



# EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018

143rd Year, No. 8

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One dollar

## Your Weekend



- Find a Halloween party near you
- Buy a book at Weston Library sale
- Run for the Hermiston Education Foundation

For times and places visit [www.eastoregonian.com](http://www.eastoregonian.com)

## Weekend Weather

Fri Sat Sun



64/48 63/47 60/43

## Watch a game



Hermiston vs. Kamiakin

Friday, 7 p.m., at Kennison Field, Hermiston

## McLeod-Skinner sees some hope in new poll

By **CLAIRE WITCOMBE**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Democrat Jamie McLeod-Skinner, challenging longtime Congressman Greg Walden, R-Hood River, in Oregon's Second Congressional District, is touting new poll numbers showing her opponent with less than 50 percent support among surveyed voters.

But the figures show she's still behind. The poll, commissioned by the campaign, shows 40 percent of respondents favored her, and 49 percent favored Walden. About 5 percent of those surveyed were undecided and 7 percent favored the Independent candidate, Mark Roberts.

Patinkin Research Strategies surveyed about 400 likely voters in the district. The poll's margin of error is 5 percent. About 25 percent of respondents

See POLL/8A

## Huckabee makes speech in Pendleton

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
East Oregonian

Mike Huckabee's speech at the Pendleton Convention Center was advertised as non-political, and the former Republican governor of Arkansas, presidential candidate, and conservative media personality stuck to the script.

Mostly. Huckabee's speech at the Pendleton Convention Center was delayed

for two weeks when Hurricane Michael threatened his north Florida home. Huckabee came to Pendleton on Thursday to headline a fundraiser for Pregnancy Care Services, a Pendleton nonprofit that provides counseling, parenting classes, and other services for pregnant women.

Huckabee told the 500 people



Huckabee

who packed into the convention center that to him, being "pro-life" was not a political issue, but was instead about respecting life at all stages.

"I'm not pro-life because I got into politics," he said. "I got into politics because I'm pro-life."

Huckabee regaled the crowd with stories about his upbringing, his daughter — White

House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders — and the time he gave the Heimlich maneuver to Robert Pittenger, who went on to become a North Carolina congressman.

But he always brought it back to Pregnancy Care Services, which wants to raise \$300,000 toward upgrading its facility to a clinic, which would also include hiring a nurse and buying a sonogram

See HUCKABEE/8A

## HERMISTON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Head cook Karen Blair serves peas and carrots to Elaine Lindquist during lunch on Thursday at the Harkenrider Senior Activity Center in Hermiston. The lunch marked the first meal served to seniors in the new facility.

## Lining up for lunch

First meal served at Harkenrider Center draws more than 100

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
East Oregonian

The first lunch at the new Harkenrider Senior Activity Center was a record-breaking one.

More than 100 people showed up for the inaugural meal of chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetables and cake on Thursday. The senior center opened at the end of September, but its twice-weekly meals had remained at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church until all of the equipment in the new kitchen was installed.

Virginia Beebe, the senior center's vice president, was one of the board members running around Thursday adding more chairs to tables and helping people with walkers navigate the line. While the old, smaller senior center's lunches had been numbering 50 to 60, she said she wasn't surprised by the large turnout Thursday.

"We expected this today," she said.

Based on a show of hands, most seniors at the meal had eaten at the former senior center on Orchard Avenue at least a few times before it was torn down in 2017. Since that time, the seniors have been having lunch at the

See LUNCH/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Senior center vice president Virginia Beebe, third from left, speaks to Donna Southwell of Umatilla about whether about the possibility of picking up meals to go while eating lunch Thursday at the Harkenrider Senior Activity Center in Hermiston.

## Preus passes torch with big project on horizon

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
East Oregonian

When Blue Mountain Community College President Cam Preus arrived in 2013, her predecessor presented her with a three-ring binder of documents called "the turnover book."

A mix of static facts about the college and contemporary issues, Preus is giving her successor an updated version of the book when she leaves the college at the end of October to start her new job as the executive director of the Oregon Community College Association.



Preus



Green

Starting Nov. 15, Connie Green will lead the college as the interim president for the next six months while the BMCC Board of Education conducts a search for a permanent replacement.

A former president of Tillamook Community College who has worked with BMCC in the past, Green will be expected to help shepherd some of BMCC's larger initiatives and projects.

Green occasionally opened a notebook to take notes as Preus spoke to the *East Oregonian* editorial board Thursday about the Blue Mountain Regional Training Center and other college issues.

Originally dubbed FARM II, Preus said BMCC spun off the rodeo arena/veterinary classroom space from the 2013 bond proposal that failed at the ballot box.

The bond passed in 2015 sans the arena proposal, and the project received another setback when an anonymous donor pulled out of a 40-acre land donation for the arena.

But Preus said these developments were "blessings in disguise" because pursuing the project independently allowed the college to recruit the city of Pendleton, Umatilla County and other governmental entities to contribute to the project.

"I think it's kismet for it to work out the way that it did," she said.

With the Pendleton Round-Up

See BMCC/8A

