

Walden shares fed frustrations with Rotary Club

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
East Oregonian

The occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge earlier this year saw frustrations boil over between ranchers and the federal government, most notably the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service.



Walden

While those issues continue to linger, Congressman Greg Walden, R-Oregon, said he's encouraging the Secretary of the Interior to draw more attention to collaboratives that have made improve-

ments on the range, such as the High Desert Partnership in Harney County.

Walden visited with the Pendleton Rotary Club on Monday to discuss fallout from the occupation, as well as his efforts to revamp wildfire funding and oppose a national monument proposed at the Owyhee Canyons.

Part of the issue with federal land management, Walden said, has been the Equal Access to Justice Act, which compensates the attorney fees for organizations that sue the government if they can

prove their suit is justified. Responding to a question from the audience, Walden said the law has become like an ATM for litigious groups and has slowed down progress toward making the land resilient to fires.

"Everything gets appealed, everything gets litigated and nothing gets done," Walden said.

Enter into this setting the proposal for national monument at the Owyhee Canyons, which would include 2.5 million acres — twice the size of Grand Canyon National Park in the southwest. Walden said residents are overwhelmingly opposed to the idea, and worried about additional restrictions on ranching.

"There are already seven layers of management over these areas in Eastern Oregon," he said. "I don't see how an eighth is going to help anything, unless your goal is to get cattle off the range."

In other news, Walden said the House has passed his wildfire funding bill for the fourth time in as many years. The Resilient Federal Forests Act would allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency to transfer disaster funding to the Forest Service and BLM when they have exhausted their firefighting budgets, rather than borrow the money from other programs. The bill would also expedite forest thinning projects up to 15,000 acres if

they are planned by collaborative groups.

The Senate has yet to take up the bill, but Walden said he's hoping the fourth time will be the charm. Oregon Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden, along with Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, Maria Cantwell, D-Washington and Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, recently released their own draft legislation that targets "fire-borrowing" and accelerating forest restoration. Differences between the two bills could be sorted out in a conference committee later this legislative session.

During Q-and-A, Walden addressed topics ranging from the looming Republican National Convention to the threat posed by domestic

terrorism in the wake of a shooting at an Orlando nightclub. Walden said domestic terrorism — especially "lone wolf" attackers — are a serious threat, but voiced reservations about legislation that would have restricted gun sales to anyone on the no-fly or terrorist watch list. The Senate rejected further gun curbs on Monday.

"That due process is missing," he said.

Earlier in the day, Walden visited Echo for a town hall before moving on to meet with veterans leaders in La Grande and a second town hall in Baker City.

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EO file photo

Contestants get ready for the start of a heat during a past Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon Wiener Dog Race. This year's event, which kicks off Wiener Weekend, is Friday, June 24.

'Wiener Weekend' grows in 10th year

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

Wiener Weekend is about to get longer.

Heidi Anderson, executive director of the Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, calls the newly modified event an "ultimate family weekend in Pendleton."

"It will help draw visitors from out of the area," she said. "It brings those people to our businesses and downtown, creating an atmosphere that really helps to strengthen our downtown."

The children's museum will host its 10th annual Wiener Dog Race. The event is Friday, with races starting at 6 p.m. in the 400 block of Main Street, Pendleton. However, be sure to head downtown early for kid's games, a silent auction, food, drinks and a beer garden, which begin at 4 p.m.

The entry fee for dachshunds entering Dogtona 400 is \$20 for those pre-registered by Thursday. The fee increases to \$25 on race day. Entry forms are available at www.cmeo.org or by calling 541-276-1066.

Prize packages will be awarded to the top three finishers, including entry into the prestigious Northwest Championship Wiener Dog Race.

The event features dogs, dogs and more dogs. The Pendleton Farmers' Market will host a gourmet hot dog contest at 5:15 p.m. Also, bring a hearty appetite for the hot dog eating contest at 5:45 p.m.

"There will be the gourmet hot dog contest, then the hot dog eating contest and then the wiener dog race — how many dog references can you get with that?" Anderson said with a laugh.

The Wiener Weekend continues Saturday with a Chalk Art Festival. People are invited to stake out a spot on the sidewalk from 8-9 a.m. at Riverfront Plaza, Southwest Court Avenue and Fourth Street (near the heron sculpture). Chalk will be provided, and participants will have until 2 p.m. to create something beautiful, strange, wacky or whimsical — all creative expression is welcome. There's no admission charge and prizes will be awarded at 2 p.m.

