

FAIR

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to iron out.”
Rowan said his department has increased its staff presence at the fair by about 40 percent, and will also have a dispatcher stationed at the sheriff’s home base on the fairgrounds during peak hours.

The sheriff’s staff and emergency medical personnel also have a small building in which they can go get cold water and get out of the heat for a moment, Rowan said.

Rowan said deputies will be on the lookout for trespassers and shoplifters, as well as conflicts, verbal or physical, between people.

On Tuesday, Rowan cautiously said so far things have been quiet.

“We don’t like to use the ‘Q’ word,” he said.

Some fair attractions, like the vendor booths and 4-H projects, will be on display all day. Others open later in the day, such as the carnival.

The carnival will start at 2 p.m. every day, and run until 11 p.m.. There will be a concert on the Wildhorse Main Stage every night Tuesday through Saturday, starting at 9 p.m. Various other shows, contests and activities will happen throughout the day.

Dorran announces retirement from fair board

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
STAFF WRITER



Dan Dorran

Dan Dorran told the crowd attending the Umatilla County Fair kickoff barbecue on Saturday that this year would be his last as a member of the fair board.

But he says he doesn’t want to be honored for his 20 years on the Umatilla County Fair Board. In fact, he didn’t even want to talk about it.

“It would take too long to talk about all of that,” he said.

Instead, he spent the days before his last fair as a board member doing what he’s always done: putting the fair together.

Dorran’s term on the fair board is set to expire, but he plans to continue to serve on the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center board. He will also remain involved with Friends of the Fair and Rodeo, the fund-raising arm supporting both organizations.

Dorran, a Hermiston native, said being on the fair board is not an honorary thing or ceremonial. It’s a hands-on, working board.

“We work every day, all day long,” he said.

Leading up to this year’s fair at its new home at EOTEC, Dorran has been busy. He showed a group of city councilors around the fairgrounds the day before it opened. He noted details that had been added this year and said hello to vendors who were brand-new to the Umatilla County Fair. He pointed out things that needed to be fixed.

“A couple things we’ve done differently,” he said, driving the group by the concert stage where a new musical act will perform each night. “We’ve opened up the concert area a lot more. You’ll be able to see clear across the grounds to the concert area.”

He knew all about the food being sold at the fair, and the people selling it.

“Like Zach here, out of Arizona,” he said, pointing to a young man who was working at Piggly’s Barbecue. “Zach and his dad travel the West Coast doing this. They’ve got a great product.”

He stopped to say hello to a woman setting up a Hawaiian Teriyaki cart, also new to this year’s fair.

“One thing about the fair folks,” he said. “They’re some of the most incredible partners we’ve dealt with. Everybody works together.”

He added that in a partnership, it’s OK to get frustrated.

“In a half-hour, I’m gonna get mad at all of them, because we’re going to be so plugged up, we’re not going to be able to get the rest of the folks in,” he said, nodding at a vendor who was busy plugging cords into an electrical outlet.

Dorran drove the councilors around the grounds with obvious pride in how the project has come together — but also with a realistic approach to the challenges ahead.

“The ‘warts,’” he said, taking them to the back of the lot where several pieces of equipment from the old fairgrounds were stored. “This is where we spent our Christmas vacation, we moved everything from the old grounds.”

He added that there’s still work to be done.



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Umatilla County Fair Board member Dan Dorran, right, waits as guests load up on his golf cart as he guides a tour Monday of the new Umatilla County Fair grounds at EOTEC in Hermiston.

“These benches still need to be put out on the ground between now and 9 a.m. tomorrow,” Dorran said on Monday.

Dorran was hesitant to talk about his own work in making the fair happen, noting all the people it takes to put on the event.

“There’s so many other people.”

And of course, it’s not

goodbye to everything. He’ll still be in the ring, dodging sheep and chasing after kids as the announcer of the Mutton Bustin’ event at the Farm-City Pro Rodeo, a fan favorite.

“Some day, I’ll tell the story of how I started doing that,” he said.

Until then, he’ll keep doing what he likes best — helping it all come together one more time.

RIBBON

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Drotzmann thanked the many people and groups that have contributed money or time to EOTEC’s progress. Along with the many people who have been working on the project in the past few years, he acknowledged those who had the vision for it in the first place. One of those people was Hermiston’s first city manager, Tom Harper, who was present at the gathering.

Givens noted that the work was not finished. “This is just the beginning,” he said. “We’ll be here, and we’ll continue to grow.”

After the ribbon cutting, community members stuck

around to tour the new facility, both indoors and out. People were busy setting up vendor booths, rides and the rodeo arena, and students were milling about the animal barns, preparing to show their livestock. Inside, displays of food, produce and handwork were already set up.

Visitors were eager to explore the new facility.

Steve Williams, a Umatilla County resident since 1984, said he comes to the fair and rodeo every year.

“It’s a great addition,” he said, adding that he’s looking forward to the rodeo most — especially the bull riding.

Fair participants seemed pleased with the new digs, too. Taylor Betz, a 19-year-old showing open-class breeding stock, said she’s

been showing at the fair for 13 years.

