

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018

142nd Year, No. 148 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Barons pay top dollar

Above: A crowd at the Pendleton Cattle Barons event watches the Western Select Invitational Horse Sale on Saturday at the Pendleton Convention Center. **Right:** These puppies were auctioned off during the Pendleton Cattle Barons event at the Pendleton Convention Center, with the proceeds going to fund youth agricultural scholarships. For more from the annual gathering in Pendleton, see page 6A.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

HERMISTON

City plans to demur to Mitco market

Myers will hold market after all

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The city of Hermiston isn't interested in holding a farmers market that competes with a market put on Mitco Investments, city manager Byron Smith told the city council on Monday.

The statement came after several days of turmoil for the market, which was canceled by Mitco owner Mitch Myers last Wednesday during a vendor meeting in which he accused the city's building inspector of purposely holding up work on the Maxwell Pavilion, a 4,000-square-foot shade structure. It was to be the market's new home after the city asked Myers to take over the event. On Thursday, citing a flood of calls from disappointed citizens, city parks and recreation director Larry Fetter said Hermiston was willing to host the market on its new festival street, which is also under construction. On Friday, Myers then announced he had decided to hold a farmers market on a different property he owns.

"I could care less what the city does," Myers said in response to a question about whether it would be in place of the city's market or competing with it.

See MARKET/8A

Ballots due by 8 p.m.

East Oregonian

As of the end of the day Monday, just 10,088 ballots were returned in Umatilla County — about 23.7 of all registered voters.

Those wishing to take part in the election must have their ballots in by 8 p.m. Tuesday. In Umatilla County, drop boxes are located at the Umatilla County Courthouse in Pendleton, Hermiston City Hall, Milton-Freewater City Hall, Nixyaawii Governance Center in Mission, Umatilla City Hall, Stanfield City Hall, Pilot Rock City Hall and Athena City Hall.

Training ramps up for National Guard

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Changes to the Army National Guard are resulting in more days that soldiers are away from home for training and deployment.

A Department of Defense agency known as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is reaching out to local employers to help them understand the changes, which mean that in some years soldiers will be required to train for at least 63 days instead of 39.

"Right here in Hermiston, it's very important because of the increased tempo of training that we have a good relationship with employers, because they take part of that heat when soldiers are gone," said Jack Johnson, area chairman for ESGR.

Johnson said the all-volunteer ESGR helps with outreach to employers and has ombudsman power to work through "misunderstandings of the law" surrounding duties to employees who are in the National Guard or the reserves for other military branches.

Since the National Guard was created in 1903, Johnson said, to replace the state-by-state militia system, federal law said soldiers in the

In development since 2014, the solar array will provide energy to Pacific Power through a purchasing agreement.

Airport Manager Steve Chrisman said construction is proceeding without many hitches, even as Cyprus Creek navigates the active grazing pasture that shares its space.

"We had to scoot over a few cows when they got into the stakes, but otherwise it's going smoothly," he said.

Cyprus Creek paid the city \$9,750 per year to hold onto the land, and now that the construction is underway, the city will begin col-

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

A California company is ready to take advantage of Pendleton's bright summer months.

Cypress Creek Renewables and its subsidiary NorWest Energy 9 are in the midst of building a 6-megawatt solar array on 58 acres of land at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport.

lecting \$29,000 every six months, with the rental rate rising by 2.5 percent each year.

Chrisman said Pendleton was already the most

PENDLETON

Solar array to add six megawatts



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A six megawatt solar array is going in on 58 acres of city land between Interstate 84 and the Pendleton Regional Airport. The airport manager expects the array to begin supplying power in the next two-to-three months.

residential and government installations, Public Works Director Bob Patterson said Pendleton was already gen-

Between commercial,

See SOLAR/8A

See GUARD/8A

