

# THE OBSERVER

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WEEKEND EDITION

\$1.50

## College building projects cleared

EOU's Inlow Hall among \$446M in state projects at Oregon universities

By GARY A. WARNER  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon's universities were given approval by a key committee Thursday, June 24, to use nearly \$446 million in state bonds to finance major building and renovation projects.

A football stadium grandstand, two student success centers, classrooms, a manufacturing laboratory and theater were on the final list for \$445,905,100 in bonds to be sold to public markets.

While major new buildings will go up in Bend, Klamath Falls and Scappoose, much of the money will be spent extending the life of existing buildings ranging from historic to just old, but all with archaic spaces and systems.

A state study showed that nearly half of all public university buildings are more than three decades old with the average age hitting 34 years. In addition to specific projects, the bonds will be used to pay for \$80,810,000 in general maintenance and repairs across the state university system, including improving access for the disabled and updating systems to meet modern use and safety codes.

The funding now heads to the House and Senate for approval.

### Eastern Oregon University, La Grande

#### Inlow Hall, \$18,520,000

The bonds will finance renovations that maintain the historic integrity of the first building on campus while giving the landmark a new life for future generations of students.

The complete overhaul will improve entrances for better access for all students and safe exit in the

See, [Projects/Page 5A](#)

# HEAT WAVE



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Bentlee Blanton, 8, cools off on a rock in the middle of the Grande Ronde River by Riverside Park in La Grande on Wednesday, June 23, 2021. National Weather Service is projecting a heat wave in the valley starting Monday, June 28, with three consecutive days of triple-digit weather. The three-day streak would set the regional record for highest hot streak in June in more than 100 years, and likely set day records for each of those days.

## NE Oregon to bake under triple digits for several days

By DICK MASON  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A blistering heat wave is expected to hit Northeastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington beginning this weekend.

The heat wave is projected to start Saturday, June 26, and run at least through June 30.

La Grande may emerge from the heat wave with its first triple-digit June heat streak.

The National Weather Service is projecting that high temperatures in La Grande will exceed 100 degrees on June 28, June 29 and June 30. This would give La Grande its first-ever streak of June days with a high temperature of at least 100 degrees since records started being tabulated in 1887, according to Rob Brooks, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, Pendleton.

The National Weather Service is projecting highs in La Grande of 102 degrees on June 28, 104 on June 29 and 103 on June 30. The agency's projection for June 27 is 99 degrees, which means there is a realistic chance La Grande's projected June heat streak of 100 degree days could reach four.

This would not be the first time La Grande will have had consecutive days of at least 100 degree weather. Brooks noted that in 1967 La Grande had a six-day August stretch where average high temperatures for each day was 101.5 degrees.

The National Weather Service's forecasts make it appear likely that all-time daily records for La Grande will be broken each day of the heat wave. The current June 26-30 records for high temperatures are 91 degrees on June 26, 93 degrees



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Union County sheriff's deputy Lani Jones places her business card on the driver's window of a vehicle with small animals inside Wednesday, May 12, 2021, near the Walmart parking lot in Island City. Jones says that as warmer weather approaches, heat exhaustion can be fatal for dogs and other animals locked inside cars.

on June 27, 97 degrees on June 28, 94 degrees on June 29 and 99 degrees on June 30.

These figures are much higher than La Grande's typical late-June temperatures. The average daily high temperatures for La Grande in the June 26-30 span range from 78 to 80 degrees, according to Brandon Lawhorn, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, Pendleton.

Brooks said the average hottest day of the month in June has been 92 degrees.

The heat wave is forecast

because of a high-pressure system over the region that is keeping out other weather systems that might otherwise bring rain and cooler temperatures.

"It is also pushing hot air from the southwest into the region," Lawhorn said.

On the all-time high temperature front, it appears that La Grande's mark of 108 degrees will not be threatened since the top mark the National Weather Service is projecting for is 102 on both June 28-29.

See, [Heat/Page 5A](#)

## Staying safe as temps go up

By CARLOS FUENTES, DAVIS CARBAUGH and DICK MASON  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — With temperatures in La Grande and the surrounding area expected to reach triple digits this weekend, residents should be aware of important practices and local resources to keep themselves and others safe in the summer heat.

Prolonged exposure to the sun might lead to heat exhaustion, or in the worst case, a heatstroke. Some of the symptoms of heat exhaustion are profuse sweating, fatigue and nausea, according to Jared Hulme, primary care provider at Grande Ronde Hospital Regional Medical Clinic.

"As long as you are taking appropriate precautions, it is OK to be outside and active, but the most important things are drinking water and not getting to that point of fatigue," he said.

### Staying cool

According to Hulme, people should avoid staying in direct sunlight longer than their body can handle it, which varies from person to person.

"Look for shade, always carry more water than you think you need. It can help to have a spray bottle so you can have mist in the heat as well," Hulme said. "It also helps to have a little portable fan, or just some way to keep your body from overheating."

In addition to keeping cool outside, residents can prepare for the heat by ensuring their air conditioning units are working properly. According to Ryan Scott, owner of Scott's Heating and Air Conditioning in La Grande, there are several strategies to maximize the efficiency of an AC unit.

"I recommend a pre-season service through a licensed HVAC contractor," he said. "Something that everyone can do at home is to check the air filter in the unit, and either get it cleaned or replaced so that the unit can work as best as possible."

Scott also recommended setting AC temperatures earlier in the day as opposed to waiting for the temperature to warm up.

"You want to set the temperature early and leave it alone, or else it'll be much harder to cool down later in the day," Scott said. "Some-

See, [Safe/Page 5A](#)

### INDEX

Classified.....2B	Horoscope.....3B	Outdoors & Rec...1B
Comics.....5B	Lottery.....2A	Records.....3A
Crossword.....3B	Obituaries.....3A	Sports.....6A
Dear Abby.....6B	Opinion.....4A	Sudoku.....5B

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

	Tonight		Sunday
	63 LOW	<b>HOT</b>	102/65
	Clear and mild		Very hot

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Email story ideas to [news@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:news@lagrandeobserver.com).  
More contact info on Page 4A.



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TUESDAY COVE TEEN HEADS TO SOAP BOX DERBY EVENT

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