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EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2018

142nd Year, No. 160
 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD
 One dollar



Kyle, St. Anthony Hospital's therapy dog, looks content as patient Harry Kuhlmann gives his ears a rub.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Paging Dr. Dog

Hospital therapy dog brings healing

By KATHY ANEY
 East Oregonian

Kyle, St. Anthony Hospital's first official therapy dog, has a dream job, a bit on the cushy side. The one-year-old Labrador retriever spends much of his work shift getting ear rubs and head massages. On a recent day, Kyle and his handler, Emily Smith, walked purposefully along the hospital's main corridor on their way to visit a patient. Kyle is new at his job. Sometimes his attention wanders. On the way to the room, the dog paused with tail wagging to inspect his reflection in a glass wall. Smith gently urged him on. "You're here to work," she reminded Kyle, who doubles as the Smith's family dog. After checking in at the nurses' station, the pair approached Harry Kuhlmann's room. Smith, a nurse who works in the hospital's education department, opened the door and peeked inside. Kuhlmann, sporting a hospital gown and oxygen tubes, sat in a chair. He had been expecting the dog. Smith checks in with each patient in advance to ask if he or she would like a visit. When Kuhlmann saw Kyle, a smile bloomed on the elderly man's face. The dog looked up at the patient expectantly. Therapy dogs are trained to let patients direct each encounter. Kyle will do everything from letting the patient pet him to jumping onto the bed and snuggling in. Kuhlmann leaned forward and let his hands caress the dog's glossy black fur. "You're a good boy," he told Kyle. "You like this?" It seemed that Kyle did. But what's not to like? Despite the seemingly carefree nature of the encoun-

See DR. DOG/10A



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Kyle, St. Anthony Hospital's therapy dog, heads to a patient room with his handler, Emily Smith, a nurse who does clinical and community education at the hospital.

PENDLETON

City shifts focus from stalled industrial park to UAS Range

Staff wants multi-million dollar investment in airport park, pivot away from former project

By ANTONIO SIERRA
 East Oregonian

A \$3 million grant from the federal government could signify a broad shift in the city of Pendleton's economic development priorities at the airport industrial park. At a Pendleton City Council workshop Tuesday, city staff explained a grant they applied for from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and why the city could pool it with existing resources to boost development of an industrial park at the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range, instead of industrial land along the Airport Road extension. While a UAS industrial park to the north of airport runways has long been included in the range's plans, Steve Chrisman, airport manager and economic development director, admitted he wasn't sure if it would ever happen. "It was really some marketing fluff for our push," he said. "Well, it's gotten a lot more

See INDUSTRIAL/10A

HERMISTON

Electric utility learning from rash of outages

Power failed six times recently

By JADE MCDOWELL
 East Oregonian

Hermiston's electric utilities have heard the message loud and clear that people are tired of power failures. Nate Rivera, general manager of Hermiston Energy Services, apologized Tuesday night to the city council and Hermiston residents for the rash of outages that occurred recently. Between April 27 and May 16 Hermiston-area residents — depending on their address — experienced anywhere from one to six outages, he said. Since then he has heard from a number of people about how those outages affected their businesses and homes. "We understand that is too much," he said, adding he wanted to assure the council and the community that there is a "laser focus" at HES and Umatilla Electric Cooperative on

See ELECTRIC/10A

Narcan becoming go-to tool for paramedics on street

EMTs tell of routinely saving patients from nearly-fatal overdoses

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
 East Oregonian

As opioid abuse becomes a more common problem in Umatilla County, emergency responders have become adept at treating overdoses. Umatilla County Fire District 1 paramedics have been using Narcan, a full opioid receptor antagonist, for several years to treat overdoses. But they're finding it's becoming more prevalent in their day-to-day work. "It's become such a big problem," said Ed Clark, EMS coordinator for the fire district. "(In) this part of the state, there's a

higher rate of usage than in the Portland area." "We have had to double the amount of Narcan we carry in the ambulance," paramedic Wes Blood said. Since January, UCFD paramedics have administered Narcan 28 times. Blood said about half of their calls to administer Narcan for overdoses are for regular drug-users, and often include return visits to that person. The rest are from accidental overdoses, such as a person taking too much medication. The majority of overdoses, he said, are from pill usage, although they're starting to see more fen-

tanyl, a powerful synthetic drug. Blood said they start by administering anywhere from 0.4 milligrams to 2 milligrams of the drug, and administer it every two or three minutes, for up to 10 milligrams. He said the amount they administer depends on the potency of the drug on which the person is overdosing. He said he's seen Narcan's effects quickly revive someone, and its effects last for 30 to 80 minutes. "I remember a call where we went to a hotel parking lot. There was an unresponsive male," he said. "This was before

See NARCAN/10A



EO file photo

Narcan, which reverses overdoses from opioids, heroin and fentanyl, has been used by Umatilla County Fire District 1 paramedics 28 times since January.

