THE OBSERVER & BAKER CITY HERALD — 3B



FFA and 4-H sheep handlers line up outside the livestock arena during the 2019 Wallowa County Fair. An initiative petition that seeks to limit exceptions to the state's animal abuse protections would make artificial insemination an offense. Opponents say the change would mean anyone assisting a 4-H member with such procedures could be charged with a felony.

INITIATIVE

Continued from Page 1B

November 2022 ballot.

Michelson did not return calls for comment.

According to state law, a person commits animal abuse if they "intentionally, knowingly or recklessly cause physical injury to an animal," or "cruelly cause the death of an animal," except when practicing good animal husbandry. The petition seeks to remove that exemption.

"IP13 doesn't change our definition of abuse, it merely changes who is considered above the law," the "Yes on IP13" website

Cooper said the petition is the biggest threat to Oregon's livestock industry in decades.

"I think it would leave producers in incredibly uncertain territory," she said. "It is very dangerous territory for folks.'

Perhaps the cruelest twist, Cooper said, is the effect the initiative would have on 4-H and FFA programs. Animal abuse in Oregon is considered a Class A a misdemeanor but is a felony if committed in

the presence of a minor.

"You think of 4-H programs, and people who have artificial insemination programs, and all of a sudden anybody helping them with their projects could be considered a felon," Cooper said. "That's just wild.'

Supporters say the initiative would not ban the sale of meat, leather and fur in

"It would require that animals be allowed to truly live a good life free from abuse, neglect and sexual assault," the campaign website states. "After an animal lives a full life, and exits the world naturally and humanely, this initiative does not prohibit a farmer from processing and distributing their body for consumption."

But Tom Sharp, a Harney County rancher and president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, said that is not an economically viable business model for producers.

"How would a producer ever plan on managing a herd of cattle, until some uncertain date when that herd has reached their full and natural lifespan?" Sharp said. "At that point, it's impractical to take

those animals to market for processing."

Oregon has 13,000 cattle ranchers statewide with 1.3 million head of cattle. In 2019, cattle and calves ranked as the second-most valuable agricultural commodity, at \$652 million. Sharp said the petition could put those businesses at risk.

"I don't see, from a business standpoint, how that would pencil out for any of these beef producers," he said.

The initiative doesn't only target agriculture. It would also erase animal cruelty exemptions for hunting, fishing, wildlife management, rodeos and scientific research, among

Amy Patrick, outreach coordinator for the Oregon Hunters Association, said the initiative is ringing alarm bells and could potentially make hunting illegal in the state.

"It's an attempt to get at fishing, trapping, hunting and additional wildlife management practices," Patrick said. "Removing the exemptions would allow them to be classified as animal abuse. It's not animal abuse by any stretch of the imagination."

WRIGHT

Continued from Page 1B

at The Observer," he said. "The newspaper and the crew in La Grande mean a great deal to me not just because of the work or the experience I gained there, but really because of the people and what we were building together. Now I get to put all this to the test again.'

When Wright was hired in November 2019, The Observer newsroom had been without an editor since March 2019. The Observer publisher Karrine Brogoitti said Wright helped bring some much-needed stability to the newsroom.

"Phil came to us when we really needed a leader," she said. "He hit

the ground running and hasn't had the opportunity to take a breather since that first day. It's one thing to take on a new leadership role, but it's a completely different game to take on that role and then navigate the landscape of covering a pandemic and what that means for the community you serve and your staff. It was a lot for everyone, but he certainly thrived under the pressure."

Andrew Cutler will fill in as editor in La Grande on an interim basis. Cutler, who is the publisher/editor of the East Oregonian and the regional editorial director of EO Media Group's eastside publications, served as editor in La Grande from 2012 until 2017. He also served as

the paper's publisher from 2015 until leaving.

"Having Andrew help out during this interim period is something that I'm certainly looking forward to," Brogoitti said. "I have a lot of respect for Andrew as an editor, and I'm glad he was willing to step in and help. He's been an 'honorary' member of The Observer family and the entire staff is excited to have him back."

Cutler said he's happy to be able to help out in La Grande during the transition.

"Some of my happiest times professionally have occurred at The Observer," he said. "To be able to come back and help out — even in some small minor way — is something I'm always more than happy to do."

BOARD

Continued from Page 1B

clearing up misunderstandings that can lead to bad policy such as a ballot initiative that seeks to restrict animal agriculture

"I'm trying to educate Oregonians about the importance of agriculture in Oregon," he said.

Talking with people about the challenges of farming creates positive connections and often elicits comments such as, "I didn't realize that," or, "That makes sense now," Allen said.

As far as specific policy advice for ODA, Allen said it's not possible to "know what's around the next bend" but he expects water and land use to remain perennially important topics for the agency.

Allen said he has a "personal passion" for protecting exclusive farm use zones and the "right to farm" in Oregon, and hopes to "bring common

sense to the table" regarding controversies over the dairy industry.

Conservation projects are often adjacent to dairy farms in the Tillamook area and the region has shown that agriculture doesn't need to be eliminated to improve water quality and environmental conditions, he said.

"I believe we can accomplish a lot of things if we work together on it," Allen said.

Svaty said that between growing up on a ranch. marrying a farmer and working at an agricultural bank, "ag is just who I am, it's all I know."

By serving on the Board of Agriculture, Svaty hopes to inform the state's farm regulators about how regulatory policies will affect growers on the ground. "The ODA has a lot to

do with how we farm and raise our animals," she said.

