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REGION/3A TOP 11 WEATHER EVENTS OF 2016



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# EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2016

141st Year, No. 54

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

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## Your Weekend



- Free First Day Hike at Emigrant Springs
- Hermiston Resolution Run at Riverfront Park
- IMAC breakfast at Stokes Landing Senior Center

For times and places see Coming Events, 3A

## Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
37/23	39/27	29/15

## Min wage to increase in 19 states on Jan. 1

Oregon hike coming later in the year

By DAVID KLEPPER  
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — It will be a happy New Year indeed for millions of the lowest-paid U.S. workers. Nineteen states, including New York and California, will ring in the year with an increase in the minimum wage.

Massachusetts and Washington state will have the highest new minimum wages in the country, at \$11 per hour.

California will raise its wage to \$10.50 for businesses with 26 or more employees. New York state is taking a regional approach, with the wage rising to \$11 in New York City, to \$10.50 for small businesses in the city, \$10 in its downstate suburbs and \$9.70 elsewhere. Some specific businesses — fast-food restaurants and the smallest New York City businesses — will have slightly different wage requirements.

"This \$1.50 increase, I cannot even comprehend or tell you how important this will be," said Alvin Major, a New York City fast-food worker. The 51-year-old father of four helped lead the fight for the increase in his state, one of several successful efforts by fast-

See WAGE/10A

## PENDLETON



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Mayor Phillip Houk does some final paperwork as his last term as Pendleton's leader comes to a close.

# Let'er Houk

Departing mayor rides off after 22 years in city government

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

The first edition of Pendleton Mayor Phillip Houk's biography is on the walls of his office.

On the left wall is a picture of Houk, then a young city councilor, breaking ground in 1995 on a renovation project that would turn Helen McCune Junior High School into present day city hall.

On the right is novelty check from the U.S. Department of the Treasury representing the several million dollars the federal government gave the city in 2006 to extend Airport Road. Further back is the photo he took with Bill Clinton in 2008 when the former president rolled through Pendleton while stumping for his wife, Hillary, in her first bid for presidency.

These photos and memorabilia span 22 years on the Pendleton City Council and 12 years as mayor, which will end this week when his handpicked successor takes his place.



Contributed photo

Phillip Houk rides his Harley decked out with a campaign sign in the 2004 Dress-Up Parade during his first campaign for Pendleton mayor.

Clad in his standard mayoral garb — dress shirt, tie and jacket paired with blue jeans and cowboy boots — Houk literally paged through a list of

Pendleton achievements accomplished during his tenure.

Besides the aforementioned city hall renovation and Airport Road extension,

Houk cited his involvement in the creation of a new wastewater treatment plant, a water membrane

See HOUK/10A

## Obama punishes Russian hacking

By JOSH LEDERMAN  
and TAMI ABDOLLAH  
Associated Press

HONOLULU — The United States struck back Thursday at Russia for hacking the U.S. presidential campaign with a sweeping set of punishments targeting Russia's spy agencies and diplomats. The U.S. said Russia must bear costs for its actions, but Moscow called the Obama administration "losers" and threatened retaliation.

A month after an election the U.S. says Russia tried to sway for Donald Trump, President Barack Obama sanctioned the GRU and FSB, leading Russian intelligence agencies the U.S. said were involved. Those sanctions could easily be pulled back by Trump, who has insisted that Obama and Democrats are merely attempting to delegitimize his election.

In an elaborately coordinated response by at least five federal agencies, the Obama administration also sought to expose Russia's cyber tactics with a detailed technical report and hinted it might still launch a covert counterattack.

"All Americans should be alarmed by Russia's actions," Obama said, adding, "Such activities have consequences."

Trump issued a statement saying it was "time for our country to move on to bigger and better things." Yet in the face of newly public evidence, he suggested he was keeping an open mind.

"In the interest of our country and its great people, I will meet with leaders of the intelligence community next week in order to be updated on the facts of this situation," Trump said.

As part of the punishment, the U.S. also kicked out 35 Russian diplomats who the U.S. said were actually intelligence operatives, and shut down a pair of Russian compounds, in New York and Maryland. The U.S. said those actions were in response to Russia's harassment of U.S. diplomats, calling it part of a pattern of aggression that

See RUSSIA/10A

## OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

# Chen family brings sushi to Hermiston

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
East Oregonian

New Hermiston resident Sean Chen and his family brought a fresh perspective on food to Eastern Oregon with the opening of their new restaurant, Kobe Hibachi Sushi — and they're happy with their decision to come here.

Chen and his family, who moved from Portland a few months ago to open the restaurant at 1055 S. Hwy. 395 Ste. 100, Hermiston, like the friendly customers and welcoming atmosphere Hermiston has provided them so far.

"We have experience in different towns," said Chen, 28. "My cousin has restaurants in Oregon, and

My cousin has restaurants ... and I've worked for him, but this is my first time being in charge."

— Sean Chen, owner of Kobe Hibachi Sushi

I've worked for him, but this is my first time being in charge."

Chen is the restaurant's manager, but he takes the phrase "family enterprise" seriously.

"It's not just me," he said, gesturing to his brothers working around the restaurant — Feng, the youngest,

See CHEN/10A



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

The Chen family recently opened Kobe Hibachi Sushi restaurant in Hermiston. From left: Kevin, Josh, Ben, Feng and Sean.

