

## Small-business & Ag HAPPENINGS

### Register now for Eastern Oregon Economic Summit

HERMISTON — EOU Small Business Development Center is hosting the first Eastern Oregon Economic Summit on July 26 in Hermiston. The day-long event will offer a variety of discussion panels on subjects regarding Eastern Oregon's economic potential and future as well as keynote speakers, regional economic updates and federal and state legislative updates.

The summit will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St. The cost for the full day is \$25. Registration is required. Register online at [www.EasternOregonSummit.com](http://www.EasternOregonSummit.com). Contact EOU SBDC for more information at 541-962-1532 or [eousbdc@gmail.com](mailto:eousbdc@gmail.com).

### U.S. Cellular plans 'Leadership Career Days'

LA GRANDE — U.S. Cellular is hosting two sessions of a Leadership Career Day, from noon to 6 p.m. July 18 and July 19, at 11621 Island Ave., Suite C, La Grande. The event is open to anyone with leadership experience who is looking for a new career. For more information, go to [www.uscellular.jobs](http://www.uscellular.jobs).

### Wallowa-Whitman treating invasive weeds on the forest

BAKER CITY — The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has started a project to deal with invasive weeds in several parts of the forest.

The work is expected to continue through October.

"The majority of herbicide treatments will be spot application to individual invasive plants using truck sprayers, backpack sprayers and UTVs," said Maura Laverty, Forest Range and Invasives Program manager. Some broadcast application is also planned along a small subset of roadsides.

"Manual and mechanical treatments are planned for a number of small infestations, some of which have been treated for over a decade and are subsequently greatly reduced in size," Laverty said.

Herbicide treatments will be carried out following the project design features of the Record of Decision for the Invasive Plants Treatment Project.

Invasive plants targeted for treatment include leafy spurge, meadow hawkweed, orange hawkweed, sulfur cinquefoil, whitetop, knapweeds, rush skeleton weed, Scotch thistle, Canada thistle, white-top, yellowstar thistle, yellow toadflax, Japanese knotweed, puncturevine, rose campion, hound's tongue, and bugloss. Treatment sites are located across the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and will be posted at the time of treatment.

Maps of the proposed treatment sites are also posted on the forest's website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/wallowa-whitman/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5246581>.

For more specific information on timing and location of herbicide treatments, please contact the local Ranger District Office coordinators:

- La Grande and Whitman Ranger Districts, Scott Schaefer: 541-962-8550
- Hells Canyon NRA, Eagle Cap and Wallowa Valley Ranger Districts, Beckjo Wall: 541-426-5535

### Petition aims to give farmers a fighting chance

DENVER, Colo. — According to a press release from the American Grassfed Association, since 1980, 90% of U.S. hog farmers and 41% of U.S. cattle producers have gone out of business, and more than one million U.S. farmers have been driven off the land. Among America's poultry farmers, 71% now live below the federal poverty level. Producers are encouraged to sign a petition demanding strong safeguards that give farmers a fighting chance. For more information, visit [www.standwithfarmfamilies.org](http://www.standwithfarmfamilies.org).

### Funding through Farm Bill available for soil health trial

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A Soil Health Demonstration Trial authorized by Section 2307(c)(7) of the 2018 Farm Bill is now underway. The trial will pay farmers for sequestering carbon in the soil. Producers are encouraged to request prompt implementation and full funding (at least \$15 million) by contacting Leslie Deavers at [deavers@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:deavers@wdc.usda.gov).



Pendleton, shown in this map from 1892, was greatly impacted by the Bannock Indian War about 14 years earlier.

EO Media Group

## The Bannock Indian War REACHES PENDLETON

*Editor's note: Effective July 1, The Observer in La Grande and the Baker City Herald became part of the EO Media Group. As a way of introducing our readers to this family-owned newspaper company, the following story is excerpted from the book, Grit and Ink, by William F. Willingham. The book traces the ownership family's "adventures in newspapering" from 1908 to 2018. This is part three of a seven-part weekly series.*

In June 1878, Bannock and Paiute Native Americans from southern Idaho swept into Oregon and headed in a northwestern direction, hoping to link up with disaffected tribes on the Umatilla Reservations. If successful in this move, the rebelling tribesman planned to cross the Columbia River to gather more support from angry tribes on the Yakama Reservation and generally lay waste all of the white settlements in their way.

The hostile Bannocks and Paiutes entered Oregon in what is today northern Malheur County and rapidly pushed on

through the John Day River Valley and turned north, pausing briefly in Fox and Long Creek valleys, before joining battle on July 8 with United States Army troops under General O. O. Howard just south of Pilot Rock, Oregon, at the head of Butter and Birch creeks.

The army decisively defeated the Bannocks and Paiutes in the ensuing battle. In skirmishes over the next few weeks, the Army pressed its campaign to defeat and round up the scattered remnants of hostile Native Americans and return them to their respective reservations.

