



**OH GOD,
HAGFISH
EVERYWHERE**
NORTHWEST/2A



**OH NO,
CRICKETS
TOO**
NATION/10A

EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2017

141st Year, No. 194

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend



- National Ice Cream Day
- Event at SAGE Center
- Solar eclipses lecture at the Prodigal Son

For times and places see Coming Events, 3A

Weekend Weather

Fri	Sat	Sun
96/63	95/59	85/51

Wind farm to change hands

Wheatridge rights sold to Florida company

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

On the brink of construction, a 292-turbine wind farm slated for Umatilla and Morrow counties is changing hands.

NextEra Energy, based in Juno Beach, Florida, has purchased the development rights for the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility and is now working to transfer the project's site certificate through the Oregon Department of Energy.

Wheatridge was pioneered by lone farmer Jerry Rietmann before the facility sold to NextEra in April, according to documents. One month later, the Energy Facility Siting Council issued its site certificate for the wind farm, giving developers the go-ahead to start building.

A request to transfer the certificate from Swaggart Wind Power LLC to NextEra Energy was filed June 14. But first, an informational hearing will be held before the council Thursday, July 27 at the Best Western Plus Inn in Hood River.

Rietmann did not return calls for comment. A spokesman for NextEra

See WIND/10A

ONE MORE NIGHT

Pendleton prepares for whisky music fest weekend



Crews transform a semi-truck into a sound stage on Thursday morning at the Round-Up Grounds in preparation for Saturday's Pendleton Whisky Music Fest. The process took several hours.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Large crowds expected for sold out Maroon 5 performance

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

Bob Romeo wanted Doug Corey to meet someone.

Corey was in Cheyenne, Wyoming, with the Round-Up Court for Frontier Days, and the promoter wanted to introduce the Eastern Oregon contingent to a musical act he booked for the rodeo.

This was as the young musician was becoming the best-selling solo album artist in the United States, going from a bar singer in Oklahoma to one of the biggest names in country music — Garth Brooks.

Corey and Romeo formed a working relationship after that, with the Romeo Entertainment Group eventually booking acts for the Round-Up kickoff concert.

When Corey and business owner Andy McAnally decided to start the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest, they turned to the promotion agency to help them book the talent.

Corey's connection to Romeo is paying especially big dividends for the second annual whisky fest, which is attracting an audience to match the city of Pendleton's population to see



Crew members set up the sound stage Thursday morning at the Round-Up Grounds in preparation for Saturday's Pendleton Whisky Music Fest.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

headliners Maroon 5.

"You need to have some connections in this industry to get the big acts," Corey said.

McAnally announced Wednesday that Whisky Fest was officially sold out and had sold 30 percent more tickets than it had the year before

"You need to have some connections in this industry to get the big acts."

— **Doug Corey**, co-creator of the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest

for the Zac Brown Band-headlined concert.

With the talent booked and ready to go, Corey and McAnally will rely on another hired hand to handle the production.

Production manager Johnny Setser traveled from Pueblo, Colorado, to coordinate the set-up and tear-down of the show. A longtime member of the industry, Setser said he oversees productions around the country, including the Academy of Country Music Awards.

Looking out onto the verdant grass of the Round-Up Arena, Setser said the venue shouldn't pose any major challenges to staging a large-scale concert.

See MUSIC/10A

Free summer meals program keep children fed, active



Alfredo Mendez, 4, enjoys some carrots at the Umatilla-Morrow County Head Start summer lunch program.

Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

Averaging 55 lunches per day all summer long

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
East Oregonian

School doesn't start up again for more than a month, but students and families still can access free meals and activities around Umatilla and Morrow counties, thanks to several summer meals programs throughout the area.

Umatilla-Morrow County Head Start offers meals Monday through Friday, serving an average of 55 lunches per day to students all summer long.

Four-year-old Alfredo Mendez was enjoying carrots and a banana at lunch on Thursday, but said he

was most excited about something else.

"I'm coming to get a toy," he said, beaming.

The students get a punch card and receive a toy if they return for five meals.

People come to the free meals for lots of reasons: to get a balanced meal, to give their kids a chance to socialize, or to do the activities many of the free lunch venues provide.

"This year, we added a new side, having activities with the meals," said Rikkilyn Larsen, the child nutrition director for the Umatilla School District. Four locations in Umatilla offer meals throughout the week and one, McNary Heights

See MEALS/10A



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