

MARINERS START SEASON WITH A WIN
MLB OPENING DAY/1B



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FAITH/8A

EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018

142nd Year, No. 116

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend

- Easter egg hunts all weekend long
- Steak and live music at Pendleton Eagles
- Frostbite golf toumey
- Saturday at Willow Creek

For times and places see **Coming Events, 5A**

Catch a movie



Jaap Buitendijk/Warner Bros. Pictures via AP

Ready Player One

For showtime, **Page 5A**
 For review, **Weekend EO**

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
63/40	59/41	60/39

Pot-friendly states want meeting with AG Sessions

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOD**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — California, Oregon and other marijuana-friendly states are seeking a meeting with U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions in hopes of resolving the conflict between federal and state laws that has left the nation's cannabis industry in legal limbo.

Marijuana is illegal at the federal level, even as 29 states have legalized pot in some form.

State treasurers from California, Oregon, Illinois and Pennsylvania told Sessions in a letter Thursday that businesses and banks need greater clarity on how federal law enforcement will respond to the growing legalization trend.

The Trump administration lifted an Obama-era policy in January that kept federal authorities from cracking down on the pot trade in states where the drug is legal.

See **POT/10A**

Oregon secretary of state visits east side



Umatilla County elections manager Kim Lindell shows off the new ballot-counting machines to Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson on Thursday during a tour of the elections division at the Umatilla County Courthouse in Pendleton.

Staff photos by E.J. Harris

Voter turnout, secure ballots top Richardson's priorities

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson said he wants to help turn around Umatilla County's low voter turnout.

Richardson arrived earlier this week to Pendleton and participated in Wednesday night's local GOP fundraiser, and Thursday morning he was at the Umatilla County Elections Division in a smart blue blazer and cargo pants. He said he is visiting elections offices in all 36 counties to gain a first-hand understanding of the process, from how ballots come in to when officials submit results to the state.

He asked elections manager Kim Lindell several questions, including about turnout. Lindell, manager since 2014 who also worked in the division in the late 1990s, said the county used to hover around the 80 percent mark but now the rate is around 30 percent and routinely last in the state.

"I feel very strongly that as citizens we have an obligation to participate in the system," Richardson responded.

The January special election saw



Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson presents a medallion to Umatilla County elections manager Kim Lindell during a visit Thursday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

statewide turnout at a meager 39.5 percent. Umatilla County voters managed a rate of 31 percent. Statewide turnout in the 2016 general election reached 80.3 percent of registered voters, while Umatilla County's turnout was 73.3 percent, the lowest in Oregon.

Lindell said the county is working on ways to turn up the turnout. She

started a county elections Facebook page, and Commissioner George Murdock has pushed for more ballot drop boxes. Lindell said now only three communities lack those boxes — Adams, Helix and Ukiah.

Richardson said he and his office would help however it could and offered the possibility of robocalling to encourage voting. He even said

local billboard companies might be willing to offer vacant space as public service announcements to get out the vote.

Maybe, he said, the key lies in finding a way to show voting is the right thing to do.

The county's voter registration, meanwhile, is trending up, from 41,756 in January to 42,135 as of Thursday morning, with 8,903 Democrats, 13,990 Republicans, 1,859 Independents, and 17,383 as non-affiliated or with other parties. The county also has seen an increase in 16- and 17-year-olds registering now to vote in the future.

Lindell also showed off the county's ballot tabulation machines. He said they cost \$98,000 new and her division bought two — one for a backup — used from Lane County for a total of \$25,000.

The Election Systems and Software 850s are fast and make digital scans of ballots, Lindell said, and can detect write-in votes and over-and-under-votes. When the machine identifies an over-vote, for example, she said it displays a digital copy of the ballot in question so a real person

See **RICHARDSON/10A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Umatilla County sheriff's Sgt. John Schafer holds up a box with a dose of the anti-opioid NARCAN while briefing U.S. Rep. Greg Walden during a round-table discussion on opioids Wednesday in Pendleton.

Walden talks opioids with county law enforcement

Potent drugs endanger users as well as police

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

Rep. Greg Walden stared at a photo projected onto a large screen and shook his head slowly. The slide showed three vials, labeled with names of different opioid drugs. Each vial contained a dose lethal to humans.

The bottom of the heroin vial was covered with a white powder. Another vial, containing the powerful synthetic opioid called

fenentanyl, contained what appeared to be a pinch of the drug. The vial of carfentanyl, an even-more-potent chemical cousin of fenentanyl, held what looked like a grain of sand.

The Republican congressman from Oregon sat in a conference room Wednesday at the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office with Sheriff Terry Rowan and other county law enforcement leaders, along with a couple of state legislators, Rep. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, and Greg Barreto, R-Cove. Informally, they chatted about what has become one of Walden's favorite

See **OPIOIDS/10A**



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