During the rapidly unfolding events of the Bannock War, people in Umatilla County were thrown into a panic, fearing that the Umatilla Indians would join the invading hostiles and wipe out the town and surrounding ranches. Hundreds of families crowded into Pendleton from the surrounding area and townsmen hastily threw up defenses around the courthouse. Women and children went to Byers' substantial flour mill for shelter.

In words that could be a screenplay for a John Ford western, in the July 6, 1878 issue of the EO, the editor wrote, "The Indian excitement has been at fever heat for several days. . . . Teams arrived at all hours during the night and up to a late hour Wednesday morning. Campers on every street; the school houses are filled and the rest take shelter where opportunity offers. Calico was seen on every fence corner wondering, what next. A company was organized to guard the town and another party of 10 which took their departure for the scene of war. Several more joined at Pilot Rock and started in company with several Umatilla Indians."

The volunteers skirmished with the hostile tribesmen but generally proved ineffective until the regular Army troops arrived and systematically suppressed the uprising. By the end of July life began to return to normal in Pendleton, but hereafter editor J.H. Turner turned his ire towards all Native Americans and especially those on the Umatilla Reservation.

## Study examines causes of bee mortality

By George Plaven  
Capital Press

CORVALLIS — Pesticides may kill bees, but not all bee deaths are caused by pesticides.

That is the conclusion of a new study published July 10 by researchers at Oregon State University investigating bumblebee mortality beneath flowering linden trees.

The issue was thrust into the national spotlight in 2013, when 50,000 bees died at a Target parking lot in Wilsonville, after landscapers sprayed 55 trees with the pesticide dinotefuran to control aphids. Dinotefuran is one of a class of pesticides known as neonicotinoids that are highly toxic to bees.

"It was really dramatic," said Sujaya Rao, a professor of entomology and one of the study's lead researchers. "They were literally falling dead in front of

people's eyes as they came to shop."

While that incident — the largest single loss of native bees ever recorded — was undoubtedly due to the pesticide, Rao said it prompted OSU researchers to take a closer look at bumblebee health.

Rao has spent 17 years at OSU working on native bees in agricultural crops. She left in 2017 to become the department head for entomology at the University of Minnesota.

According to the study, the phenomenon of bee deaths around linden trees dates back to the 1970s in Europe and North America. Neonicotinoids were not introduced until the 1990s and are considered to be safer for farmworkers.

Rao said people are quick to blame pesticides for every bee death, but the study determined

a rare combination of factors is also likely to blame. These include low temperatures, nectar volume and "tree loyalty" among certain bees that ultimately leads to starvation.

Linden trees are a popular choice for planting in cities and urban areas. Rao said they flower profusely, and provide lots of pollen and nectar for bees.

The problem is that some bees are drawn to the same trees over and over again, ignoring other flowering plants nearby and failing to get enough nutrition.

"When you have something that attractive to bees, lots of bees come to it and everybody is foraging," Rao said. "It's like a whole bunch of us trying to drink punch from a bowl. There won't be enough to go around."

That is especially troublesome during cool Northwest mornings, when temperatures drop below

86 degrees Fahrenheit. When ambient temperature is low, bees need more energy in their thorax to fly. If they are already experiencing an energy deficit, they might simply fall to the ground.

"They keep trying to fly, and they're just not able to do that," Rao said. "When they cannot fly, they cannot get to food. They cannot get to the nest, so they just die. It's very sad."

Not every linden tree causes bee mortality, and not every bee that forages in lindens dies, Rao said. Lindens are still great trees, she added, and cities should not stop planting them.

But under the right conditions, Rao said it is possible for some bees to die around lindens, even in the absence of pesticides.

"It does happen in western Oregon year after year after year," she said. "You cannot control the temperature."

## Judge limits Hammonds' grazing permit

By Maxine Bernstein  
The Oregonian

A federal judge will allow Hammond Ranches Inc. to graze its cattle on parts of a federal allotment called Hardie Summer this season but must limit its use as three environmental advocacy groups challenge the Harney County ranchers' federal grazing permit

in court.

U.S. District Judge Michael H. Simon issued a 58-page written ruling Tuesday, granting a partial preliminary injunction after two days of oral arguments.

The judge approved an alternative grazing plan that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management had proposed at last month's hearing. The three

environmental groups suing the federal land agency rejected the alternative at the start of the hearing and urged a halt to any cattle grazing by the Harney County ranchers on federal land.

The Hardie Summer allotment is about 9,800 acres, of which approximately 39 percent is owned by the Ham-

monds, and 61 percent, or 6,000 acres, is publicly owned. The allotment is subdivided into five pastures on which the cattle rotate during grazing.

The restrictions will reduce harm to sage grouse and will lessen the harms to redband trout, Simon wrote in his ruling.

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