

EAST OREGONIAN

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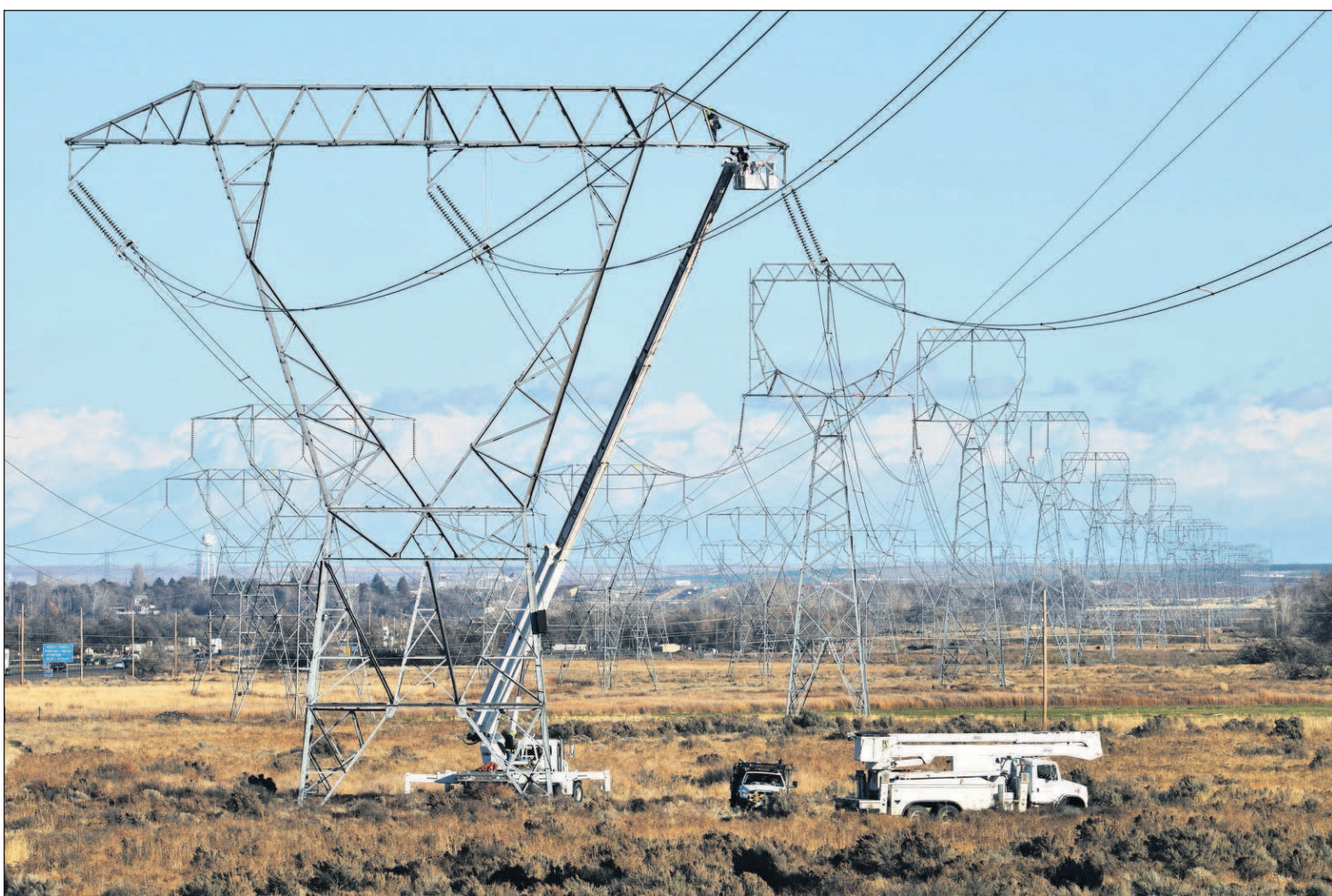
An old Dodge pickup truck sits in a field off River Road near Cayuse on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

142nd Year, No. 24

WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A crew works on a transmission line tower Friday outside of Boardman. The Bureau of Land Management has announced a 300-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line that will be built from Boardman to just outside of Boise.

