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RALLY SUPPORTS MEN ON TRIAL FOR BUNKERVILLE
REGION/3A

BUCKAROOS THRILLED TO BE BACK
SPORTS/1B



EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2017

141st Year, No. 218

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Taking a bite out of the old fairgrounds

An excavator picks up a piece of concrete from the foundation of the old Farm-City Pro Rodeo Arena on Wednesday in Hermiston. The Hermiston School District is also making safety improvements to two schools this summer. For more on that story and the fairgrounds demolition see Page 3A.

UmCo considers tobacco licensing

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Umatilla County health officials want cities to require retailers to have a license to sell tobacco and nicotine.

Mariah Hinds, the county health department's tobacco prevention coordinator, said the licensing program is geared toward preventing sales to youth.

Hinds spoke to the county board of commissioners about the plan Wednesday in Pendleton. The county program would include a retail license for the sale of tobacco, Hinds explained, and a prohibition on the sale of tobacco to minors. The County Environmental Health Department would inspect each retailer at least once per year. She said other areas of the county have established similar local laws and experienced major declines in youth obtaining tobacco.

Hinds said a licensing program allows the county to oversee tobacco and nicotine sales in their jurisdictions. The county board voted 3-0 to allow health department staff to ask cities and other jurisdictions

See TOBACCO/8A

PENDLETON

The price of policing big events

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Crime doesn't pay but public safety does come with a price.

Pendleton Fire Chief Mike Ciraulo can name the exact price he charged for his department's services at the two massive tourist events so far this summer.

For his staff's time and resources, Ciraulo charged the organizers of Pendleton Whisky Music Fest \$2,622 and the promotional company behind the "Nitro in the Blues" hill climb \$2,592 to have emergency personnel on the scene at each event.

But these fees don't account for the resources spent on treating tourists who are drawn to Pendleton for these events.

Ciraulo said he has enough staff and resources to handle the increasingly popular one-two punch of Whisky Fest and Pendleton Bike Week. But as city officials seek more events of the size and scale of the concert and motorcycle rally, local public safety officials are thinking about how to recoup the cost of providing their services to the thousands of people that pack



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Audience members fuel up on whisky and beer during the second annual Pendleton Whisky Music Fest on July 15.

Pendleton for these events.

Ciraulo said the type of calls varies during big gatherings.

Pendleton Bike Week tends to attract an older crowd, the fire

chief said, and rally attendees tend to need emergency services for the type of ailments that would afflict them regardless of where they are — heart attacks,

strokes, seizures.

On the other hand, the younger audience brought to

See POLICE/8A

Eclipse plans for procrastinators

By TIM TRAINOR
East Oregonian

The total solar eclipse is now four days from flashing across Eastern Oregon. And if you haven't made plans yet, the race is on to claim enough space to witness the planetary oddity overhead.

You're too late for hotel rooms in Eastern Oregon's totality zone, and the few Airbnb offerings still available come with very hefty price tags — you could get a six-bedroom villa in Sicily for the same price.

A quick check at the site reveals these desperate options: You can reserve a \$400 campsite in Shaniko. There's a seven-bedroom log cabin available in Mitchell for \$5,000 per night (2-night minimum). In Condon, just outside the zone of totality, you can rent a home for \$3,000 a night. On vrbo.com there are \$166 campsites still open for Saturday night outside of Mitchell, but they're booked up solid Sunday and Monday. Prices are similar



4 days left

See ECLIPSE/8A

Conspirator linked to reservation homicide gets seven years



Staff photo by Phil Wright

Joseph Aaron McIver readies for a Umatilla County sheriff's deputy to take him to jail Wednesday from circuit court in Hermiston after pleading guilty to manslaughter for the 2016 death of Thadd Nelson of Meacham.

Joseph McIver pleads guilty

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Joseph Aaron McIver is headed to prison for more than seven years for his role in the 2016 shooting death of Thadd Nelson of Meacham.

McIver, 23, of Umatilla, showed up Wednesday afternoon to circuit court in Hermiston in blue jeans and a blue plaid button shirt. Friends and family surrounded him. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary and second-degree manslaughter.

Judge Dan Hill asked McIver if he was pleading guilty because he committed the crimes.

"Yes," McIver replied.

The plea came after a deal with the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office and federal prosecutors. McIver pleaded guilty on Aug. 8 in U.S. District Court, Portland, to felon in possession of a firearm, according to

federal court records. The charge stems from the Nelson homicide, which occurred on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Per C. Olson, McIver's defense attorney in the federal case, said his client was remorseful and was not a major player in the crime. He added McIver is young enough to turn his life around and has a 3-year-old child.

Hill asked McIver if he wanted to make a statement. McIver declined.

Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said Nelson's family was not in court but he had been in contact with them.

Hill sentenced McIver to the mandatory minimum term of six years and four months for the manslaughter and two years and six months more for the burglary charge. But Olson stated McIver would get 18 months credit for jail time already served.

That reduces his total sentence to seven years, four months. He will serve the time concurrent with the federal prison term, but

See COURT/8A



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