

CAMP: ‘It’s one of the best summer camps I’ve ever been to’

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losing all the information they gained in the school year. It’s definitely helpful.”

Katelyn Griffin, an 11-year-old from Stanfield, agreed.

“I would be just like watching TV at home, but instead I’ve been waking up, and I just want to go no matter what,” she said. “I think it’s fun, and it’s a good experience for kids to have. We’ve been doing some science experiments, watching some videos and going on field trips. I’ve learned a lot.”

She said she felt awkward at first because she didn’t know anyone, but as she made friends, she started to enjoy the camp.

One of the other attendees, Gavin Doherty, 11, Hermiston, enjoyed Hydromania so much last year that he decided to come back.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hydromania camp counselor David Wattenburger helps Gavin Doherty, 11, and Sam Bowsen, 10, collect samples of river species while learning about river ecosystems Wednesday in the Umatilla River outside of Hermiston.

“It’s one of the best summer camps I’ve ever been to,” he said. “I love science. When I grow up, I want to be a scientist or an engineer or maybe both, so this basically helps me out with a lot of things.”

The students toured the

McNary Dam, the Port of Morrow, Hermiston Foods, Boardman Tree Farm, the SAGE Center, the Hermiston cogeneration plant, Madison Farms and the Hermiston Agricultural Research & Extension Center.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Campers trudge through the Umatilla River while learning about river ecosystems during the Hydromania summer science camp Wednesday outside of Hermiston.

Camp lead teacher David Wattenburger, who teaches ninth-grade English during the school year, said having five adult counselors work with the 25 students at the camp provides a better opportunity for tours and hands-on learning than a

typical classroom setting.

“I think it opens their eyes to what learning can be,” he said. “A lot of students make comments, ‘I didn’t know learning could be this fun,’ and things like that. It is a unique experience.”

Wattenburger said the

camp covers energy, electricity, wildlife and local habitat and the importance of water. He said a variety of groups and organizations in Umatilla and Morrow counties provide expertise to help educate the children.

Tom Osborn, an engineer for the Bonneville Power Administration in Walla Walla, traveled to the Umatilla River Wednesday to help teach the students about the various elements of a healthy river. He said he appreciates that Umatilla Electric continues to sponsor the camp.

“Seventy-five students get to go through the program every year, and they get to learn a lot about their community, about how power and water and manufacturing — all that stuff’s connected,” he said. “These students love science, and I want them to take my job in 10 years.”

WORLD BRIEFLY

Jury quickly convicts Colorado theater shooter

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP) — Colorado theater shooter James Holmes was convicted Thursday in the chilling 2012 attack on defenseless moviegoers at a midnight Batman premiere after jurors swiftly rejected defense arguments that the former graduate student was insane and driven to murder by delusions.

The 27-year-old Holmes, who had been working toward his Ph.D. in neuroscience, could get the death penalty for the massacre that left 12 people dead and dozens of others wounded.

The initial phase of Holmes’ trial took 11 weeks, but it only took jurors about 12 hours over a day and a half to decide all 165 charges. The same panel must now decide whether Holmes should pay with his life.

Dressed in a blue shirt and beige khakis, Holmes stood impassively as Judge Carlos A. Samour Jr. read charge after charge, each one punctuated by the word “guilty.”

The verdict came almost three years after Holmes, dressed head-to-toe in body armor, slipped through the emergency exit of the darkened theater in suburban Denver and replaced the Hollywood violence of the movie “The Dark Knight Rises” with real human carnage.

His victims included two active-duty servicemen, a single mom, a man celebrating his 27th birthday and an aspiring broadcaster who had survived a mall shooting in Toronto. Several died shielding friends or loved ones.

Senator: Compensate residents near site of atomic test

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — People who lived near the site of the first atomic bomb test in the New Mexico desert and later developed cancer and other health problems need to be compensated, a U.S. senator said Thursday.

The federal government neglected residents of the historic Hispanic village of Tularosa near the Trinity Site, where the weapon was detonated on July 16, 1945, Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., said in a speech on the Senate floor on the 70th anniversary of the test.

“The rest of the world didn’t know about the tragedies that happened in the Tularosa Basin. For a long time, the government denied that anything happened at all,” Udall said. “Attention was not paid then. It must be paid now.”

Udall met with residents and family members who lived near the test site and shared stories about relatives dying from cancer. He said he believes they should be included in the federal Radiation Exposure



Compensation Act program, which could provide a \$50,000 payout.

Nicole Navas, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Justice Department’s Civil Division, which oversees the program, said lawmakers would have to amend the act to expand payouts to New Mexico residents. Now, the law only covers areas in Nevada, Arizona and Utah that are downwind from a different test site.

“Because this downwind area is defined by federal statute, the Department of Justice lacks discretion to expand the area to include locations in New Mexico downwind of the Trinity test,” Navas said.

The blast sent out a flash of light seen as far as nearly 300 miles away, and Army officials said at the time it was a result of an ammunition explosion. Residents did not learn it was an atomic bomb until the U.S. dropped the weapon on Japan a month later, helping end World War II.

Many of those living near the Trinity Site were not told about the dangers and later suffered rare forms of cancer, Tularosa residents say. They say they want acknowledgment and compensation from the U.S. government.

Greek banks to reopen after cash pledge from lenders

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece on Thursday won vital pledges of support from bailout lenders needed to keep its economy from collapsing, but officials in Athens said the painful austerity measures demanded in return were likely to force an election within months.

Hours after parliament approved the tough new cuts, the government promised to reopen banks on Monday and gradually restore services — helped by higher cash support from the European Central Bank.

The ECB announced it was increasing emergency credit to Greek banks, adding another 900 million euros (\$980 million) in support over one week. And eurozone lenders pledged short-term loans so Greece can cover its debts and negotiations for a new three-year bailout worth 85 billion euros (\$93 billion).

The news buoyed world markets and came as a relief in Greece, where banks and the stock market have been closed for nearly three weeks.

Officials in Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras’ government, however, were still reeling from the contentious post-midnight vote that saw one-in-four lawmakers from Tsipras’ left-wing Syriza party vote against the raft of tax increases, pension cuts and other economic reforms.



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