake and power cables hooked to the front and rear bumpers. Snort was taller, tougher and rumblier.

The couple was smitten. They drove home from Florida to Oregon getting reacquainted with their Jeep.

Snort will spend 35 days inside a shipping container after leaving Long Beach, California, by sea in mid-June. Simpson and Usinger will fly to South Africa and search for a used off-road camping trailer. When the Jeep arrives in Africa, they will hook up and go.

Simpson will likely get a chance during the trip to use maintenance skills he learned

on his father's Pendleton wheat farm. While paved highways exist there, roads are often rocky, two-track affairs or worse.

"Over there, even major roads look a lot like what we call four-wheel-drive trails," Simpson said. "We're prepared for any of those roads."

The couple will avoid a handful of sometimes unstable countries such as Sudan, Niger, Chad and the Central African Republic. They scoured the internet for information about border crossing procedures and visas and read blogs for insights and ideas for safe destinations.

Whether to cross the

Congo River or go around is a question. Crossing the 2,920-mile-long Congo, the world's deepest river, can be a challenge.

"Where to cross the Congo is up in the air," Simpson said. "Going around is not safe — that route goes through failed states and areas allied with ISIS. We will find a way to cross the river, either by ferry, or across the one bridge, at Matadi (in the Democratic Republic of Congo)."

The best ferries are also found in the sometimes-dangerous Democratic Republic of Congo.

"It's the Wild West there," Simpson said.

The couple will stay connected with other trav-

elers for destination ideas and warnings of unsafe routes.

"We'll keep our ear to the ground," Simpson said. "There are a lot of people traveling — we can tap into that."

They carry with them a sense of urgency to see Africa before it catches up with the rest of the world.

"It's one of the last truly wild places on the planet. It's one of the few places left where you can see every level of human civilization from hunter gathers to big modern cities," Simpson said. "We want to see what Africa has to offer while it is still Africa."

The couple has saved and budgeted for the trek for several years. They sold their

house in a good market after buying low. Without a mortgage and utility bills, daily expenses will be lower than in Portland — about \$60-100 per day.

Simpson and Usinger are itching to get started.

"We're jumping at the gun," Usinger said. "It's been a long time coming. We are ready."

The couple will blog about their adventure at [www.pioneeringspirit.com](http://www.pioneeringspirit.com) and the *East Oregonian* will do occasional follow-up stories on the weekend Eat, Drink & Explore page.

Contact Kathy Aney at [kaney@eastoregonian.com](mailto:kaney@eastoregonian.com) or call 541-966-0810.

# FLAG: Had 48 stars from 1912 until 1959

Continued from 1A

his grandmother's flag.

Duane Storms, who led Monday morning's memorial ceremony at the cemetery on behalf of VFW Post 4750, said when volunteers gathered at 5 p.m. to put away the flags he would retire the 48-star flag. It will be folded properly and placed in a shadow box, where it will be displayed in the VFW post along with the four other 48-star flags already retired from the Avenue of Flags.

"They're getting to be brown, because they're so weathered, and they can't be replaced," Storms said.

He said there are about 75 other flags that are starting to get too weathered to continue to display. The VFW plans to publish a list of the names on those flags in the newspaper this year to try and return them to family members who wish to get them back.

The star-spangled banner had 48 stars from 1912, when New Mexico and Arizona were added to the union, until 1959, when Alaska and Hawaii became states.

The 48-star flag on display for the last time on the Avenue of Flags had "Clemit Brock, Navy Air Wing" stenciled on the side. In a nearby section of the cemetery a headstone read "Clemit C. Brock 1924-1950."

Many of the visitors to the Hermiston Cemetery Monday morning were there for the annual Memorial Day Ceremony hosted by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4750 and American Legion Post 37. During the ceremony Storms offered a prayer before reading the names of all of the local veterans who died in the past year. Veterans, families and individuals stood quietly at attention while a bugler played "Taps" to bring the short ceremony to a close.

The Avenue of Flags were scheduled to come down at 5 p.m. and Storms said he was grateful for the volunteers who stepped up each year to help before heading off to barbecues with family and friends.

