

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

143rd Year, No. 89

WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

What emergency?

Rep. Walden questions President Trump's latest action on border wall

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN and PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden's town hall meeting Monday morning in Boardman was his first public appearance in the area since being re-elected to Oregon's Congressional District 2. By noon he was in Pendleton for a speaking appearance with the Pendleton Rotary Club.

During the two events he touched on immigration, energy, the government shut-down and more.

Wall emergency

The Republican congressman talked about the recent turmoil in Washington, D.C., as President Donald Trump shut down the government for 35 days over funding for a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border. Walden said he broke with his party on some aspects of the shutdown, saying he felt employees at agencies, such as the Forest Service and Department of Agriculture, shouldn't be suffering over a border security issue.

He said he was pleased to see a deal to avoid another shut-down and fund the federal government that included money for 55 miles of new border wall but also money for humanitarian aid on the border, more border agents and to help handle the increase in years-long backlog of asylum seekers.

Audience members asked



Rep. Greg Walden, R-Oregon, listens to a question from a constituent on Monday at a town hall in Boardman. Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Walden how he would vote if Congress tried to stop Trump in his declaration of a national emergency over the border wall. He said he was against executive overreach and did not like it when President Barack Obama made that kind of end around Congress.

"If what Trump is doing exceeds the authority Congress has given him, I'll have a big problem with it," he told the Rotary audience.

The other problem, he pointed out, is the precedent this sets. What happens, Walden asked, when the next president uses executive power to declare an emergency?

"I wish he hadn't done it, quite frankly," Walden said.

Still, Walden stopped short of saying for certain he would oppose Trump, and Walden

See Walden, Page A8

Republican firebrand operates outside the norms

Lockwood pens provocative press releases for legislators

By AUBREY WIEBER AND PARIS ACHEN
Oregon Capital Bureau

He uses a sharp pen and blunt language to make his point. He is paid to write press releases at the Legislature. But Jonathan Lockwood's style also disrupts Oregon's political geniality.

Grayson Dempsey was at a Girl Scouts camp in the Columbia River Gorge with her 8-year-old daughter in August when her phone started buzzing.

Social media accounts were sending notification after notification. Dempsey, the director of NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, watched anti-abortion advocates accuse her organization of cutting up babies and mixing them into ice cream to sell at a pro-choice fundraiser.

"This is so disgusting it wouldn't surprise me if they partnered with Planned Parenthood and developed this hideous new flavor with harvested baby parts!" one person said on Twitter.

Dempsey blamed Jonathan Lockwood, an aggressive Republican strategist and currently employed at the spokesman for three Oregon legislators. He publicly denounced the fundraiser and called on others to do the same.

Lockwood is a provocateur, using incendiary language in press releases and on Twitter to cause a stir and get people talking about issues he and his political bosses care about. His flashy style, a burnished tan, coiffed hair and patent leather loafers, is as much a contrast in the Capitol as his political persona: a bomb-thrower in a polite political and cultural landscape.

He has written racially charged tweets at state Rep. Jennifer Williamson, D-Portland, and called Gov. Kate Brown an abortion lobbyist and terrorist.

And Lockwood is behind a controversial statement earlier in the month that roiled the Capitol and left one of his legislative employers to endure a wave of rebuke.

See Lockwood, Page A8



Rep. Greg Walden, R-Oregon, greets a veteran on Monday before a town hall in Boardman. Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Three-sport official feels the love

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Officiating is often a thankless job, but Saturday night, veteran referee George Gillette felt the love.

Gillette has officiated basketball, football and baseball for going on 50 years. Before tipoff of the Blue Mountain Conference championship boys basketball game between Heppner and Union, Gillette heard his name called over the loudspeaker. Heppner High School Athletic Director Greg Grant held the microphone. As Gillette approached, Grant informed spectators of the Milton-Freewater man's solid history as a three-sport official. Gillette accepted a wooden box containing a silver whistle and

a metal plate inscribed with the words "Presented to Mr. George Gillette in appreciation of your years of dedication to high school athletics."

Gillette stood at center court looking dazed, as spectators, officials and players gave him a standing ovation. His wife, Dominie Heiser, stood nearby applauding and looking delighted at the flummoxed condition of her spouse.

Those who know Gillette, who also runs Milton-Freewater's municipal golf course, say he knows his way around a basketball court, football field and baseball diamond. Rules for the three sports are embedded firmly inside

See Gillette, Page A8



George Gillette stands with his wife, Dominie Heiser, as he is honored Saturday at the Pendleton Convention Center for his almost 50 years as a sports official. The box holds a plaque bearing a silver whistle and the words "Presented to Mr. George Gillette in appreciation of your years of dedication to high school athletics." Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Severed fiber line cuts internet for thousands

East Oregonian

A severed fiber optic line between Lexington and Echo disconnected thousands of internet customers on Monday, according to the CEO of a local internet provider.

The line was cut late Monday morning by a sub-

contractor laying fiber for a cellphone tower, according to Byron Wysocki, the CEO of Pendleton-based Wtechlink. The outage affected providers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, including Wtechlink and CenturyLink.

Wysocki said a backhoe and splicer were en route

to the scene of the break late Monday afternoon and estimated a time of repair at 11:30 p.m., though he said it could be later.

He said the line that was cut is buried 10 feet deep and near the edge of Highway 207, so splicing new lines will need to be done on both sides of the high-

way. The subcontractor who cut it was unaware the line was there, Wysocki said.

A Facebook post from the company said internet connections would be intermittent for some customers affected by the cut line. Customers still having trouble connecting to

the internet should unplug the router's power cord and plug it back in.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office dispatch was among the affected users. The office transferred 911 service to the Umatilla County dispatch center while waiting for the repair.



CHI St. Anthony Hospital Family Clinic is recognized as a Patient-Centered Primary Care Home.

What does that mean for you?

- Better-coordinated care.
- Listening to your concerns and answering questions.
- After-hours nurse consultation.
- Healthcare providers who will help connect you with the care you need in a safe and timely way.
- Healthcare providers who play an active role in your health.

CHI St. Anthony Hospital

844.724.8632

3001 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton
WWW.SAHPENDLETON.ORG

Mon through Thurs, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. • Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Sat and Sun, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Walk-ins are welcome but appointments are preferred.

