

EAST OREGONIAN

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141st Year, No. 214

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

Your Weekend

Catch a movie

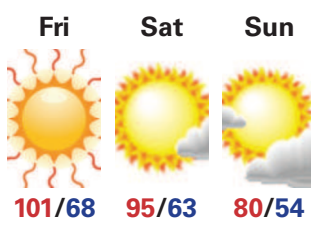


ToonBox Entertainment, Gulfstream Pictures

A squirrel teams up with other rodents and a pug to stop an evil mayor from building an amusement park in "The Nut Job 2."

For showtime, Page 5A

Weekend Weather



MILTON-FREEWATER

Villegas pleads guilty but insane to murder

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Oscar Villegas of Milton-Freewater pleaded guilty but insane Thursday to murdering his wife and trying to murder their two children. The pleas send the 27-year-old Villegas to a state hospital for the rest of his life.

Villegas changed his pleas Thursday morning in the Pendleton courtroom of Umatilla County Circuit Judge Lynn Hampton. He appeared via video from the county jail a few miles away. He told the judge he did not want to be in court in person.

Villegas' attorney, Kara Davis, explained that two independent evaluations of his mental health found he suffered from "bipolar disorder with psychotic features," a chronic condition. She said the clincher for those findings came from evidence showing Villegas experienced delusions a year before the crimes and even went to an emergency room for help.

While a doctor noted his symptoms, Davis said no one diagnosed him.

Villegas stabbed and cut

See VILLEGAS/10A



Parking lot attendants direct traffic on Thursday as the stream of cars lined up to get into the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston increases. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Figuring out the flow

New traffic plan in effect after Wednesday backup

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

With the Umatilla County Fair in full swing and the Farm-City Pro Rodeo just beginning, Wednesday was the busiest night at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Events Center so far. That activity translated to some major congestion in the parking area, which led to delays for people both entering and leaving the fairgrounds.

Hermiston police reported traffic backed up as far as Port Drive on Highway 395 near the water tower for about an hour in the evening as vehicles lined up to enter the fairgrounds parking lot.

Don Miller, a fair and EOTEC board member, added that police said there was no danger to driver safety, and the traffic cleared within an hour. But he said the organizers of the fair realized they needed to change the

"(The new entry) should keep the flow good, and resolve the high degree of delays we experienced on the first big night of the fair."

— Don Miller, fair and EOTEC board member on the new entry lanes

parking structure for the remaining days of the fair. Here's what that will look like:

Exits

Starting Thursday, Miller said there will be three separate exit points. The first will be the main parking lot exit onto Airport Road.

"Umatilla County Sheriff's Office will directly monitor traffic control at those sites to make it work smoothly," Miller said.

See TRAFFIC/10A



Customers place orders at the Hermiston Lions Club food cart on Thursday along the promenade at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The taste of summer

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

This year's Umatilla County Fair features new faces and new places, but the flavors are familiar.

Local standbys like elephant ears from Umatilla High School and Lions Club burgers made the transition to the new fairgrounds.

"We've got the best burgers here," Phil Hamm said as he worked a volunteer shift in the bright red Lions Club food trailer.

The mobile trailers for the nonprofits are new this year, provided by the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center to make up for the loss of the permanent structures at the old fairgrounds.

See FOOD/10A



Kimbra Cook, Carolyn Frasier and Scott Fairley gather around a little library they placed in Cook and Fairley's front yard to honor Roberta Anderson. Staff photo by Kathy Aney

PENDLETON

Tiny library honors voracious reader

Anderson cast vote for school bond measure from hospital bed

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

After her death in 2015, Roberta Anderson's family members wracked their brains for a good way to honor the family matriarch.

Anderson, who died at age 103, was a force.

She earned undergraduate and graduate degrees at Washington State College (now University). After her husband, Fred Frasier, died of Lou Gehrig's disease, the widow and single mother of three taught courses in child development at her alma mater and eventually became department head. Her daughter, Carolyn Frasier, remembers being the only kid in school with a working mom.

Anderson married again on her 60th birthday to Rictor Anderson,

See ANDERSON/10A



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