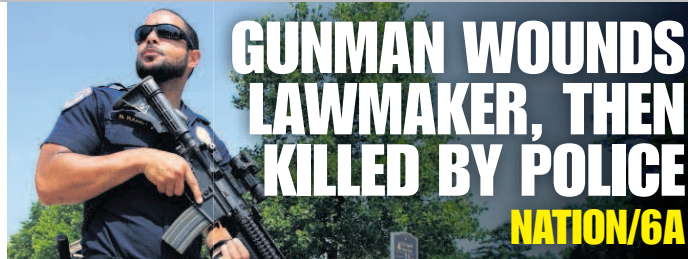




73/55

**GET YOUR WIENERS READY**  
REGION/3A



**GUNMAN WOUNDS LAWMAKER, THEN KILLED BY POLICE**  
NATION/6A

Special counsel eyes the president  
NATION/8A

# EAST OREGONIAN

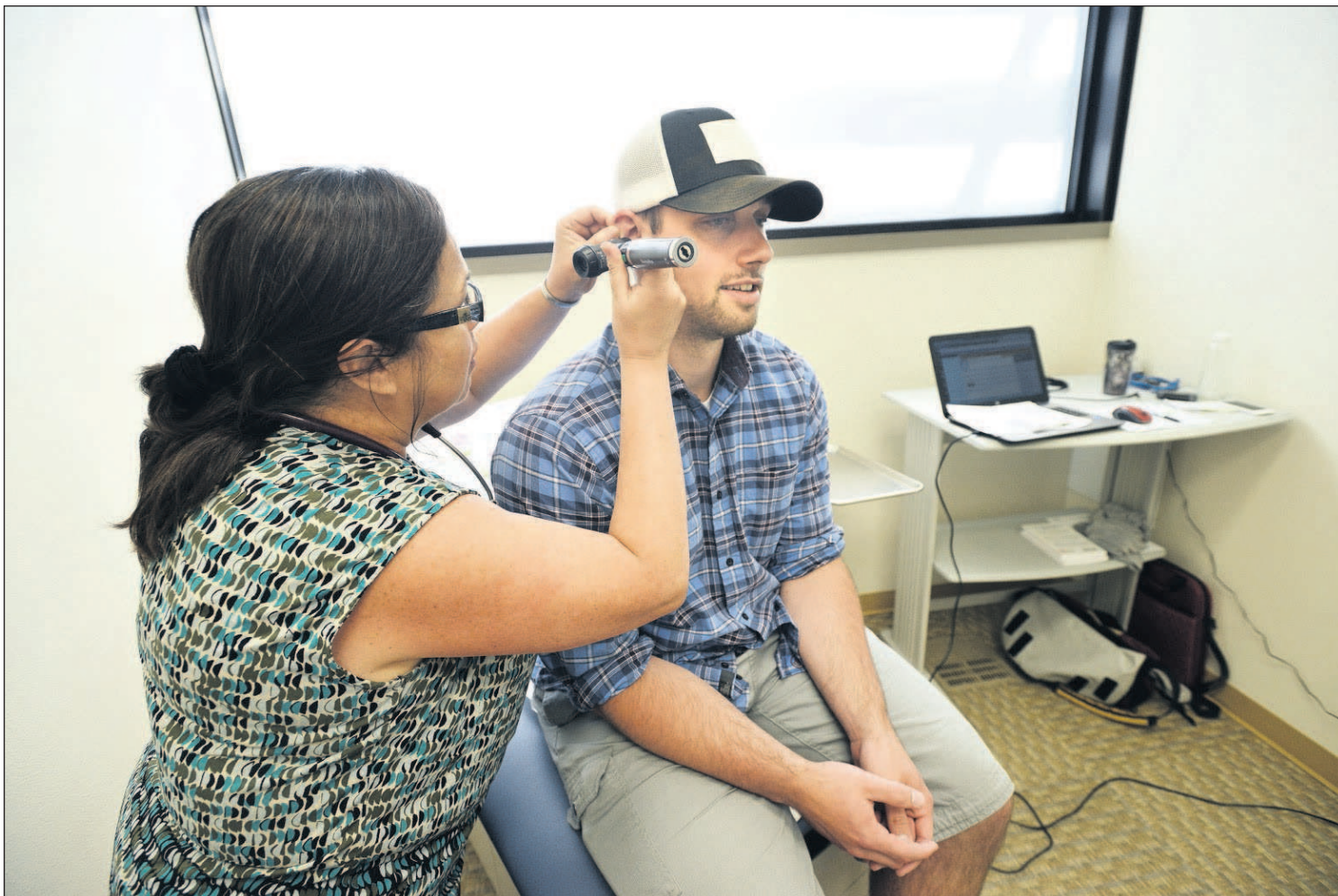
THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017

141st Year, No. 173

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## MISSION



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Physician's assistant Erika Acuna performs a physical exam on Nicholas Walton recently at an in-house clinic at Cayuse Technologies in Mission.

