

**FACEBOOK TO
RELEASE
RUSSIA ADS
RECORDS/5A**



**U.S. BEEFS
UP N.KOREA
SANCTIONS
WORLD/6A**



**ANTI-ABORTION
GROUPS
TO LINK UP
FAITH/7A**



EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

141st Year, No. 244

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- Household hazardous waste collection day
- Peace Pole Dedication at Stanfield
- Cason's Place Grief Support Open House

For times and places see Coming Events, 3A

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
64/43	67/42	69/45

Watch a game

vs.

Ridgeview vs. Pendleton
Friday, 7 p.m., at Pendleton

HERMISTON Graduation weekend a boon for businesses

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

As the school board grapples with the decision of whether to move graduation 30 miles north to Kennewick next spring, local businesses and restaurants are considering the impact of a potential location change in their sales for the month of June.

The Hermiston School Board will decide next month between moving graduation to the Toyota Center and leaving it in its current location, the Hermiston High School gymnasium. The board has been discussing a move for a few months, citing crowded ceremonies and a growing student population. The board had discussed holding the ceremony at Kennison Field or at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center rodeo arena, but both of those options were ruled out as too

See GRADUATION/8A

Fires spark calls for forestry reform

Lawmakers urge active management, end to fire-borrowing

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Out of the ashes of another record-breaking wildfire season across the West, Oregon lawmakers are calling for changes in the way national forests are managed and how the government pays for fighting increasingly large, destructive fires.

Rep. Greg Walden, the state's lone Republican member of Congress, visited Pendleton and Hermiston on Thursday where he touted the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017, which passed the House Committee on Natural Resources in June. The controversial bill includes provisions that would expedite certain

forest thinning projects, while establishing a pilot program to resolve legal challenges through arbitration.

Democrats Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, meanwhile, joined a bipartisan group of senators pushing to end the practice of "fire borrowing," where the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are forced to rob money from fire prevention programs to pay for fighting wildfires.

Their bill, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2017, would make federal disaster funding available when the cost of firefighting exceeds the 10-year average, thereby maintaining the agencies' budgets

See FORESTS/8A



U.S. Rep. Greg Walden speaks during a Hermiston Rotary luncheon on Thursday in Hermiston. Staff photo by E.J. Harris



When Pendleton veterinarian Arthur Clark gives people directions to his home he tells them "turn at the elephant scapula." Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Man with the plan

Andrew Clark receives award for international problem solving

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Dr. Andrew Clark likes to use his big brain to conjure simple, user-friendly solutions to complicated problems.

Here's an example of how Clark thinks.

Several years ago, the Pendleton veterinarian pondered the problem of rampaging bird flu in Egypt, where 35 million chickens had already been killed in an attempt to derail the disease. The virus, often passed on to people processing poultry, disproportionately affected small children and women of childbearing age even though thousands of men worked in commercial poultry operations handling diseased and dead birds by the millions.

The reason wasn't a mystery. Each household had a flock of chickens, which roamed through yards and even inside homes. Women are the ones who generally feed and manage the birds and eventually slaughter them by cutting their jugulars.

"There is a lot of muscular movement and



Arthur Clark holds out a collection of African thorns he has collected over his years of work on the continent. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

a death struggle," Clark said. "Micro-droplets of virus-laden blood shoot into the air where they can be inhaled."

Children playing nearby sometimes breathed in the deadly virus.

His solution? A large pot, a lid and hot water.

It goes this way: a woman places a chicken inside a large pot to

slaughter it and quickly covers the pot with a lid. After the struggle stops, she slides the lid a crack and pours in hot water and lets it sit two minutes before de-feathering and butchering the chicken. Air samples showed dramatically decreased viral plumes.

This is the kind of quintessential simplicity

Clark loves.

The veterinarian recently received an international award for such out-of-the-box thinking. For this project and development of animal health programs in Africa, Egypt and the Middle East, the American Veterinary Medical Association presented him with

See CLARK/8A

"Dr. Clark has been absolutely instrumental in improving the safety of animals and humans in developing African countries."

— Dr. Tom Meyer, American Veterinary Medical Association president.

HERMISTON Walden discusses immigration, cybersecurity

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The country's immigration system is a "byzantine mess" that Congress needs to fix, Rep. Greg Walden said Thursday at a Hermiston Rotary Club meeting.

Walden advocated for a comprehensive legislative package featuring stronger border security, a better visa system, an overhaul of the legal immigration process and a permanent solution for recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

"I'm actually glad the president put a hot rock in our pockets to get it done in the next six months," he said, referring to President Donald Trump's decision to begin phasing out DACA.

Walden said for a legal immigration system to work, a country must be able to control its borders with a combination of tactics, including physical barriers and patrols.

"You're never going to have a wall across the whole thing," he said. "That just doesn't make sense."

Not all undocumented immigrants are walking across the Mexican border, however. Walden said 45 percent of undocumented immigrants got into the country on a temporary visa, then overstayed that visa. There are tens of thousands of immigrants like that from Ireland alone, he said.

"We have a broken visa system," he said.

There are plenty of questions that need answered in an immigration overhaul. As tens of thousands of jobs in technical fields go unfilled because companies can't find qualified applicants, Walden questioned whether it makes sense to give so many of the country's legal immigration spots to people chosen by lottery or based purely on a family connection. He also questioned whether the country should be "booting out" young people who could be helping fill those skilled jobs.

"What do you do with kids who, through no fault of their own, have been here since they were in diapers, and have been a good part of their community?" he asked.

Another hot topic Walden took questions about Thursday was cybersecurity.

See WALDEN/8A



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