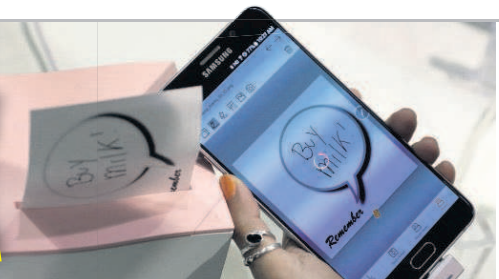




**SNEAK
PEEK AT
FUTURE
TECH 6A**



**NATION/8A
TRAIN
CRASH
INJURES
100**



**Data security
must be a
top priority
OPINION/4A**

EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2017

141st Year, No. 58

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Battle lines drawn on Obamacare



AP Photo/Evan Vucci
President Barack Obama, joined by, from second from left, Rep. Frederica Wilson, D-Fla., Rep. Joseph Crowley, D-N.Y., Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer of N.Y., and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of Calif. arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday to meet with members of Congress to discuss his signature health care law.

Repealing law No. 1 on Trump's list

By **ALAN FRAM**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hardening battle lines for the brawl to come, President Barack Obama urged congressional Democrats to “look out for the American people” in defending his legacy health care overhaul, while Vice President-elect Mike Pence stood firm Wednesday in telling Republicans that dismantling “Obamacare” is No. 1 on Donald Trump’s list.

“We’re going to be in the promise-keeping business,” Pence declared at two sepa-

rate Capitol news conferences. Just 16 days before Trump takes over the Oval Office, he said repealing and replacing Obama’s law will be the president-elect’s “first order of business.”

“The American people voted decisively for a better future for health care in this country, and we are determined to give them that,” Pence said.

Outnumbered in the new Congress, Democrats didn’t sound confident in stopping the Republicans cold but signaled they wouldn’t make

See **OBAMACARE/8A**



AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite
Vice President-elect Mike Pence joins House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis., and other House Republican leaders at a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017, following a closed-door meeting with the GOP caucus to discuss repeal of President Obama’s health care law now that the GOP is in charge of White House and Congress.

PENDLETON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton graduate Ellie Richards, third from left, speaks about attending Notre Dame on a panel of college students on Wednesday at Pendleton High School.

College days discussion

Pendleton alumni share first semester experiences, advice

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

They wouldn’t be college students if they didn’t mix the genuine with the irreverent. On Wednesday, Pendleton

High School hosted panel discussions featuring class of 2016 graduates sharing their experiences during their first few months of college.

In interviews before the panel and during the actual discussion,

the six PHS alums were candid about their fledgling college careers.

• Dakotta Bridges is attending Eastern Oregon University through the ROTC and is majoring in physical activity and

health with a minor in military science.

Bridges said he went through the ROTC route because they not only pay for his education but provide him with a monthly \$900 stipend.

He was also looking forward

See **COLLEGE/8A**

Little hope for higher wheat price in new year

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
EO Media Group

Wheat prices are likely to remain low in 2017 unless severe drought or some other weather catastrophe curtail a significant portion of this year’s global crop, market analysts say.

The USDA predicts a total wheat supply of roughly 992 million metric tons for the 2016-2017 crop year, up from 953 million metric tons last year. That includes 252 million tons of carryover.

“There’s going to have to be some sort of crop failure in some of our key competitors — Australia, Europe and Canada” before wheat prices will rebound, said Darin Newsom, senior analyst for DTN in Omaha, Neb. “There’s a lot of things that have to happen. None of them seem like they’re realistic at this point.”

Earlier in 2016, Newsom wrote a column saying that if the U.S. stopped planting wheat and took itself out of the global marketplace, there would still be enough left in the world. The U.S. produced roughly 62.9 million metric tons of the 752 million metric tons produced worldwide, up from 735 million metric tons last year.

Such a scenario isn’t realistic, Newsom said.

“The fear would be from the global community that the U.S. is trying to start a supply scare,” he said. “Maybe that’s what it takes.”

Dan Steiner, grain merchandiser for Morrow County Grain Growers in Boardman, estimated that the world needs a reduction of roughly 40 million to 50 million metric tons — roughly the equivalent of the total U.S. hard red winter crop — for prices to return to profitable levels.

Because of the high global supply, average weather and an average crop this year could send prices 40 cents per bushel lower, he said.

Farmers are raising wheat on fewer total acres in the U.S., said Byron Behne, marketing manager for Northwest Grain Growers in Walla Walla, Wash.

But “the carryover supplies are so big, that creates quite a buffer,” Behne said.

The strong dollar is working against

See **WHEAT/8A**

Five workplace deaths in 2016

None in 2015; crashes still top cause of death

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Umatilla and Morrow counties had five workplace deaths in 2016, up from a year before when none were reported in either county.

The figures are from initial fatalities reported to the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which considers the data preliminary and unofficial. Two died from natural causes at work in Irrigon and Pendleton, and three others died in accidents including an onion shed fire in Hermiston, a farming wreck in Helix and in a garage mishap in Milton-Freewater.

The initial reports also show four other people died at their

jobs throughout Eastern Oregon counties, seven more than in the region in 2015 and three more than in 2014. The data also show 63 workplace deaths statewide last year, while there were 58 in 2015 and 61 in 2014.

Aaron Corvin, Oregon OSHA spokesperson, reported the agency would have final numbers around spring, but Oregon Workers’ Compensation Division received notification of 27 compensable fatalities in 2015. Compensable deaths are those eligible for payments under worker’s compensation.

“This is the second lowest number of fatalities ever recorded and lower than the 10-year average of 31.2 fatalities,” Corvin said in an email.

State data show the lowest year for compensable fatalities was 17 in 2010, and from 2011-14 there were 28-31 a year.

Corvin also stated motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death among workers in Oregon and the United States.

“Between 2010 and 2014, 136 people covered by the Oregon workers’ compensation system died on the job,” according to Corvin. “Highway vehicles accounted for 38 percent of those deaths. Of 47,718 work-related deaths reported by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics between 2003 and 2011, 17,037 (36 percent) involved motor vehicles.”

Initial reports for 2016 show crashes killed one person each on the job in Condon and Baker City.

