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Lending a helping hand at Round-Up

Union County Sheriff's Office will assist with large crowds

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**
The Observer

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Round-Up, one of the largest events in Eastern Oregon, is gearing up for its 111th rendition.

With upward of 50,000 slated to attend the week-long event, law enforcement from surrounding areas is coming into Pendleton to assist in overseeing the crowds. Of the surrounding counties, the Union County Sheriff's Office will be sending several deputies to Round-Up.

"The motivation is helping our neighboring counties with large events," Union County Sheriff Cody Bowen said.

The current plan is for Bowen and two deputies to assist at Round-Up, depending on schedule availability. According to the sheriff, deputies are able to support Round-Up so long as it doesn't interfere with their regular work schedule in Union County. Bowen says he will likely attend one day, while he is not sure about the schedules of the other deputies yet.

The work is voluntary and Umatilla County pays the individual deputy for the service. With such a large event, law enforcement from neighboring counties provides additional assistance in monitoring the health and safety of those involved.

"It's basically just an overtime shift that's pretty fun and something different," Bowen said.

According to Pendleton Police Chief Chuck Byram, the police department begins planning for Round-Up coverage in April and heightens that planning after the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest in early July.

"We're expecting a full-capacity crowd," Byram said. "We're expecting people to come

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EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

A WELCOME ADDITION

Fieldhouse will be ready next fall

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

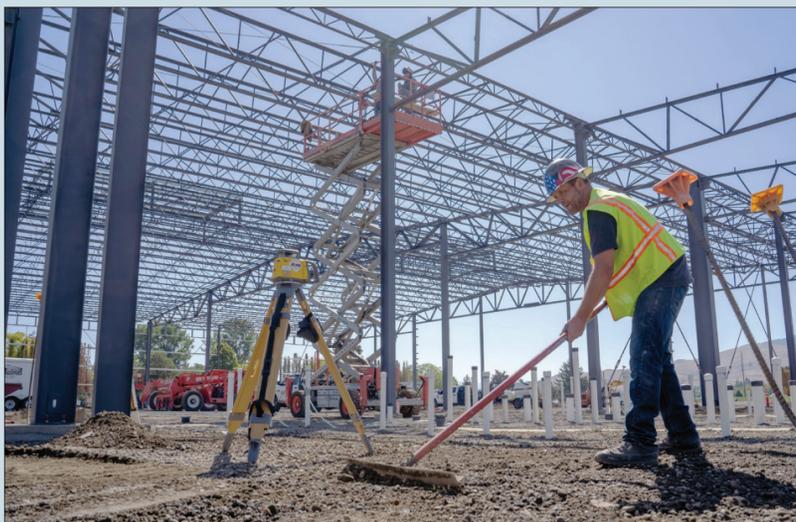
LA GRANDE — The athletic skyline at Eastern Oregon University is rising.

The \$9 million fieldhouse, which is currently under construction on the south side of campus, will be at least 60,000 square feet and have a top height of about 33 feet. The facility is expected to be completed by April 2022 and be ready for use by students and student athletes by fall 2022, according to John Garlitz, EOU's director of planning and facilities.

The steel frame for the fieldhouse is nearly complete and soon exterior panels will be installed, providing the protection from the weather needed for crews to do extensive interior work this winter.

"Seeing the fieldhouse come to life is a welcome addition to our campus," said Tim Seydel, Eastern's vice president for university advancement. "The improved capacity and opportunities this new building brings to EOU will be felt for many years to come. It's great to hear students talking about the new building

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Photos by Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Eastern Oregon University's new athletic fieldhouse is beginning to take shape over the head of an employee with the Mike Becker General Contractor company on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021.

BACKGROUND: Tom Hall (left) and Mark Lowery on Friday, May 7, 2021, prepare the foundation at the site of what will be Eastern Oregon University's fieldhouse, a multimillion-dollar facility that is expected to be ready for use by fall 2022.



La Grande Education Foundation giving \$25,000 in grants, scholarships

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Education Foundation is set to achieve a milestone.

The La Grande Education Foundation's board has announced it will be giving out about \$25,000 in grants and scholarships during the 2021-22 school year, the most in the foundation's 26-year history.

The La Grande High School boys and girls bas-

ketball teams will both receive \$6,000. The remaining \$13,000 will go to other LHS athletic teams, a music club, books, school furniture and scholarships.

"We want money to be less of a barrier," said Zachary Lauritzen, a member of the La Grande Education Foundation's board.

Those who will be receiving grants of between \$150 and \$1,500 from the foundation include:

HOW TO DONATE

Information on making contributions to the La Grande Education Foundation is available at www.lagrandeeducation-foundation.org.

- A new screen printing club at La Grande High School will receive \$1,500 for a new printer and training. The printer will be used by LHS students to create

and market custom T-shirts.

- School district teachers will receive money for the purchase of new classroom furniture that is more flexible and comfortable for students. "Teachers have found that this furniture is helpful, especially in terms of increasing student focus," Lauritzen said.

- A ukulele club in the La Grande School District will receive a grant for the purchase of ukuleles and tuners.
- Schools will receive

funding to purchase books for students to start their own personal libraries.

- The LHS golf team will receive a grant to receive training from a local golf professional.

- The LHS's boys and girls soccer teams will receive a grant for the purchase of new equipment.

Since its founding in 1998, the La Grande Education Foundation has paid

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CONTACT US

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Email story ideas to news@lagrandeobserver.com.
More contact info on Page 4A.



THURSDAY

AS COVID HITS AGAIN, BUSINESSES PLOD ALONG

Online at lagrandeobserver.com