The Color My Pendleton color run is Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at

Roy Raley Park, 1205 S.W. Court Ave. Registration fees are \$30 for adults, \$18 for ages 12 and under or \$70 for a family of up to four people. Money raised benefits the Pendleton Swim Association and Pendleton High School cross country team. For registration information, visit www.travelpendleton.com.

Also, a children's version — Kid's Color My Pendleton — starts prior to the main run. Open to kids 10 and under, the fee, which includes park activities, is \$10. Proceeds go to the children's museum.

"The kiddos will have an opportunity to do the color run activity," Anderson said. "They will do the whole color thing and then a bounce house will be available."

Visitors are encouraged to stop by the children's museum — the first 30 out of town guests will receive free passes to the Pendleton Aquatics Center.

And, the Wiener Weekend closes out with a free family-friendly movie. Movies in the Park begins at dusk at Community Park East, 1000 S.W. 37th St. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Jury duty scam making local rounds

PENDLETON — A jury duty scam is circulating throughout Umatilla County. Trial court administrator Roy Blaine warns the fraud is aimed at taking your money.

Blaine in a written statement Monday reported a swindler has called people around Umatilla County and claims to be a Umatilla County sheriff's deputy warning whoever answers there is a warrant for their arrest for failing to report for jury duty. The caller asked people for credit card information or to have them purchase a cash card and give them the number from it.

The calls are not coming from the Umatilla County Circuit Court or the sheriff's office, Blaine said, and the court "will never require you to give your personal information over the phone or by email for jury service."

Circuit court does not call jurors who have missed jury duty and ask for personal information, such as bank account information, credit card numbers, or Social Security numbers. Circuit

court also does not issue subpoenas by email or call you to advise of a warrant.

If you receive an email or text message, do not click on any links or open any attachments, but contact local law enforcement to report it.

Do not give the scammers any of your personal information, Blaine advised, and if possible get the caller's name and number, then report the scam to your local circuit court jury coordinator at 541-278-0341, extension 248.

"The court will report the incident to law enforcement," Blaine reported. "You may want to file your own report, too."

If you have given out personal information, monitor your account statements and credit reports. If you spot unauthorized charges, report the theft to local law enforcement and the Federal Trade Commission at 877-438-4338 or www.consumer.gov/idtheft. You also can contact a credit bureau to request that it place a fraud alert on your credit history.

Board defers murderer's release

MILTON-FREE-WATER — Jon Quintin Johnston will stay in prison for at least two more years.

According to an email from Rosemary Brewer, an attorney representing the victims' family, the Oregon Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision decided to defer the convicted murderer's parole for another two years because "the inmate is suffering from a present severe emotional disturbance that constitutes a danger to the health or safety of the community."

Johnston murdered George and Charmaine

Myers of Brownsville in 1990 on Linnton Mountain Road east of Weston and was sentenced to a minimum of 30 years in prison, but a 2010 Oregon Supreme Court ruling allowed inmates like Johnston to apply for parole earlier.

The parole board previously issued a two year deferral in 2014.

During both hearings, the Meyers' family and Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus spoke against Johnston's release.

Johnston will be eligible for release again in 2018.

Defendants rise to four in kidnapping case

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Four people now are in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, in connection to an April kidnapping case.

Pendleton police on Thursday arrested Stephanie Carr, 22, and Brad Anthony McDonald, 35, both of Pendleton, on warrants for second-degree kidnapping. The charge is a class B felony in Oregon and carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years, 10 months.

Court records show the arrests came after a Umatilla

County grand jury indicted the pair on June 8, leading to the warrant. The grand jury that same day indicted a third defendant in the case, Daniel Joseph Avila, 28 of Irrigon, also for second-degree kidnapping and for attempted third-degree assault and menacing. He has been in the county jail on other charges since May 29.

The three pleaded not guilty to the charges Friday and join Sarah Marie Carr, 24, as co-defendants.

She has been in the jail since June 12 on charges of menacing, second-degree kidnapping, second- and

third-degree assault and first- and second-degree use of a stun gun. She also has pleaded not guilty.

Pendleton police on April 24 received a 9-1-1 report from a man who claimed Sarah Carr was going to pay him the money she owed. Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said she took the victim into a outside Pendleton and shot him with a stun gun, then left him. Another man in the vehicle may have brandished a small baseball bat, though police never recovered one, and another man was the driver.

Court records show the grand jury heard testimony from two Pendleton police corporals, Mark Golter and Tyler Reddington, as well as the victim in the case.

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- **Insurance records:** Keep for the life of your policy.
- **Utility bills:** Unless needed for tax purposes.
- **Old credit card statements,** unless something was purchased with a warranty.
- **Tax records:** Destroy after six years.
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- **Old investment statements.**

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