FIELDHOUSE

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and saying, 'I can't wait to get in there.' It's going to be awesome."

The facility will provide space for the Mountaineers' athletic teams to work out in the winter and other times of the year when there is inclement weather. Some EOU track athletes may view it as a second home since it will have a small track to work out on, a runway and sandpit for long jumpers and triple jumpers and pole vaulting facilities.

The structure will also house a classroom for EOU's Health and Human Performance program that will double as a lab. In addition, the facility will be the new home of EOU's Outdoor Adventure Program, now in the Hoke Union Building. The space for the Outdoor Adventure Program will feature a 40-by-47-foot indoor climbing center.

Upper-level features will include a mezzanine above the classroom space.

Once completed, the fieldhouse will be the largest building of its kind at any college or university in Oregon, Washington and Idaho that is not a NCAA Division I school, said Ben Welch, EOU's head men's and women's track and field coach.

"It will be a difference maker for us," he said.

Welch believes that some student athletes may not fully appreciate what is being built because many universities do not have such facilities.

"I don't know if they totally understand the significance of this because they have nothing to compare it to," he said.

Original designs for the building called for it to have 88,300 gross square feet, which would have allowed for a 200-meter track, making indoor track meets a possibility. However, budget constraints led to reducing the space by about 25%.

Welch said the smaller building and track still will be a big plus for his team in the winter. He said the track team conducts its winter practices in Quinn Coliseum's small gym, which has 4,545 square feet. But in the fieldhouse, he said, his team will have access to about 48,000 square feet for practices.

The track coach said the south side of the fieldhouse will be designed so that an additional 80 feet could be added later when funding becomes available, providing the space needed to house a 200-meter track and making indoor track meets a possibility.

Garlitz said the biggest obstacle to getting the building constructed on schedule is receiving construction materials on time. He said there continues to be shipping delays because of COVID-19.

Fieldhouses are more common in the Midwest than in the Northwest, according to Welch, a University of Kansas alum. Welch had been working to help Eastern get a fieldhouse since coming to the university in the 1990s.

"It has been a long-term goal and dream," he said. "It is nice to see it coming to fruition."

Alex Wittwer/The Observer

The frame of Eastern Oregon University's future athletic fieldhouse rises against a blue sky on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021.

"It has been a long-term goal and dream. It is nice to see it coming to fruition."

— Ben Welch, EOU's head men's and women's track and field coach

Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Looming above a worker from the Mike Becker General Contractor company on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021, the steel frame of what will be Eastern Oregon University's fieldhouse gives a sense of the finished facility's size.

Alex Wittwer/The Observer

A construction worker from the Mike Becker General Contractor company on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021, installs the frame of what will be Eastern Oregon University's athletic fieldhouse.

GRANTS

Continued from Page A1

out well over $100,000 in grants and scholarships. The purpose of the foundation is not to pay for things the school district already covers, such as the salaries of teachers and coaches and travel expenses. Instead, the foundation wants to provide enrichment funding for things the school district cannot afford, Lauritzen said.

"We want student teams and organizations to have to spend less time fundraising," he said.

The LHS boys and girls basketball teams receive the most contributions from the La Grande Education Foundation each year because of an endowment for them created in 1998 by Fred and Patricia Jarrard with a $100,000 donation. The money established an endowment for the basketball programs and cheerleading program. Fred, who died several years after making the donation, was a 1947 LHS graduate.

The La Grande Education Foundation now has $400,000 in total assets, thanks to a surging stock market and donations from community members.

Baker City Herald, File

The La Grande High School boys and girls basketball teams will both receive $6,000 from the La Grande Education Foundation in 2021. The foundation also has granted $13,000 for other LHS athletic teams, a music club, books, school furniture and scholarships.

ROUND-UP

Continued from Page A1

and want to interact again," he said.

The Pendleton Police Department has 24 officers, a number that has not changed since the 1960s. Byram emphasized the importance of having neighboring law enforcement assist with public safety during Round-Up. Participants and spectators come from across the country and from foreign countries every year for the famous event.

Bowen

Byram

"We're at full staff," Byram said, "and we obviously can't do this without our area partners."

The Union County Sheriff's Office joins other law enforcement at Round-Up, including the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, police from Boardman, Hermiston and Milton-Freewater and a bicycle team from Oregon State Police.

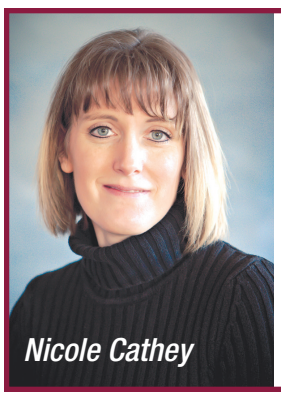
"We know people are coming here for a good time, but once that jeopardizes the safety of themselves or others, it's time to nip that in the bud."

— Pendleton Police Chief Chuck Byram

According to Bowen, the Union County Sheriff's Office has been sending deputies to Round-Up for a number of years now. Byram said that most visiting law enforcement have attended the rodeo before, which makes operations go smoothly.

"We know people are coming here for a good time, but once that jeopardizes the safety of themselves or others, it's time to nip that in the bud," he said.

The 2021 Pendleton Round-Up is set to begin on Sept. 11, extending through Sept. 18. Opening day events include a Dress Up Parade in downtown Pendleton and a kick-off concert at the Happy Canyon Arena.



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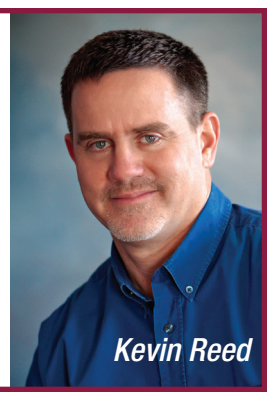

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