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Five arrested by ICE near Hermiston

Multiple ICE sightings reported in the Hermiston area

By JESSICA POLLARD
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Five Guatemalan citizens were arrested on

July 9 by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents near Hermiston.

Mateo Demateo-Baltazar and Rolando Pablo-Calmo are facing pending immigration proceedings. Higinio Pablo-Calmo, Teodoro Pablo-Ramos and Mario Lorenzo-Pablo are facing pending removal from the United States.

Tanya Roman, a public affairs

officer for ICE in Seattle, said she is still working to confirm if all five people are still in custody.

According to Roman, they all have prior criminal records.

The ICE Online Detainee Locator System lists Demateo-Baltazar and Pablo-Ramos as still in custody at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington.

According to the city of Tacoma,

the center is the fourth largest in the nation, with a capacity of 1,575 detainees.

Roman said the arrests were in “no way associated with any anticipated nationwide targeted enforcement actions.”

Roman stated the arrests were, instead, part of a targeted enforce-

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PENDLETON

National Weather Service radar will get upgrade

The system will be ready in time for fall and winter

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The National Weather Service’s radar in Pendleton will be offline for over a week as the agency completes a major upgrade.

Starting Monday and running through the end of the month, NWS will take apart the red and white radar tower to thoroughly clean, repair and upgrade equipment in the radome and replace the pedestal. The agency uses radar to track precipitation, wind and other weather elements.

Meteorologist Rob Brooks said even though the radar will be down, the weather service will be able to use radar readings from its neighboring offices in Portland; Medford; Boise, Idaho; and Spokane, Washington. The Pendleton office will still have other tools, such as observations, spotter reports and satellite data.

“We’re not blind,” he said.

The weather service is upgrading its radar systems across the country. Having the work done now in Pendleton means the system will be ready for the fall and winter months, when there are commonly more extreme weather events. Once upgraded, the system should be able to provide reliable data for at least the next 10 years, according to the weather service.

Meteorologist Mark Austin said the NWS can now get satellite data updated once every minute, and has a “very dedicated network” of storm spotters in the area. They might not have as accurate a measurement as usual of how much precipitation fell, he said, but they will know where the storms are located.

The upgrade project is part of the Service Life Extension Program, which is being implemented across the country to extend the life of NSW radar for at least another decade and prevent equipment failures.

Brooks said Pendleton’s equipment was installed in the 1990s.

“This will help ensure functionality and performance,” he said.

RIDE WITH THE RAIDERS



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A B-25 bomber lands at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport for the Ride with the Raiders event.

Hundreds turn out for Pendleton Bike Week’s kickoff event

By BEN LONERGAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A pair of police cars and a motorcycle hearse led hundreds of motorcycle enthusiasts as they rode onto the tarmac at Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton Wednesday afternoon for Pendleton Bike Week’s

Ride with the Raiders.

The event served as a remembrance ceremony for the Doolittle Raiders and approximately 17,000 deceased Oregon military members.

“It’s a fellowship of brothers that served and the plane and flags represent a piece of American pride for us,” said Roy Yeomens of Enumclaw, Washington. “It is important to remember those we served alongside. This is a great way of doing that.”

This year is Yeomens’ fourth year attending Pendleton Bike Week after missing last year’s event. Yeomens says that there is nothing else like it in the Pacific Northwest. “Oregon has events

for everybody and lots of great places to ride,” he said. “I’ve never had a bad experience here.”

For Pendleton Bike Week co-founder Eric Folkestad, the Ride with the Raiders event could not have gone any better. Folkestad estimates approximately 250 people turned up for the ride from the Pendleton Convention Center to the airport.

“It went off without a hitch and everyone wanted to turn out and support the military,” Folkestad said. “We definitely had a better turnout this year than past events and it’s really the volunteers and

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Wind energy in the western U.S. is growing — and so are conflicts

Wind power has stamped its insignia across Eastern Oregon

By SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN
Capital Press

MORO — In Sherman County, every family gets a gift at Christmas time.

In this sparsely populated stretch of Oregon where unrelenting winds swirl across wheat farms, wind power has stamped its insignia.

Hundreds of wind turbines tower over the land, whirring as they generate electricity — and money. *Wshh. Wshh. Wshh.* Each December, households receive checks for \$590 in exchange for use of their county as a wind site.

Developers pay the bulk of the

money to farmers whose land they lease. A landowner typically gets \$8,000 per megawatt per year, and the average turbine’s capacity is 2.5 to 3 megawatts. The county also invests its share of the revenue in infrastructure. Court records show Sherman County — once the second-poorest county in Oregon — has raked in tens of millions of dollars since the first turbines were erected in 2002.

“Wind turbines. What can I say?” said Sherman County Judge Joe Dabulskis, the top elected official. “Whether you’re for them or against them, they have made a difference.”

Some rural communities love wind power. Some hate it. Like it or not, the production of wind energy is expanding in the rural West with new, more efficient technology. At the same time,

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Capital Press/Sierra Dawn McClain /Capital Press

Marty Myers, general manager of Threemile Canyon Farms near Boardman, stands in front of the six wind turbines leased on his land.



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