## In-house clinic lowers premiums at Cayuse Tech

17 months in, employees are healthier, more productive

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

Two years ago, Cayuse Technologies CEO Billy Nerenberg felt stymied after the company's health insurance provider announced an enormous rate hike.

"Our insurance company, Cigna, was going to raise our rates 25 percent," Nerenberg said. "When I went to talk to them, they told me we had an unhealthy population."

Many of the 300 Cayuse employees struggled with diabetes and other health issues. Some had no primary physician and used the emergency room for care.

Cigna was losing money on the Mission-based technology company. For every \$100 received in premiums in 2015, \$163 was paid out. Cayuse's premium rate was slated to rise



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Registered nurse Rhonda Nerenberg, right, goes over health goals with patient Rosanne Badgett recently at an in-house health clinic at Cayuse Technologies in Mission.

25 percent and bump up another 25 percent the following year.

Nerenberg shopped around, but other insurance companies echoed Cigna's assessment.

The company wasn't quite big enough to self-insure. He researched wellness programs, but was unconvinced they would turn the situation around.

That's when Nerenberg's wife, Rhonda, a nurse and nutritionist, made a suggestion.

See CLINIC/8A

## Rainbow Family eyes Eastern Oregon for gathering

By RYLAN BOGGS  
EO Media Group

Eastern Oregon could host an annual assembly of thousands known as the Rainbow Family gathering.

Adam Buxbaum, a Rainbow gathering attendee, said it's not yet known where the gathering will be held. He said the decision would be made within the month at the Spring Council, taking place now on the Umatilla National Forest in northern Grant County.

"This is an open circle which anyone can attend and participate in," he said. "It is the circle which will make the determination by consensus of which site we will use to host the annual Rainbow gathering."

Following the council's decision, which usually takes between two and five days, those present will move to the decided upon area and begin preparing the site, he said. That is when most of the infrastructure is developed, according to Buxbaum.

"The Rainbow gathering could land

See RAINBOW/8A

## Walden earns top dollar in campaign fundraising

By LES ZAITZ  
The Malheur Enterprise

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Greg Walden was busy early this year — leading a powerful Congressional committee, sitting at President Trump's elbow at meetings, holding all-night hearings on new health care legislation.

He was also busy raising campaign cash — more than any other member of the Oregon delegation in the first three months of this year. He collected nearly \$1 million in 90 days with an eye on an election that is more than a year away.



Walden

The committee Walden for Congress reported \$789,270 in contributions. U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley came close, reporting \$760,193. No one else was near that total: U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, \$242,550; U.S. Rep.

See WALDEN/8A

## PENDLETON

## Youth outreach upstart setting roots in rec center

Nonprofit group to deal with teen issues

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

A local nonprofit is looking to expand its reach, using the Pendleton Recreation Center as a home base.

Hoping to fill in the gaps not covered by other youth organizations, REACH Pendleton intends to provide services from the former Helen McCune Junior High School adjacent to city hall. The city owns the building and rents out the gym and downstairs room for a variety of community and private events.

A video on REACH's website previews the type of teen issues the

nonprofit is looking to address: alcohol and drug use, physical and sexual abuse, teen pregnancy, criminal activity and more.

"Somewhere along the line, there's a cog missing," REACH board member Joe Jackson said about the teens who deal with those issues.

Jackson said he and other people involved in youth services around town formed REACH — Reaching Every Adult and Child Through Hope — in January and approached city officials about what type of youth services Pendleton needs.

Jackson said that both sides concluded that the existing services that serve children and teens need to be brought together rather than replicated.

See REACH/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Austin Mota, 16, of Pendleton dives head first down a slip-and-slide on Wednesday at Rice-Blakey Park in Pendleton. The event was put on by the First Church of God and REACH Pendleton.



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