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Good day to our valued subscriber Wayne Arnsen of La Grande

Baker couple escapes harm

■ Murder suspect accused of taking two vehicles in attempt to flee

By Chris Collins
EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — Bob Borders isn't sure whose voice woke him up Monday night at his home on Taggart Lane north of Baker City.

Was it the voice of someone who wanted to do him harm, or was it the voice of his protector?

The way everything turned out, the 65-year-old Borders is more inclined to believe he was protected when 23-year-old Colby James Hedman arrived at his door and entered his home about 10:30 p.m. July 8.

Borders told the story in a telephone interview while working at his part-time job at Thatcher's Ace Hardware Thursday afternoon. He retired from his job as a hospital administrator about eight years ago.

Borders said he was home alone asleep in his chair in the living room when Hedman happened along Taggart Lane Monday night.

Police believe Hedman stole a Toyota pickup truck from the man he is accused of murdering in Walla Walla, Washington, just a few hours before he arrived on the Borders' property just north of Baker City.

After Hedman was taken into custody, he told police he had run out of gas and had gone to the Borders' home where he found the Ford pickup with keys in it and drove away.

Borders said he called the dispatch center about 10:40 p.m. Monday to report that his Ford pickup had been stolen.

Borders did not know that the man he watched drive away was a murder suspect.

Hedman is being held on \$1 million bail at the Baker County Jail on a Walla Walla warrant charging him with the first-degree murder of

See **Borders** / Page 5A

EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

Academic program gets a REBOOT

By April Baer, Oregon Public Broadcasting

Oregon's rural university and a storied Wallowa County writers' retreat are teaming up to revive a degree program and cross-pollinate each other's programs.

Eastern Oregon University, based in La Grande, has re-established its writing track, after a one-year hiatus. It signed a memorandum of understanding last week at the Summer Fishtrap gathering, so that its master of fine arts students can benefit from the wealth of talent that convenes at Wallowa Lake each summer and winter.

Fishtrap Executive Director Shannon McNerney says her organization had wanted to reboot an academic program that provided college credit for high schoolers attending its gathering. She got to talking to an EOU English professor, Nancy Knowles, over beers at Enterprise's popular brewery Terminal Gravity—as McNerney calls it, “the official meeting spot for all partnership initiations in Wallowa County.” Their conversation ultimately resulted in the memorandum of understanding.

Like several Oregon writing

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Stella White/Oregon Public Broadcasting

Nate Lowe, dean of arts, humanities, and social sciences at Eastern Oregon University, says the University's MFA writing program shares an interest in rural ecologies and communities with the writers' gathering Fishtrap.



Sabrina Thompson/The Observer

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History-making WWII vet dies

■ Fred Parish part of Oregon's first aviation unit

By Dick Mason
The Observer

La Grande has lost a World War II veteran whose sense of humility was as deep as his place in Oregon's military history.

Fred Parish, part of Oregon's first military aviation unit, the 123rd Observation Squadron, which today is the Oregon Air National



Parish

Guard, died July 7 in La Grande. Parish, 98, was the last surviving member of the original 117 members of the Squadron, which he joined in April of 1941.

“He was a brave and motivated man who helped pave the way for our future, and for that, we will always be grateful,” said Brig. Gen. Donna Prigmore, commander

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Ancient 'hyena-pig' found

By Erin Ross
Oregon Public Broadcasting

JOHN DAY — Oregon's weirdest predator, the first of its kind in the state, was found in a museum drawer. A piece of it, anyway.

Hyena-pig. Murder-cow. With no modern analog, scientists have resorted to combinations of common animals to describe it. Dug up decades ago in the Hancock Mammal Quarry near John Day, the bone from this prehistoric creature languished, misidentified in museum storage, until Selina Robson pulled it from its drawer.

Robson wasn't looking for a murder-cow when she found the specimen. It was a fossilized jaw, slightly smooched, and it was huge: about the length of her forearm. It was labeled “Hemipsaladon,” a type of creodont, which were large, bear-like predators that roamed Oregon 40 million years ago.

But Robson, at the time an undergrad student at the University of Oregon, had spent a lot of time looking at Hemipsaladon specimens, trying to identify one for a

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Local food program receives a boost

■ Farmers Market Double Up program to receive state funding

By Dick Mason
The Observer

The Double Up Food Bucks program at the La Grande Farmers Market, which helps many local families put fresh produce on their tables, is set to receive a boost.

The Oregon News Service reported Friday that the state will provide \$1.5 million of support over the next two years for the Double Up Food Bucks program, in which about half of farmers markets in Oregon participate.

“We don't know how much we will receive, but it will improve our stability (with regard to Double Up Food Bucks),” said Liberty Avila, chair of the La Grande Farmers Market Board.

The La Grande Farmers Market has not yet been told when it will begin receiving funding from the state.

The La Grande Farmers Market has relied on private donations the past two years to keep the program operating after a federal grant supporting it expired. Double Up provides extra money to qualifying individuals and families to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the twice-weekly market.

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WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

Tonight 55 LOW Partly cloudy
Tuesday 79/53 Sunshine and nice

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