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THE OBSERVER

SERVING UNION AND WALLOWA COUNTIES SINCE 1896

MONDAY • September 24, 2018 • \$1

Good day to our valued subscriber Esther Hofmann of La Grande

Woodgrain continues with purchase of local Boise Cascade facilities

By Cherise Kaechele
The Observer

The recent announcement of Woodgrain Millwork purchasing three Eastern Oregon Boise Cascade facilities raised a lot of questions about the future for employees impacted by the sale.

According to a press release posted to the Nasdaq website more than a week ago, Woodgrain has agreed

to take over the Boise Cascade lumber mills in La Grande and Pilot Rock and the particleboard plant in Island City. This transaction does not include the plywood mill or the powerhouse and log utilization center in Elgin.

Tanner Dame, the corporate marketing manager for Woodgrain, told The Observer on Friday many

details of the transaction remain pending during the 60-day due diligence period, which is the time when Boise Cascade's financial information will be reviewed before the sale to Woodgrain is finalized.

"There are a lot of things that have to get done," Dame said. "The lead teams have been to the facilities almost every day. We need to figure

out (setting up software) and talking to employees. We're trying to get everything in place in the next 60 days and make sure everyone is up to date."

Dame said he understands this waiting period can be a scary time for the employees who work at those facilities, and the Woodgrain company will be as transparent as possible.

"We have over 20 locations in the U.S.," he said. "I'm new to the company and I'm still learning Woodgrain's culture and vision as a whole, but I know they strive to provide a livelihood for their employees."

Dame said Woodgrain provides family-wage jobs, benefits and a family culture within the work

See **Woodgrain** / Page 5A

Missing woman found in Wallowa wilderness

By Katy Nesbitt
For The Observer

A Eugene woman lost for three days in the Eagle Cap Wilderness was found Sunday afternoon by the Oregon National Guard.

According to Wallowa County Sheriff Steve Rogers, Glenda Smith, 67, was staying at Red's Horse Ranch on the Minam River, owned by the U.S. Forest Service. Members of her party had flown in their gear packed in by horses and mules.

On Thursday, Smith and a friend went for a hike from Red's down a nearby trail. According to Rogers, Smith's companion turned around to go back to Red's while Smith continued to hike.

By Friday morning Smith had not returned to Red's. Rogers said his county's search and rescue team was dispatched to the wilderness to find her.

Search teams from Union, Baker and Wheeler counties supported Wallowa County Search and Rescue as well as two National Guard helicopters based in Salem.

From Thursday afternoon to Sunday afternoon search teams looked for Smith on foot, horseback and with dogs. Rogers said the search method is slow and methodical, given the thoroughness of each acre searched and the steep terrain.

"Each team searches a block circled on a map using highly technical GPS units they can use to text coordinates to each other and the communications team," Rogers said.

Wallowa County Sheriff's Office set up a mobile repeater at Rock Springs east of Imbler, to facilitate communications and Rogers said Wallowa County Search and Rescue members were also working out of their communication trailer at the sheriff's office.

Around 3 p.m. Sunday a National Guard helicopter found Smith off the trail where she was last seen on the Little Minam River. Rogers said she was a little more than four miles by trail from Red's.

As of Sunday evening, Rogers said there was no explanation as to why Smith did not return to Red's on her own Thursday, but was reportedly uninjured.

Teams from Multnomah and Washington counties were also called to aid in the search, but Smith was found before they arrived.

Arts Learning grant helps nonprofit continue youth writing programs

By Audrey Love
The Observer

An unassuming old house on Grant Street in Enterprise is not a place — as the name of the organization inside might imply — to buy rods and reels or to enjoy the day's catch from the nearby Eagle Cap Wilderness.

What's inside is Fishtrap, a literary nonprofit writing its own history in Wallowa County and beyond, dedicated to writing education and the arts. With its recently awarded Arts Learning grant, the nonprofit will continue to expand those services to the county's youth.

"The energy behind youth programming is really exciting for us. It's something we're grateful (to be able to do)," said Executive Director Shannon McNerney. "It's our way to give back to this county (and) community that's done so much for writers throughout the West — to be able to support schools and teachers and really get kids excited about reading and writing."

A total of 17 organizations throughout the state received a \$10,000 FY2019 Arts Learning grant from the Oregon Arts Commission to support projects that facilitate learning in and through the arts benefiting K-12 students. The grant is specifically aimed at

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Max Denning/The Observer

Justin Gould (above) moves into his dorm room at Eastern Oregon University on Sept. 21. Gould, who is from West Linn, will be on the track and field team. Members of the Eastern Oregon University football team (below) help a freshman move into their dorm.

■ Approximately 200 new freshmen moved in to EOU dorms Friday with help of student-athletes

By Max Denning
The Observer

A red SUV pulls into a parking spot outside Eastern Oregon University's North Hall. Out of the car appear two parents and a freshman student, arriving on campus for the first time. Within seconds, a squad of EOU student-athletes have rushed over to the car — a couple of them pushing a cart. A few minutes later most of the new freshman's personal belongings are either on the cart or being carried into her new home.

Approximately 200 freshmen moved into the dorms at EOU on Friday, joining the 160 freshmen already on campus for early arrival programs such as athletics. Jeremy Jones, director of residential life at EOU, said move-in day represents a distinct opportunity for the college.



"It's such a neat opportunity to welcome people to campus and introduce them to their new room and suitemates," Jones said. "But I also understand people are coming in with a lot of tension, a lot of anxiety. It's a big deal for somebody to drop off their son or daughter or friend and know they're going to be in good hands."

Coaches and student-athletes from the wrestling, cheer and dance, football and track and field teams all

helped students move in on Friday morning. Tim Camp, head coach of the football team, said he had about 60 players volunteering on move-in day.

"I think it's huge for our guys to give back," Camp said. "We had 3,300 community service hours last year."

Hunter Frazier, a junior studying biochemistry at EOU, helped plan the Week of Welcome that follows move-in day. The week includes

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Imbler City Council candidate wants to put the brake on speeders

By Dick Mason
The Observer

Terry Clinkenbeard wants people driving in the Imbler area to ease up on their accelerators.

"I see people speeding through school zones all the time. I'm concerned about the safety of our kids," said Clinkenbeard, one of two candidates for Position 5 on the Imbler City Council.

He said he has seen disturbing speeding violations on Dry Creek Road on the west outskirts of Imbler where he lives. His home is

near a school zone in which vehicles are supposed to slow down, but frequently do not, he said.

The city council candidate said it is critical society does everything it can to protect children from hazards.

"If we do not have kids we do not have a future," said Clinkenbeard, who asked a photograph not be run with this story.

Clinkenbeard said the speed-

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Candidate wants animal control ordinances to be examined

By Dick Mason
The Observer

The City of Imbler needs to consolidate its animal control ordinances.



Dewey

Dewey's belief that they should be combined into one inspired

her to file for an opening on the Imbler City Council.

"I feel that our animal control ordinances need to be looked at," Dewey said, explaining that having two ordinances creates confusion because they apply to different parts of the city, which means animal control rules vary in different parts of Imbler.

Dewey has a firsthand understanding of the Imbler City Council, for she served on the

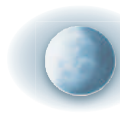
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WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section



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