



EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2018

143rd Year, No. 51

WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- **IMAC breakfast**, Irrigon
- **Family Friday Night**, Hermiston
- **Get your crafts on** at Pendleton Center for the Arts

FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS CHECK COMING EVENTS, A6

Weekend Weather

FRI	SAT	SUN
36/33	49/35	43/26

PENDLETON UAS officials say best is yet to come

Range positioned to be on cutting edge of emerging industry

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

While there may have been times that the future of the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial Systems Range was uncertain, city officials suggested that 2018 provided evidence of the range's permanency.

Steve Chrisman, Pendleton airport manager and economic development director, admitted that the range's impact wasn't always a known quantity, but a year's worth of growth in activity and full-time jobs is a sign that the range has long-term potential.

The Federal Aviation Administration, the government agency that regulates the range, is also high on the UAS industry's potential.

In a recent forecast, the FAA predicted "phenomenal" growth for the commercial drone sector and anticipated the number of commercial UAS would go from 110,604 at the end of 2017 to 451,800 in 2022.

"As non-model aircraft become operationally more

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Our New Neighbors



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Brent Koo and his wife, Michelle Quincena, moved from Newport to Hermiston recently and have bought and run the 11th Street Market.

Real Market Value

New owners of 11th Street Store find community in customers, neighbors

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Brandt Koo has lived all around the world, but he said coming to Hermiston has made him realize one key truth. "People around the world are kind of just ... people," he said. "Everyone thinks it's better somewhere else. I've heard the same thing everywhere I've lived — there's nothing to do at night. They say that in small towns, and in L.A."

But the southern California native has been happy with his move to Hermiston so

far. He moved to the area in March with his family, to assume ownership of the 11th Street Market. Though they've maintained most of the store's products and services, they've expanded the food options and now have a full kitchen, where they make deli items as well as teriyaki chicken.

He's noticed that unlike many convenience stores, customers tend to use theirs more like a community market.

"It's nice running a store — you get to meet everyone," he said. "We're kind of a hybrid here. Usually in larger places, convenience stores get a lot of traffic. Here, 80

percent of our customers are the same people, locals."

He attributed that to the location of the store, not on the main road but tucked back on the edge of town.

Koo's wife, Michelle Quincena, and their children, Kyle, 6, and Christopher, 3, have adjusted well to Hermiston. Kyle is in first grade at Rocky Heights, and Christopher is in preschool. Michelle and Koo's parents, who are visiting, help out in the kitchen of the store.

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"IF YOU JUST WANT TO LIVE A NICE LIFE, YOU CAN DO IT ANYWHERE."

— Brandt Koo, owner of 11th Street Market

HERMISTON

Cities have limited options in addressing panhandling

Asking for money on public property is protected speech

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The First Amendment protects Americans' right to free speech, and that includes their right to ask strangers for money.

After receiving complaints about "aggressive" panhandling, the Hermiston Police Department is reminding people that cities are constitutionally prohibited from banning panhandling. The law treats individuals asking for money for themselves the same as it treats a Salvation Army bell-ringer or firefighter collecting donations for

charity.

Police Chief Jason Edmiston said there are some people who want to see heavy-handed enforcement to stop panhandling altogether and others who think it isn't the government's place to interfere with a person's right to ask for money. Police try to walk a fine line between not interfering with free speech rights, while also addressing instances where people are being harassed or made to feel unsafe.

"It's tricky," he said.

While anyone can stand on a public sidewalk with a sign, if someone is causing a disruption on private property, such as a store's parking lot, the business does

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A man panhandling takes money from a woman in a vehicle leaving the parking lot of Walmart on Thursday in Hermiston.



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