"We need all the help we can get because our youngest guy is 63," he said.

Contact Jade McDowell at [jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com](mailto:jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4536.



SAFeway **clip or CLICK!** just for U Valid 5/31/16 thru 6/7/16

# \$10 OFF \$50 or more\*

Save on your next grocery purchase of \$50 or more\* with your Safeway Club Card and this Savings Award.

\*Use this Savings Award on any shopping trip you choose at any Oregon Safeway store and S.W. Washington stores serving Clark, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Skamania, Walla Walla and Klickitat counties by 6/7/16. This \$10.00 Savings Award excludes purchases of Alcoholic Beverages, Fluid Dairy Products, Tobacco, US Postage Stamps, Trimet Bus/Commuter Passes, Money Orders, Container Deposits, Lottery, Gift Cards, Gift Certificates Sales, All Pharmacy Prescription Purchases, Safeway Club Savings, Safeway Store Coupons and Sales Tax. One Savings Award redeemable per household. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED. Online and in-store prices, discounts, and offers may differ.



SAFeway **clip or CLICK!** just for U Valid 6/1/16 thru 6/7/16 SAFeway **clip or CLICK!** just for U Valid 6/1/16 thru 6/7/16 SAFeway **clip or CLICK!** just for U Valid 6/1/16 thru 6/7/16

**Signature® Home Bath Tissue**  
30-rolls. Family Pack.

**12.99** ea  
WITH CARD AND COUPON

Limit 4

This coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Offer Valid with Card and Coupon. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED. Coupon valid thru 6/7/16.

**LOCAL OVENJOY**  
Wheat Enriched Bread  
White Enriched Bread

**99¢** ea  
WITH CARD AND COUPON

Limit 2

This coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Offer Valid with Card and Coupon. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED. Coupon valid thru 6/7/16.

**Lucerne®** Chunk or Shredded Cheese  
32-oz. Selected varieties.

**4.99** ea  
WITH CARD AND COUPON

Limit 4

This coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Offer Valid with Card and Coupon. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED. Coupon valid thru 6/7/16.

**LOCAL** Fresh Foster Farms Whole Fryers  
Limit 4 Chickens.

**79¢** lb  
WITH CARD AND COUPON

Limit 4

This coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Offer Valid with Card and Coupon. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED. Coupon valid thru 6/7/16.

**LOCAL** Tuscan Melons

**2\$5** for 5  
WITH CARD AND COUPON

Limit 2

This coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Offer Valid with Card and Coupon. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED. Coupon valid thru 6/7/16.

**8-Piece Dark Chicken**  
Grilled or Fried.  
4 Legs and 4 Thighs.

**\$5** ea  
WITH CARD AND COUPON

This coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Offer Valid with Card and Coupon. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED. Coupon valid thru 6/7/16.

just for U Sign up at [safeway.com](http://safeway.com) or download the Safeway App. Get free offers and personalized deals. Add coupons online or with our App. Create a digital shopping list.

# Help a Family in Need

Purchase Hunger Bags at the register to provide essential items to the Oregon Food Bank for local families.

## HUNGER BAGS

June 1 - June 28

**\$10**



Prices in this ad are effective 6 AM Wednesday, June 1, 2016 thru Tuesday, June 7, 2016 (unless otherwise noted) in all Safeway stores in Oregon and S.W. Washington stores serving Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, Walla Walla and Klickitat Counties. Items offered for sale are not available to other dealers or wholesalers. Sales of products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine limited by law. Quantity rights reserved. SOME ADVERTISING ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL STORES. Some advertised prices may be even lower in some stores. On Buy One, Get One Free ("BOGO") offers, customer must purchase the first item to receive the second item free. BOGO offers are not 1/2 price sales. If only a single item purchased, the regular price applies. Manufacturers' coupons may be used on purchased items only — not on free items. Limit one coupon per purchased item. Customer will be responsible for tax and deposits as required by law on the purchased and free items. No liquor sales in excess of 52 gallons. No liquor sales for resale. Liquor sales at licensed Safeway stores only. © 2015 Safeway Inc. Availability of items may vary by store. Online and in-store prices, discounts and offers may differ.