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EAST OREGONIAN

AUGUST 12-13, 2017

141st Year, No. 215

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

UMATILLA COUNTY FAIR



Fairgoers brave the triple-digit heat to attend the Umatilla County Fair on Friday at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

UMATILLA



EO file photo

The Army Corps of Engineers refurbished 10 power units at the McNary Dam in Umatilla in 2014.

Energy sec. Perry to tour McNary Dam

East Oregonian

Rick Perry, the United States Secretary of Energy, will be in Eastern Oregon for a brief visit on Monday.

He will tour the McNary Lock and Dam in Umatilla in the afternoon, one of several visits to energy facilities in the region early next week.

After his visit to McNary, Perry will travel to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the HAMMER Federal Training Center in Richland, as well as several facilities at Hanford. He will visit the Hanford site's Plutonium Finishing Plant, the 2268 Building, the WTP facility and the PUREX tunnels.



AP Photo

Rick Perry

Perry will be available to the press after each visit and will be accompanied by Oregon Rep. Greg Walden and Washington Sen. Maria Cantwell and Rep. Dan Newhouse.

The Department of Energy owns the Bonneville Power Administration, an electric grid which draws power from McNary Dam, the Energy Northwest nuclear power plant, 30 other dams and a handful of renewable energy projects. Its service area covers about 12.5 million people.

A proposal in President Donald Trump's budget would seek to sell the BPA as a cost-saving measure, estimating savings of \$4.9 billion over a decade.

Fourteen U.S. senators from both parties sent a written request to Perry, who oversees the DOE, to oppose the plan to sell the BPA and other national transmission assets for fear of rate increases and loss of future development.

Perry replaced George W. Bush as governor of Texas in 2000 and won three more terms before retiring in 2014. He ran for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012 and again briefly in 2016 but withdrew before the primaries.

He was nominated by President Trump as the secretary of energy and was confirmed by the Senate in March.

Heat, attendance up from last year

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Fair and rodeo attendance is up this year, according to organizers, but exactly how much is unknown.

"Attendance is definitely up each night," Umatilla County Fair sponsorship and activities director Cyndie Driscoll said in an email Friday night.

Earlier in the day, she said the fair's organizers feel "pretty amazing" about the fair's success in its new location, and said people have been saying they appreciate the extra elbow room.

"That's been a lot of the comments, that there's so much more room that even though patrons know there are more people there they don't feel crowded," she said.

On the rodeo side, Farm-City Pro Rodeo board member Dennis Barnett said they didn't have exact attendance numbers, but based on factors such as beverage sales he would estimate attendance Wednesday and Thursday were up about 15 to 20 percent from previous rodeos.

He said most years the



Suzi LeBaron of Milwaukie tells Maria Castro of Umatilla about different lip colors offered by Lip Sense in a booth in the exhibit hall on Friday at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Saturday rodeo sells out, but thanks to an extra 2,500 seats in the new arena all interested fans will likely be able to get a seat for the week's final performance.

"If we sold out this

weekend you would see me jumping up and down, because we don't expect that because of the increased capacity," Barnett said.

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More online

For video of the Umatilla County Fair after dark visit eastoregonian.com

PENDLETON

Japanese students explore sister city

First day is full of jitters and fun

By EMILY OLSON
East Oregonian

As Moe Kobayashi, 16, emerged from a crowd gathered in Pendleton's Vert Club Room, she let her excitement show with a sprightly smile. She was finally meeting her American host family.

The Pattersons greeted her with cheery hellos. But as the introductions finished, Kobayashi lowered her head and admitted a secret.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Miku Saito, of Minamisoma, poses during a visit to Happy Canyon on Tuesday, after donning costumes and accessorizing with guns from the prop room.

See PENDLETON/13A

HERMISTON

Videos lead police to arrest in Fiesta theft

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Lee Wood III, 27, with the Hermiston theft.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said his detectives arrested the suspect who ripped off Fiesta Foods for "tens of thousands of dollars."

Key to the investigation, Edmiston said, was video evidence from an Oregon State Police traffic stop linking Daniel



Wood

Aug. 4 at about 7 p.m. responded to 1875 N. First St., on a report of the theft of a bank bag containing a significant amount of recently cashed payroll checks. The theft occurred about two hours earlier, Edmiston said,

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