

Shawn Giese, 44, lies on the table, legs crossed at the ankles and fingers gently clasped together. He might appear to be napping if not for the grimace on his face. Artist Sam Schoelkoph presses his rotary tattoo machine against Giese's neck, creating a paintbrush-style shading with his 11-mag needle. Schoelkoph wipes away the blood, then turns to dip the needle into a small inkwell. He dips the tool in water to dilute the ink for lighter shading, then returns the machine to Giese's neck.

Cherise Kaechele/The Observer

YEAR IN NEWS PHOTOS

Photojournalism is a powerful means of telling a story. The Observer offers some photos from local news stories in 2018. From major fires to small-town happenings and once-in-a-lifetime events, a photo is worth 1,000 words.



Cherise Kaechele/The Observer

Four young men in the Riverbend Youth Transition Facility's firefighter crew went through training over the summer, where they learned how to deploy fire shelters, dig lines, and use hoses, among other skills.



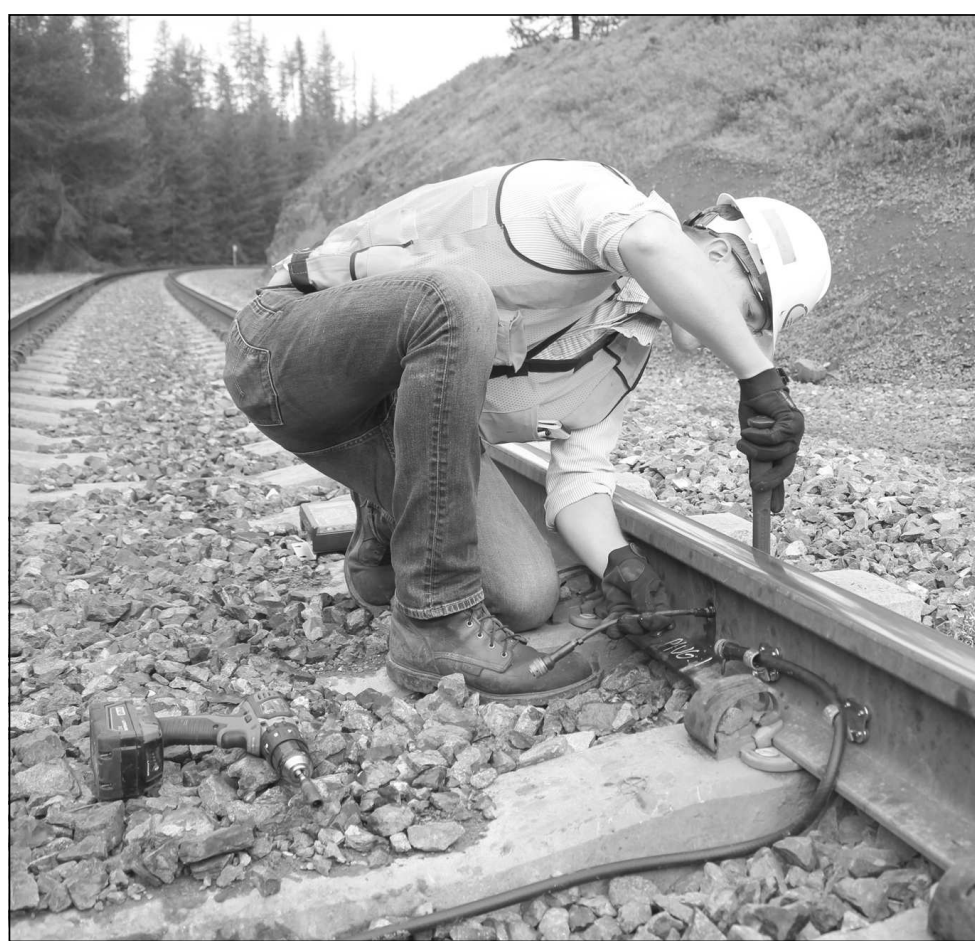
Cherise Kaechele/The Observer

Senior Tana Fouts attempts to navigate a virtual highway during an Arrive Alive event in February at Union High School. The simulation shows teens the real-life effects of texting or drinking and driving.



Cherise Kaechele/The Observer

A fire broke out at a three-apartment complex on Fourth Street in La Grande early Jan. 24. The building was a total loss, but all the occupants got out safely.



Cherise Kaechele/The Observer

Tom Bartlett hammers the first sensor into the rail line in May. The sensor, with the computer that will take in the information, will tell a train crew if there's derailment danger.

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