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EAST OREGONIAN

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THE HOTTEST IS YET TO COME

Thursday, Friday expected to break records in Hermiston

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Break out the fans and crank up the air conditioning — this week is gonna be a scorcher across the Columbia Basin.

Temperatures are expected to hover above 100 degrees in Pendleton and Hermiston beginning Tuesday, and may set record highs by midweek as a massive heat wave grips the Pacific Northwest. Jim Smith, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Pendleton, said the two hottest days will be Thursday and Friday before temperatures gradually begin to drop back down into the high 90s over the weekend.

Pendleton can expect high temperatures of 103 degrees

See HEAT/11A

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How to beat the heat 11A



A man pushes a boat away from the shore of Lake Wallula on the Columbia River on Monday at McNary Beach in Umatilla.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Tues
101/64
Wed
103/65
Thurs
104/71
Friday
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STANFIELD

Plant goes offline for picnic and repairs

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

The 3D Idapro dehydration plant in Stanfield will briefly halt operations Monday to make minor repairs to the facility. They expect to resume working late Monday or Tuesday, but will stop again on Tuesday afternoon and evening to accommodate the nearby National Night Out picnic.

The temporary pause on factory activities is a result of weeks' worth of complaints from residents about odors from the factory and, most recently, a fire at the plant on Wednesday.

Kevin Andreson, Idapro's platform leader for non-grains, said in a press release the company is also taking some steps to mitigate the odors.

"On Monday, we are installing a mobile odor control system that is designed to neutralize smells from the plant," he said. "While not perfect, we are hopeful that this temporary measure will help to reduce ongoing odors."

Andreson said the company is in the process of building a new filtration system that will be installed in November.

He also said the company has changed the way they purchase and handle raw potato products to reduce the smell coming from those materials.

"We want to be a good neighbor for this community," he said. "This situation is clearly frustrating to everyone, and we are doing everything we can to resolve it so that Stanfield can continue to be a great place to live."

Stanfield residents have been complaining about the smell for weeks to Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality and, most recently, are concerned about an explosion that caused the factory's bag house to catch fire. The fire injured one employee.

Andreson said the employee needed a short hospital visit for his minor burns but is now doing fine.

A spokesman for Idapro said the initial smell was caused when the plant had a fire in January, which burned some of the factory's air purification equipment.

Several weeks ago, representatives from Oregon's DEQ said the company had responded quickly to their requests for answers about the plant and that they were working on a solution.

At a Stanfield city council meeting two weeks ago, citizens showed up in droves to protest the factory's continued operations. Council members directed Stanfield City Manager Blair Larsen to begin fining the factory and seek a court order to shut the factory down.

There is another city council meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1 at Stanfield City Hall, 160 S. Main Street, Stanfield. The dehydration facility is expected to be discussed again.

Contact Jayati Ramakrishnan at jramakrishnan@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4534

EOTEC fairly close to finished

Community pulls together to prepare event center for Umatilla County Fair

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Roughly 300 volunteers donned work gloves Saturday to help ensure Hermiston's Eastern Oregon Trade and Events Center is ready for the Umatilla County Fair.

They filled black garbage bags with brush and weeds. They painted the stage. They sprayed bark dust, laid sod and planted trees. They worked from 8 a.m. until noon to dodge the summer heat under a cloudless sky. And when they were done they had a

lunch of smoked meat sandwiches and — what else — Hermiston watermelons.

But this swarm of workers was not sweating for that bit of reward. They did this for their faith and community. The Hermiston Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints took on the project.

"We do a day of service once a year or more. We believe service is part of our religion," said church official Kelly Sanders. "With this year, with the opening of the

See EOTEC/11A



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Volunteer Halle Thomas paints a post Saturday at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center. The facility's first major event, the Umatilla County Fair, will kick off in just over a week.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Volunteers Laura and Bruce Mecham secure a newly planted tree with stakes Saturday at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center arena in Hermiston.

Who owns EOTEC? And other frequently asked questions

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Thousands of Umatilla County residents are about to get their first look at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center as the project hosts its first Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo Aug. 8-12. As rumors swirl and confusion abounds ahead of the change to a new venue, here are the answers to a few frequently asked questions about EOTEC.

Who owns EOTEC?

Umatilla County and the city of Hermiston are co-owners of EOTEC. They have each appointed representatives to a seven-member board

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Board offers Nate Rivera job as interim EOTEC manager 11A

known as the EOTEC Authority that is making decisions on construction and operations, and that board plans to hire a general manager to handle day-to-day business. But the city council and county commission have the ultimate oversight of and liability for the project.

Who paid for EOTEC to be built?

Most of EOTEC's funds came from the government. Roughly \$8.5 million for EOTEC came from state and federal grants, including a \$6.4 million Oregon

Lottery grant. Another \$3 million in seed money came from Umatilla County selling the former fairgrounds on Orchard Avenue to Hermiston School District, and \$450,000 came from the Umatilla County Fair moving fund. The city of Hermiston donated the 75 acres EOTEC is built on, valued at \$1.5 million at the time, and paid to extend sewer and water infrastructure to the edge of the property. More than \$2 million came from private donors.

When it became clear that private fundraising would not be enough to finish the project, the county and city each donated an additional \$600,000 for

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