



**U.S. ABANDONS
'ZERO-TOLERANCE'
POLICY AT BORDER**
NATION/6A

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018

142nd Year, No. 178 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar

STANFIELD



Umatilla Fire District One firefighters battle a wind-swept blaze as it burns through sagebrush on Monday west of Stanfield. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

First large grassfire sparks

East Oregonian

A fire in Stanfield burned for several hours Monday afternoon on some property near the Hinkle Railyard. Battalion Chief J.W. Roberts said the cause of the fire was unknown, but it started shortly after 1:30 p.m. on Hoosier

Lane, near a composting area where people can drop off yard debris. He said other than a few fence posts, no structures were affected. Roberts said the wind was making the fire hard to extinguish, but there was no threat to any buildings nearby. Fire season has begun, and the fire department reminded people that outdoor

burning is closed until October 1. Residents can have confined cooking fires and small fires in burn pits, but yard debris burning is off limits. Residents of Hermiston can go to city hall and get a yard trash permit, which allows them to dump debris at no cost so they do not have to burn it themselves.

FCC head has plans for rural internet

Defends ending net neutrality in perhaps first ever visit by chairman to Eastern Oregon

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

The recent repeal of net neutrality has raised hackles across the U.S., but Ajit Pai and Rep. Greg Walden found a mostly friendly audience Saturday in Eastern Oregon. Pai, the lightning rod chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, was in the midst of an 1,800-mile tour of rural communities in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana to discuss the “digital divide” between rural and urban communities. Walden, who oversees the FCC as the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, joined Pai as he stopped in Hermiston, Pendleton and Weston. According to Walden, Pai was likely the first FCC chairman to visit Eastern Oregon. The last stop of the day was at Weston’s Memorial Hall, where Pai and Walden spoke with local elected officials and representatives from communication corporations. While Pai was there to discuss how rural

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Oregon could open campaigns to cryptocurrency donations

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon may soon allow people to use cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin to donate to political campaigns. Cryptocurrency is privately issued and exists only digitally, but is surging into the mainstream as a medium of exchange. One Bitcoin is currently worth about \$6,122. Secretary of State Dennis Richardson claimed last week that the change would “expand participation” in state elections. “Cryptocurrency is here to stay, and Oregon needs to adapt to that reality by allowing this new form of donating,” Richardson said. “Allowing cryptocurrency to be a part of our elections process is a new and innovative way to expand participation in Oregon elections.” Edwin Bender, executive director of the National Institute on Money in State Politics, was similarly optimistic. “We’re just talking about exchanging value here, and there is a level of trust built into all currency,” Bender said. “So it’s a cutting-edge idea that I think certainly merits being considered.”

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Is it a kayak or a quadcycle?

Randy Ridings of Carthage, Missouri, pedals his quadyak on the shoulder of the eastbound lane of Interstate 84 on Monday outside of Pendleton. Ridings, a retired U.S. Army officer, designed and made the quadyak with help from his father, an engineer. The quadyak is a pedal-powered amphibious vehicle that is equal parts bicycle and kayak. Ridings began his cross-country trek in the quadyak on June 6 in Newport and will end in St. Augustine, Florida, by mid-September. Ridings said he hopes to split his time on the trip between pedaling down the highways and paddling down the waterways.



PENDLETON



Pendleton Fire EMS reservist Kirstin Dunlap gives a high five to McKinley Moore, 5, after showing her how to do CPR on a rescue dummy at a previous National Night Out in Pendleton. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Police have new vision for National Night Out

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Pendleton’s National Night Out is going back to the ‘hood. Your neighborhood, that is, or a maybe a city park. Shelly Studebaker said that’s the goal. She is the Pendleton Police Department’s community services officer and coordinating the event. “Essentially what we’re trying to do is we’re going to go back to the national model of National Night Out, which is really that folks get together with people in their neighborhoods,” Studebaker said. “Basically, to get to

know your neighbors.” The department’s mode of operation in previous years was to throw a community party at a city park, complete with free hot dogs, soda and even ice cream. But Studebaker said that was not following the National Night Out model, such as block parties and neighborhood cookouts. “What we’re trying to do is entice folks to have a party,” she said. Under the revamp, residents can register to host a party on their block, and the city parks and recreation department also is providing park

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