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Good day to our valued subscriber Mike Bowen of La Grande

## EOU approves 4.9% tuition increase

By Max Denning  
For The Observer

The Eastern Oregon University Board of Trustees approved a 4.9% increase in tuition at its spring board meeting, which university officials say they hope will not remain a trend with the help from investment by the state Legislature.

The prospect of raising EOU's tuition was met with trepidation by trustees due to EOU's emphasis on affordability, but Lara Moore, vice president of finance and administration, said the university remains committed to making EOU accessible for students from all financial situations.

"Any time we increase tuition, there is an impact on students — even when EOU has the lowest tuition in the state," Moore said. "We have increased our student tuition remissions to help mitigate costs and work with students who are affected by the tuition changes."

EOU President Tom Insko made headlines in January when he told The Oregonian the governor's proposed flat-funding of state universities in the base budget could force EOU to raise its tuition by 10-15%.

The Legislature recently passed the student success package for K-12 school funding, but has yet to pass a budget for higher education funding. Moore said currently the Legislature has an additional revenue package that she hopes will pass.

"The Joint Ways & Means Committee chair's budget currently includes a \$40.5 million increase to be shared among all universities, and we are hopeful and continue to hear that there will be an increase in that funding to enable EOU — and all of Oregon's public universities — to keep tuition levels in check and continue providing critical student services," she said.

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Dick Mason/The Observer

The trio of, from left, Katie Wagner, Kylee Torrico and Janet Carlsen lead the congregation at Imbler Christian Church in song Sunday. Matt Carlsen is providing piano accompaniment.

## Imbler's new house of worship



Dick Mason/The Observer

Congregants worship at the Imbler Christian Church Sunday. The sanctuary of the church's new building has a capacity of 240.

By Dick Mason  
The Observer

Imbler Christian Church's new sanctuary building was dedicated late Sunday morning at its grand opening.

The star of the ceremony, though, was not the church's new sturdy two-story structure that boasts top-of-the-line acoustics and a high-tech sound and lighting booth. No, the star was the late Leroy Stolle, who served as minister of Imbler Christian Church for close to a decade until failing health forced him to step down about six years ago.

Stolle is credited with injecting the fundraising drive for the church building with the momentum it needed.

"We have a lot to be thankful to Leroy for," said Lynn Combe of Imbler Christian Church.

Stolle was well-known in Imbler for the yard sales he conducted annually with his wife, Dodie, to raise money for the construction of the church

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## BMTD viewers to get emergency alerts

By Dick Mason  
The Observer

Union and Baker county residents who receive their television signals from the Blue Mountain Translator District will soon be closer to the pulse of emergency situations in Northeast Oregon.

Gov. Kate Brown signed a bill on Thursday that will allow BMTD to send emergency alerts to its viewers about hazards including bad weather, road closures, wildfires and chemical spills. Senate Bill 394 gives BMTD the authority to use technology to make this possible.

"This is really exciting," said Tim Wallender, a member of the

BMTD Board.

BMTD's secretary/treasurer, Alex McHaddad, said BMTD has a number of options for displaying emergency alerts. BMTD viewers will see alerts across the bottom of the screen. The emergency alerts to be run will come from entities including Union County, Baker County the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The alerts BMTD will carry will be seen only by viewers in Union and Baker counties. Previously, BMTD has not run emergency alerts because it did not have access to the

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## Oregon adopts revised wolf management plan

By George Plavin  
Capital Press

SALEM — Oregon has revised and updated its plan for managing the state's growing wolf population, retaining provisions that allow depredate wolves to be killed.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission voted 6-to-1 on June 7 to approve the long-awaited, highly contentious plan after hours of public testimony and debate over last-minute amendments.

Commissioner Greg Wolley, of Portland, was the only member to vote against the plan.

Getting to this point was no easy feat. Wolf management has been a source of controversy ever since the

species returned to Oregon in 1999. The state adopted its first Wolf Conservation and Management Plan in 2005, which is supposed to be revised every five years.

The last revision happened in 2010, when wildlife officials identified just 21 known wolves statewide. Today, the minimum known population is 137 wolves. The commission removed wolves east of highways 395, 78 and 95 from the state endangered species list in 2015, and the latest plan revision started a year later.

Gray wolves are still federally protected in the western two-thirds of Oregon, though that could

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### WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

**Tonight**  
52 LOW  
Partly cloudy

**Tuesday**  
84/52  
Mostly sunny

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