

KICK-OFF PARADE

THE PARADE MUST GO ON

Despite lacking volunteers to set up and run this year's Umatilla County Fair Kick-Off Parade, it will still be moving full force to celebrate the fair's second year at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Events Center in Hermiston.

The fair selected two people to be this year's grand marshals — State Rep. Greg Smith and his wife, Sherri Smith.

"They were chosen because of how supportive they were for building our new building at EOTEC," said fair coordinator Angie McNalley, "how they constantly go to bat in Salem for county fairs, to get us the state funding for 4-H and FFA programs, to get the other legislators to support these programs

for the youth and just how near and dear and personal and what he means the Umatilla County Fair."

Smith serves as a representative of House District 57, which represents Umatilla, Morrow, Gillam, Sherman and Wasco Counties.

McNalley also said Smith has been supportive by speaking at fair events and communicating with members of Umatilla County about the fair.

"It's kind of an honor that the fair board chooses based on somebody they feel has supported the fair for many, many years in every aspect," she said.

Others to be honored as part of this year's fair include volunteers of the year Steve Kelsoe

and Alice Dyer.

According to McNalley, Kelsoe has volunteered in the livestock barns during 4-H and FFA events and was especially helpful last year, when the fair needed extra hands to kick off its first year at the new fairgrounds. Dyer has been a small animals superintendent for many years, and helped set up last year's brand new barn so it was safe for animals and people.

"She's just out there in the heat every day taking care of these animals and these exhibitors," McNalley said.

Volunteers of the year are invited to participate in the annual parade, but are not obligated to, said fair board chairman Gay Newman.



EO file photo

Oregon State Rep. Greg Smith sits atop a float during the 2015 Umatilla County Fair parade. Greg and Sherri Smith are grand marshals of the parade.

"Most of them are at the fairgrounds setting up for events," he said.

The parade begins Aug. 4 at 6:30 p.m. beginning at Hermiston High School on Highland Avenue and ending at Bi-Mart on South First Place.

Enjoy the Fair & Rodeo



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