Irrigation availability and other water issues are likely to remain a key issue for the agency, she said. "It's a topic that's always been there but it needs to be on our radar all the time."

In light of Oregon's higher tax and regulatory burden, the state's farmers must also seek ways to add value to their crops and livestock to remain competitive, Svaty said.

"You've got to add value to keep that family farm going," she said.

R&R Seed Farms has found a unique niche producing vegetable and forage seeds, starting with an alfalfa seed contract inherited from a previous landowner over a decade

The family's land and irrigation setup have proven conducive to such crops as carrot and turnip seeds, among others, Svaty

"We got a name for being able to raise those kinds of crops and we've stuck with it and it's served us well."

Published by The Observer & Baker City Herald - Serving Wallowa, Union and Baker Counties

SIFIE PLACING YOUR AD IS EASY...Union, Wallowa, and Baker Counties

Phone La Grande - 541-963-3161 • Baker City - 541-523-3673

On-Line:

www.lagrandeobserver.com www.bakercityherald.com

Email:

Classifieds@lagrandeobserver.com Classifieds@bakercityherald.com

DEADLINES: LINE ADS:

Tuesday: 8:30am Monday Thursday: 8:30 am Wednesday Saturday: 8:30 am Friday **DISPLAY ADS:**

> 2 Days Prior to **Publication Date**

VISA

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021

ROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Go at an easy
- gait Pediatrician's
- Short hairdos
- Bede or Sandler
- 13 Nest-egg letters
- 14 Give the eye
- 15 Mademoiselle's
- father Ariz. neighbor
- 17 Flashy sign 18 Tattered cloth
- Vaccinate 22 Upholstery
- choice 25 Eastern
- philosophy
- 27 Bottle edge
- Throws the rider
- 36 Write more

- Vein contents
- 34 Garden dweller
- 38 Rajah's wife

15

Scottish

- Type of poem
- 3 Average 4 Polishing
- agent
- 1 Once around a track
- 5 Ruler

48 Blowtorch user 51 Corn Belt st. 52 Bullring yells53 Actress Hagen

Swit co-star

Aberdeen

61 Laundry need

62 Author Paretsky

philosopher

DOWN

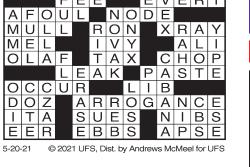
Swiss painter

– Wiedersehen

39 Put in a log 41 Sine — non 43 Chomped

46 Squander

Paul -60 John, in



6 Rage Boat crane

Monsieur's

greeting 9 Curved molding

13 16 44 46 53 55

Answer to Previous Puzzle

,	Allower to I revious I uzzie													
	K	Α	Т	E		Α	С	M	E		Τ	R	S	
	Е	L	S	Α		С	Н	Α	N		D	Е	С	
	Α	Р	Р	R	Е	Н	Е	Ν	D		L	Α	0	
				F	Е	Ε			Е	V	Ε	R	Т	
	Α	F	0	U	L		Ν	0	D	Ε				
	М	J	┙	L		R	0	Ν		Х	R	Α	Υ	
	M	Е	L			1	V	Υ			Α	L		
	0	L	Α	F		Т	Α	X		C	Н	0	Ρ	
				L	Ε	Α	K		Р	Α	S	Т	Ε	
	0	С	С	U	R			L	Т	В				
	D	0	Z		Α	R	R	0	G	Α	N	С	Е	
	Ī	Т	A		S	U	Е	S		Ν	Ī	В	S	
			О		П	О	Ъ	0		Λ	П	0		

10 Coalition 11 Mailed out

19 Winner's take 21 Seize 22 Cast a ballot 23 Dietary need

24 Spruce 28 Des Moines loc.

29 Pronto 31 Yellow

vehicles 32 Clingy fabric 33 Venue

35 Jordan River's outlet (2 wds.) 37 Fond -

40 Regret bitterly 42 Impress deeply

45 Orchard yield 47 Make blush 48 Stir-fry pans 49 She, in Seville

50 Sly look 51 Billionth, in combos

54 Shooting marble

58 Imitate

56 Gehrig or Rawls 57 Beaver project



110 Announcements

Heart 'n Home

Hospice & Pallative Care, LLC ning life.....every day, every

VOLUNTEER

doing what you love!

Volunteering is so rewarding

and a great way to contribute

to your community.

a little, a lot, or once in awhile,

go to www.gohospice.com

and fill out a volunteer application

If you need assistance contact:

Lori at 541.524.7688

Step into the world of classified

advertising, where you'll find just

about anything you may be look-

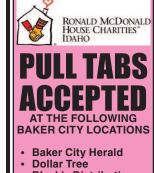
110 Announcements

ing for!

you would like to volunteer

110 Announcements

* * THE DEADLINE for placing a CLASSIFIED AD is 8:30 A.M. **BEFORE PUBLICATION** Publication Days: Tuesday,Thursday,Saturday



Black's Distributing

Ryder Bros VFW Baker Elk's Lodge

Main Event Lefty's Tap House Little Bagel Shop

Baker City Fire Dept.

Haines Sell-Rite Idle Hour Salvation Army

Check out our classified ads.

110 Announcements



Piper was spooked away from

her home on Old Wingville Rd. (Between Haines/Baker City) She is black w/a white chin, very friendly and very small 5 lbs. She is also chipped. If you find her please call:

110 Announcements

541-993-3220

To Place a Classified Ad

Please email your contact information and the content to be included in the ad to:

classifieds@bakercityherald.com

If you are unable to email please call: (541) 523-3673

Deadline for Classified Ads

8:30 AM one day prior to publication