

# MEALS: Free to all kids ages 1 to 18

Continued from 1A

Elementary School, is the only program in the area that offers dinner.

Some of the students at McNary Heights are there for summer school, but others come just for the lunchtime events.

She said the activities have been a good addition to the program.

"I think it draws in more kids. At Kiwanis Park, we had kids lined up all the way to McNary Market, and they were all in circles doing yoga," Larsen said.

Head Start offers art projects and literacy activities, as well as lessons geared toward the parents.

"We had the OSU extension service come and do food sampling," said Toni Eddy, the child nutrition manager for the local Head Start. "The kids get to try the foods, but the parents can take home the recipes."

Other locations are near playgrounds or pools, and some sites have field trip opportunities for students.

Eddy said the program is funded by the USDA. This year, she said they received a supplemental grant from Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon, which allowed Head Start to expand to another summer lunch program in Irrigon.

In order to meet USDA requirements, Eddy said they have to serve certain things: two ounces of protein, a serving of grain, and a combined serving of 3/4 cup of fruits and vegetables.

"We do sandwiches, wraps and salads," Eddy said. "Tuna, chicken salad sandwiches. And we're starting to get local fruit in. We had blueberries donated from a local farm, and starting next week we'll



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan  
**Juliah Williams, 7, paints a picture at the Umatilla-Morrow County Head Start summer lunch program.**

**"I think it draws in more kids. At Kiwanis Park, we had kids lined up all the way to McNary Market, and they were all in circles doing yoga."**

— **Rikkilyn Larsen**, the child nutrition director for the Umatilla School District

have watermelon and cantaloupe donated."

Eddy said donations from local farms help keep Head Start's food costs low, and allow students to enjoy fresh produce.

The program is free to all kids ages 1 to 18, and Larsen said they encourage parents to come and eat with their children as much as

possible.

"We charge \$2 for adult meals, and it's an unlimited salad bar," she said. "We try to have a variety so the kids can find something they like."

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EO file photo/E.J. Harris  
**In this June 16 file photo, Mormon crickets congregate on top of a wood pile in the yard of a residence on Hemlock Street in Arlington.**

# West is battling crop-killing swarms of Mormon crickets

BOISE (AP) — Farmers in the U.S. West face a creepy scourge every eight years or so: Swarms of ravenous insects that can decimate crops and cause slippery, bug-slick car crashes as they march across highways and roads.

Experts say this year could be a banner one for Mormon crickets — 3-inch-long bugs named after the Mormon pioneers who moved West and learned firsthand the insect's devastating effect on forage and grain fields.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service reports "significantly higher Mormon cricket populations" on federal land in southwestern Idaho, agency spokeswoman Abbey Powell wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

"There isn't a clear explanation why populations are so much higher this year," Powell wrote. "We know that populations are cyclical. ... In Idaho, in a few locations, we have seen populations as high as 70 per square yard."

The bugs can start to be detrimental to rangeland and crops when they number

about 8 per square yard, state officials said.

The federal agency says the bugs—actually katyids, an entomological cousin to grasshoppers — are stretched in a band across southwestern Idaho, concentrated around Winnemucca, Nevada; and sprinkled throughout Oregon, Washington, Montana, Wyoming, Arizona and Colorado.

Residents in Arlington started dealing with Mormon crickets in June, scrambling to protect gardens and farm crops and trying to keep the bugs from invading homes through open windows and doors.

Out-of-control swarms can mean big economic losses for states. In 2003, some counties in Idaho and Nevada were forced to declare states of emergency because of cricket-caused damage. Estimates of crop damage in Utah reached more than \$25 million in 2001.

Police and transportation workers also keep an eye on invasions. The bugs are juicy when squished, and when swarms cross the road, they can make the pavement as

slick as ice.

Idaho State Police Lt. Col. Sheldon Kelley has responded to wrecks and slide-offs caused by the bug slicks.

"Most people don't know they are coming" until their car is almost on top of the swarm, he said.

Drivers who see pavement that looks like it is moving should slow down and drive as if they are on icy roads, he said. Police work with transportation officials to post warnings and, if necessary, sand roads fouled by cricket carcasses.

Lloyd Knight, a division administrator with the Idaho Department of Agriculture, said he hoped last winter's huge snowstorms would naturally limit their numbers. Female crickets can lay up to 100 eggs each summer, which hatch the following spring.

As it turns out, the deep snow cover helped insulate and protect the eggs, he said.

The department has received more than 100 complaints about infestations this year, but that's still within expected norms for the region, Knight said.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
**A member of the Stageline crew begins the process of transforming a semi-truck into a sound stage on Thursday morning at the Round-Up Grounds in preparation for the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest. The process took several hours.**

# MUSIC: As soon as band leaves the stage crews will begin disassembling equipment

Continued from 1A

The stage rolled onto the Round-Up Grounds on a semi-truck Thursday morning, a large box that will mechanically expand over several hours. The production crew will spend the ensuing time adding the lights, video screen and additional staging.

Setser said the setup will be a little different this year, but nothing that will be noticeable to the average audience member. And there will be no pyrotechnics.

With a larger audience coming into town and a Main

Street kick-off event added to the revelry, local hotels and restaurants must stay prepared.

America's Best Value Inn owner Arun Butta said customers started booking rooms as soon as Maroon 5 was announced as the headliner in early March. The rooms for Saturday are now booked solid and even Friday's rooms are mostly filled.

The Southeast Court Avenue motel is less than a mile away from the Round-Up Grounds.

Butta said this year's event

definitely feels bigger than the inaugural concert and it's his business' responsibility to make sure their stay in Pendleton is a good one.

As soon as Maroon 5 leaves the stage, Setser's crew will immediately begin disassembling equipment.

By Sunday, the arena should look like it did at the beginning of the week, the only evidence of a massive concert coming from some disturbed grass.

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# WIND: NextEra bills itself as the world's largest generator of renewable energy from wind and sun

Continued from 1A

Energy released a statement saying the project "will create tremendous economic opportunities for the region as well as bring more low-cost, emission-free energy to Oregon."

Once completed, Wheatridge will generate up to 500 megawatts of energy. The turbines are designed to be built over two main areas — Wheatridge West, located entirely within Morrow County about seven miles northwest of Heppner, and Wheatridge East, about 16 miles northeast of Heppner

and crossing into Umatilla County. The two areas will be 25 miles apart, connected via 230-kilovolt overhead power lines.

Transmission onto the electricity grid was not application in the project's approved, as developers had intended for a third party own and construct those lines separately. The hope was that by establishing a single designated transmission corridor, multiple projects including Wheatridge could link up on a single set of lines without having a spiderweb of lines crisscross the landscape. There was particular

concern multiple transmission systems could interrupt farming and take high-value land out of production.

NextEra says it is currently working on solutions to connect onto the power grid, and evaluating its options for selling the power generated by Wheatridge.

As of 2016, NextEra and its subsidiaries had a consolidated revenue of \$16.2 billion and 45,900 megawatts of generating capacity. NextEra Energy Resources bills itself as the world's largest generator of renewable energy from the wind and sun.

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