“It looks a lot more like the bigger shows I’ve been to,” said the Hermiston High School graduate, who’s studying agricultural business and animal science at Oregon State University. Betz will show a junior heifer on Wednesday in the cross-breeding portion of the fair. She has always shown beef, but started out with steers and slowly added breeding stock to her repertoire.

There’s more room at EOTEC, too, with 56 acres compared to 17.5 at the old fairgrounds and 81,060 square feet of barn space compared to 26,187 square feet at the old fairgrounds.

A group of students from Echo’s Future Farmers of

America chapter said they were looking forward to some of the amenities.

“I’m really excited about the shower situation,” said Laci Wiggins, who recently graduated from Echo High School and is showing two breeding goats and a market hog. “And the pens are a lot nicer.”

Her teacher, Brooke VanderVeen, said the biggest difference between this facility and the previous one was the layout.

“The old one was outdated,” she said. “And here, the beef, goats and sheep are all under one roof.”

The fair began Tuesday at 9 a.m. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, and parking is \$5. The money from parking will go toward covering fair costs, Smith said.

BY THE WAY

BTW

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21-25 in Orlando, Florida. Teacher **David Dever** received the Advisor of the Year award. And, the Viking technology students were recognized for **Chapter Excellence**.

The Technology Student Association features 230,000 middle and high school students across the nation who aspire to be future engineers, scientists and technologists. The organization provides leadership and opportunities that focus on in technology, innovation,

design and engineering. Members apply STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) concepts through co-curricular programs.

For more information, visit www.tsaweb.org.

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The **Greater Oregon STEM Partnership** and **Umatilla High School** recently coordinated a three-day camp exploring science, technology, engineering and math concepts.

Held at **Eastern Oregon University**, 24 high school students from five Eastern Oregon counties attended the second annual STEM Camp

July 25-27. Participants visited a local wind farm, practiced assembling and flying drones, and performed physics experiments. They also toured EOU’s campus and visited Blue Mountain Community College.

Two students from each school were selected to attend the camp and organize a project to impact STEM education in their school or community during the upcoming year.

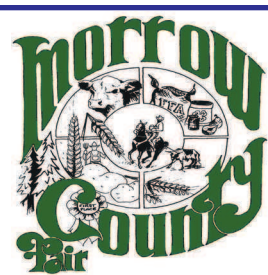
“It’s exciting to hear the impact of these experiences on local high school students,” said **Julie Keniry**, GO-STEM facilitator. “When they have the oppor-

tunity to meet with students and learn more about what is happening at other schools in Eastern Oregon, they feel they can make a difference at their own school.”

For information about upcoming events and programs, visit www.go-stem.org or contact Keniry at jkeniry@eou.edu.

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You can submit items for our weekly *By The Way* column by emailing your tips to editor@hermistonherald.com or share them on social media using the hashtag #HHBTW. Follow the *Hermiston Herald* on Twitter at @HermistonHerald.



“Our Roots Run Deep in Morrow County”

August 16-20, 2017



FAIR: www.co.morrow.or.us/fair

Wednesday, Aug. 16th
Reptile Man & Kid Zone
Scarecrow Contest

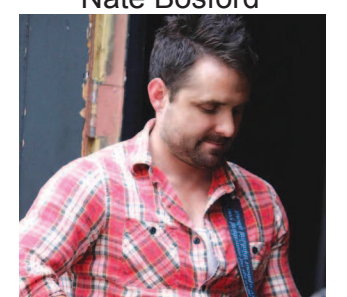


The Junebugs
4-H Food Contest
4-H/FFA Small Animal Showmanship
Ice Cream Social
4-H Archery Shoot
RDO Tractor Pull
Cory Peterson Band



Thursday, Aug. 18th
Reptile Man & Kid Zone
Old Time Fiddlers
Talent Show
4-H/FFA Conformation
Murray’s Wine Tasting

Featuring:
Joe Lindsay
Nate Bosford



OTPR NPRA SLACK

Friday, Aug. 18th
Reptile Man & Kid Zone
4-H/FFA Showmanship
Ballet Performance 4-7 yrs.
Master Showmanship
Adult Showmanship Greased Pig Contest

OTPR/NPRA Rodeo
Music by: Dan Burns 3D Productions
Saturday, Aug. 19th
Reptile Man & Kid Zone Parade
FFA Awards
Buyers Luncheon
Livestock Auction OTPR/NPRA Rodeo
Music by: Dan Burns 3D Productions

Sunday, Aug. 20th
All Exhibits Extended
Morrow County Rodeo
Fair Admission: Ages 8 & Up \$4 daily or \$10 week
13 & under FREE (must be with Adult)

Rodeo Admission: 7 & up \$10
7-12 yrs. \$6
6 & under FREE

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6:00 PM
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Rev. Ed Baker - Rev. Nina Baker

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Worship..... 11:00 am
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1 Pet. 5:7

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SUNDAY:.....English 9:00 am
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.....Spanish 1:00 pm
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