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# EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2016

140th Year, No. 210

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## Your Weekend



Film Frame/Lucasfilm via AP

- "Star Wars" plays at Movies in the Park
- Free First Friday all day at Tamastlikt
- Daddy-Daughter Dance at St. Patrick's Church

For times and places see Coming Events, 6A

## Catch a movie



Clay Enos/Warner Bros. Pictures via AP

"Suicide Squad" When the heroes are out, send in the villains to fight the supervillain.

For showtime, Page 5A For review, Weekend EO

## Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
92/59	87/59	84/56

## Obama denies \$400M to Iran was ransom

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama vigorously denied on Thursday that a \$400 million cash payment to Iran was ransom to secure the release of four Americans jailed in Tehran.

"This wasn't some nefarious deal," Obama said during a news conference at the Pentagon.

The money was delivered to the Iranian government in January, at the same time the nuclear deal was settled and the Americans were released. The payment was part of a

See IRAN/8A

## HERMISTON

# EOTEC rejects rodeo arena bids

### Both bids over \$4M budget

By JADE MCDOWELL East Oregonian

Almost a year before the 2017 Farm-City Pro Rodeo, the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center board rejected

all bids on construction of the new rodeo arena.

During a special meeting Thursday morning John Frew, president of project management company Frew Development Group, noted that

EOTEC has only \$4 million available to build the arena. Neither bid hit that mark.

Bothum Construction, a Hermiston-based residential contractor, put in a bid at \$4,477,138. Kirby Nagelhout Construction Company, a residential and commercial contractor out of Bend,

submitted a bid of \$4,740,000.

Bothum Construction is owned by David Bothum, one of the founders of the Farm-City Pro Rodeo who has helped upgrade and maintain the current rodeo arena over the years. He resigned

See EOTEC/8A

## More inside

Rotary Club gives \$25,000 to EOTEC Page 3A

## PENDLETON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden speaks in front of a solar panel covered car port at the Oregon National Guard facilities at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton.

# The balance of power

## Wyden tours solar array at National Guard armory

By GEORGE PLAVERN East Oregonian

Against a backdrop of newly installed solar panels at the Oregon National Guard armory in Pendleton, U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden spoke enthusiastically about what he described as the "new frontier of renewable energy."

Wyden arrived in town Thursday morning for the official dedication of the 150-kilowatt solar array, part of the Army's net-zero energy pilot program. The project is expected to cut the facility's energy bills by more than \$11,000 annually, and has already generated 166,644 kilowatt-hours of electricity — enough to offset 119 tons of carbon dioxide.

The Oregon Army National Guard was selected in 2011 as one of nine locations to test the net-zero initiative, with the goal to achieve net-zero

## More inside

Wyden fired up to prevent forest fires Page 3A



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Oregon National Guard Col. Ken Safe speaks about the guard's plan for energy conservation at the Oregon National Guard facilities in Pendleton.

energy by 2020. Speaking to a group of local officials, Wyden praised the effort as a benefit to jobs, the environment and national security.

"The link between these benefits is

as clear as an August day in Eastern Oregon," Wyden said. "We are going to be trying to use this as a model

See POWER/8A

# School leaders define safety terms

By ANTONIO SIERRA East Oregonian

As the mass shooting that killed nine people at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg has begun to fade from the public's memory, it has stayed at the forefront of Mark Mulvihill and Stuart Roberts' minds.

The InterMountain Education Service District superintendent and Pendleton police chief told an audience of school administrators and law enforcement from across Eastern Oregon how the events in Southern Oregon spurred them to action, including the school security conference they convened at the Pendleton Convention Center Thursday.

"We seemed almost desensitized and hopeful that that event wasn't going to be us," Mulvihill said. "I know every school administrator in this room keeps up at night and wonders, 'Have I done everything I possibly can to keep my kids safe?' And also at the same time hoping, 'Man, I hope that's not me that it happens to.' When you think about it that way, have you really done everything you can?"

Mulvihill and Roberts began discussing ways they could help prevent a school

See SCHOOL/8A



Mulvihill



Roberts

## PENDLETON

# FAA issues \$500K civil penalty against SeaPort

## Claims airline failed to perform inspections on three planes

By ANTONIO SIERRA East Oregonian

SeaPort Airlines continues to pay for the sins of its past.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced Thursday a proposal to fine SeaPort \$500,000 for operating three single-engine Cessna Caravans that it deemed were not airworthy.

A press release from

the FAA claims the Portland-based airline failed to perform and document borescope inspections on the planes' turbine compressor blades, as required by a directive from the agency. If the compressor turbine blade fails, the engine could lose power.

"Airworthiness Directives are critical safety tools," said FAA Administrator Michael

Huerta in the release. "Safe operations depend on meticulous compliance with their requirements."

The three planes were used for 583 flights while inspections were overdue, which led to allegations that the aircraft were not airworthy. SeaPort also failed to record the method of compliance

See SEAPORT/8A



EO file photo

The flight crew of a SeaPort flight prepares for departure at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton.



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