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School's in for summer

More than half of students are children of migrant workers

By SEAN HART
East Oregonian

School can be difficult for students whose families move for agricultural work. One student moved to the Umatilla School District halfway through the first quarter of last school year and then moved back to Arizona for three months while his mother was working there. The student later returned to Umatilla and then left again, only to return for the last two weeks of the school year.



Sipe

To help students whose education has been interrupted, the InterMountain Education Service District provides summer school in Umatilla and Milton-Freewater for migrant students whose families moved within the last three years for agricultural work.

Umatilla School District Superintendent Heidi Sipe said 102 migrant students are enrolled in the summer program at McNary Heights Elementary School.

"Summer school is an opportunity to ensure that, while parents are working, (students) are able to obtain some consistent schooling throughout the summer to hopefully make up those gaps in learning that can occur during frequent moves," she said.

McNary Heights ESL teacher and summer school site administrator Nicole Taylor said the additional time in school is beneficial for migrant students, as is extra practice in English.

"We do have a few monolingual kids here right now, and they are coming and they are doing a great job," she said. "They are getting exposure to the language. They are getting an opportunity to continue with language programs they were working on during the school year to target their learning of English. It's a great intervention."

The summer school program benefits other students as well. Sipe said the district supplements the migrant program with Title I and 21st Century Community Learning Center funds to allow all students in Umatilla to attend for free. On average, 180 students have been attending the pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade program at McNary Heights each day, while an additional 40 have been participating at the high school.

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Third-grade teacher Sara Liebe helps Jayden Hansen and Rubi Munoz-Mendoza during her summer school class Wednesday at McNary Heights Elementary School in Umatilla.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Yamilex Madrigal-Armenta, Darlyne Munoz-Mendoza and Erika Aguirre-Luna eat lunch Wednesday at McNary Heights Elementary School in Umatilla. The Summer Feeding Program provides breakfast, lunch and dinner free to youth aged one through 18. Adults can eat for one or two dollars, depending on the meal.

Meals program grows in popularity

By SEAN HART
East Oregonian

No child should have to go hungry, and a program in Umatilla ensures children there are well fed.

Through the school district's summer feeding program, children ages 1 to 18 can eat breakfast, lunch and dinner for free each weekday.

The meals are funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program and are growing in popularity.

"It's been a great year for all of the summer feeding programs," Superintendent Heidi Sipe said. "One of the things we find is that it

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Waiting game in face of disorder

Woman's health worsens as she waits for drug's approval

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Susie Arroyo knows she is an anomaly.

The 25-year-old Pendleton woman has a genetic mutation called Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a muscle-killing disorder that overwhelmingly affects boys. A female has a one in 50,000,000 chance of having the mutation, compared to a male's one in 3,500. Getting hit by lightning (with odds of about 1 in 280,000) is much more likely.



Arroyo

Literature about the disorder often mentions only boys. Her muscles started weakening in childhood. Her heart steadily deteriorated. Five years ago, she started using a wheelchair full-time.

Arroyo tried to join a drug trial limited to males but was rejected. She's got her eye on one drug, Eteplirsen, which has been in the final stage of trials for more than three years.

"This medication would be a game changer," she said. "All of the people in the trial have maintained their health and some have improved. A boy back east regained the use of his arms. Another was able to get out of his

See DISORDER/8A

Plane debris may lead to missing jet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Air safety investigators have a "high degree of confidence" that aircraft debris found in the Indian Ocean is of a wing component unique to the Boeing 777, the same model as the Malaysia Airlines plane that disappeared last year, a U.S. official said Wednesday.

Air safety investigators — one of them a Boeing investigator — have identified the component as a "flap-eron" from the trailing edge of a 777 wing, the U.S. official said.

A French official close to an investigation of the debris confirmed Wednesday that French law enforcement is on site to examine a piece of airplane wing found on the French island of Reunion, in the western Indian Ocean.

Oregon Secretary of State probing energy tax credits

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Secretary of State's office has launched an inquiry into the Oregon Department of Energy's handling of tax credit sales.

The extent of the investigation is unclear, but a senior auditor from the Secretary of State's office recently requested more than 70 pages of records on privately brokered sales of Oregon business energy tax credits from 2013.

The state awarded the tax credits to owners of renewable energy and efficiency projects, such as a cellulosic ethanol plant and public transit districts across

the state. The owners could use the credits to offset their taxes, or sell them at a discount to raise cash.

The Department of Energy traditionally helped project owners find buyers for their tax credits as part of the state program, but private brokers started to negotiate the deals as early as 2009. The department does not verify the sale prices of credits sold in private deals, and energy officials quietly stopped enforcing pricing rules for the sales in 2009, the EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau reported back in June.

The agency is now in the process of retroactively changing

See TAX CREDIT/8A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Parks & Rock

James Kindie plays the guitar Wednesday while performing with James Dean Kindie & the Eastern Oregon Playboys at Roy Raley Park in Pendleton. The show was the first of five shows in the parks and recreation's "Wednesdays In The Park" series.