BLM approves transmission line

300-mile power line would cross five counties en route to Idaho

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

The Bureau of Land Management signed off on a controversial 300-mile, 500-kilovolt overhead transmission line that would run from Boardman to near Boise, boosting electrical capacity between the two regions for future growth.

It is a major step forward for the Boardman to Hemingway project, or B2H, which was first proposed by Idaho Power in 2006. More than a decade later, the BLM released its record of

"I do think that, through the process, we have minimized impacts to a great extent."

— **Mitch Colburn**, manages transmission and distribution strategic projects for Idaho Power

decision for the power line on Friday, which would cross five Eastern Oregon counties en route to southwest Idaho.

Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior, said in a statement that building B2H is a Trump administration priority, focusing on infrastructure that supports America's energy independence.

"Today's decision is the result of extensive public involvement and will support the environmentally responsible development of resources to meet the needs of communities in Idaho, Oregon and the surrounding region," Zinke said.

Yet despite the announcement, B2H is still years away

from becoming a reality. The BLM record of decision only addresses the power line as it crosses over federal lands, so Idaho Power must now shift its efforts to obtaining state permits through the Oregon Department of Energy, and specifically the Energy Facility Siting Council.

Mitch Colburn, who manages transmission and distribution strategic projects for the utility, said the line will not be completed until 2024 at the earliest. Idaho Power has

See **POWER/16A**

Round-Up wrangles with board president nomination

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

On Tuesday, Pendleton Round-Up stockholders will convene at the Let'Er Buck Room for their annual meeting, where they will listen to a financial report, get updates on the rodeo's future plans and elect a new president for the Round-Up Association Board of Directors.

The latter could be the most contentious item of the night.

Stockholders recently received a letter signed by all 17 directors stating the board's intention to nominate Dave O'Neill — an eight-year director who left the board after the 2016 Round-Up — for board president.



O'Neill

"Unfortunately, we have recently been advised that several past directors intend to nominate a different candidate," the directors wrote. "We are very concerned about this proposed action to circumvent the will of the board. There is no doubt this action would be divisive and destructive to the cohesiveness and cooperation on the board that currently exists, as well as to the effectiveness of the board in continuing the success of this organization. Moreover, we believe bringing this type of public disturbance to the association is not only unfair and unwarranted, but also detrimental to not only how it is viewed by the community, but also by its partners, vendors, rodeo peers, staff volunteers, and contestants. Lastly, it would certainly create division and resentment that would compromise our effectiveness to work with the past directors."

See **ROUND-UP/15A**



Umatilla County Sheriff's deputy Steven McDaniel brings his 20-years of service in the Oregon National Guard to the patrol and criminal division of the department.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Sheriff's office looks to balance skills with experience

Steven McDaniel joins patrol and criminal division of department

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Steven McDaniel likes his fit with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office.

"Mainly, what I've done has been some form of helping people," he said.

At 38 he has almost 20 years of service in the Oregon National Guard and pilots helicopters for the military's aviation unit at the airport in Pendleton. He worked in Afghanistan as a contractor for a transport company and served in 2005-06 in the war in Afghanistan. McDaniel also worked as a corrections officer at Eastern Oregon

Correctional Institution and the Umatilla County Jail, both in Pendleton.

Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan said McDaniel exemplifies what the sheriff's office is looking for as it develops its staff. Rowan is a full year into his second term, and beefing up the patrol and criminal division has been a primary focus of his job.

"Our approach has been to find candidates with character traits that meet our core values, combined with a balance of skill set, work ethic and maturity," Rowan said. "We are trying to maintain a balance between and within our ranks. Some of the new hires have deep skill sets, others have several years working in public safety, while others are just beginning their careers in public

See **POLICE/16A**

