



HH FILE PHOTO

Umatilla County Fair Princess Raylee Lenhert throws candy during the Umatilla County Fair Kick-Off Parade in 2016.

Fair board looking for parade organizers

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston's biggest — and some years only — parade needs someone to run it this year.

Gay Newman, chair of the Umatilla County Fair board, said the board is looking for an organization or group of volunteers willing to handle the fair parade on Aug. 4. He said the two people who usually organize entries are both unable this year due to health issues, and it's difficult for the fair board to be on site wrangling entrants when they are busy with last-minute preparations up at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

"I need help, that's the bottom line," he said.

Last year's fair parade had 139 entries, and Newman said the city estimated between 6,000 and 7,000 people came out to watch it.

Organizing the parade means taking information from entry forms and stak-

ing out space for each entry — ranging in size from semi-trucks to golf carts — to line up on the old fairgrounds, school parking lots and streets in a way that allows them to fall into line numerically when the parade starts. About 15 volunteers are then needed the day of the parade to help entries check in and find their spot, and to be assertive about keeping people from trying to cut in line or park in spots that need to stay clear.

Newman said overall the project should take a little preparation ahead of time, about four hours the day before and about four and a half hours the day of the parade. The city of Hermiston, including the police department, handles blocking off streets for the parade route.

Interested individuals or organizations can call Newman at 509-521-1632 or the fair offices at 541-567-6121.

2018 will be the second

year of the fair being held at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center. Newman said preparations are going well, simplified by the fact that the fair board can now deal mostly with the management company VenuWorks instead of needing to talk to the city of Hermiston, Umatilla County and EOTEC board about everything. Concert tickets and wristbands are already on sale.

It also helps that this year, construction of EOTEC is already complete. Newman said construction of additional office and storage space for the fair, and construction to improve the roads around EOTEC, won't start until after the fair so that it doesn't interfere. Newman said things should go more smoothly with traffic and parking now that organizers and law enforcement have seen how things flowed during the first fair at EOTEC.

"This will be a lot easier than last year," he said.

Race for governor shows east-west divide in GOP

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
STAFF WRITER

Republican voters across Oregon selected Knute Buehler to run against Democratic Governor Kate Brown in November's general election.

But while Buehler received 47 percent of the vote in the statewide primary to Sam Carpenter's 29 percent, the majority of voters in eight Eastern Oregon counties would have preferred to see Carpenter represent the party on the November ballot.

In Umatilla County, Carpenter garnered 36.6 percent of the vote, while Buehler, a state representative from Bend, received 29.9 percent. Candidate Greg Wooldridge came in third with 27.4 percent.

Umatilla County Republican Party chair Larry B. Moore said the spread of votes for each candidate represented a difference in ideologies around the state, even within the Republican party.

"There's a battle going on, just for philosophy," he said. "A lot of folks feel we have to have someone more moderate, like Knute, to appeal to Democratic voters who are dissatisfied with Kate Brown."

Moore said there were several factors at play in



RANDY L. RASMUSSEN/
THE OREGONIAN VIA AP

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, running for re-election, talks with student government members at a get-out-to-vote event on the campus of Portland State University in Portland last Tuesday, when Oregon held primaries.



RANDY L. RASMUSSEN/
THE OREGONIAN VIA AP

Republican gubernatorial candidate Knute Buehler gathered with supporters in Wilsonville on Tuesday. Buehler, a doctor and state representative from Bend, won last Tuesday's GOP gubernatorial primary and will face Gov. Kate Brown in November.

Buehler's win — more name recognition, previous campaigns for state offices, and a longer time campaigning.

But he said it came down to two groups of voters: those voting based on ideology, and those voting based on the candidate. He said Carpenter's message resonated with a lot of people on the east side of the state.

"I'm not saying this is me," he said. "But I understand what they're getting at. Sam has styled himself as another Donald Trump, and there's a large element of the Republican party who that appeals to. That he's not a politician."

He noted that Carpenter, a businessman from Bend, had previously run

for office, making a run for U.S. Senate in 2016, but losing to Mark Callahan in the Republican primary.

Moore said Republicans would now need to focus on improving voter turnout. In Umatilla County, 42.6 percent of Republicans returned primary ballots compared to 34.5 percent of Democrats, 23.3 percent of Independents and 11.3 percent of non-affiliated voters.

"If you look at the numbers (for voter turnout), for once, Umatilla County is not in the bottom," he said. "But that's not because we made any progress, but several counties slipped behind us. That's not a good thing."

Crash sends Wyoming man to hospital

HERMISTON HERALD

UMATILLA — A Wyoming man required an emergency flight after a crash near Umatilla.

Oregon State Police reported Viktor S. Vasilchuk, 56, of Portland, was driving a Volvo semi west in the slow lane on Interstate 82

near mile-point 2.5 at about 3:20 p.m. Monday he hit the back of a Ford van. The collision pushed the van into the back of a third vehicle and then over an embankment.

Vasilchuk was not injured, according to the report, and the driver of the third vehicle, Kaleb A. Shumard, 25, of Tippecanoe,

Indiana, went to a hospital for a medical evaluation.

Chester R. Broadment, 24, of Riverton, Wyoming, the van's driver, suffered more serious injuries.

Tow trucks hauled away the semi and the van. State police also reported Vasilchuk received a citation.

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