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OSU, EOU take collaboration a step further

Schools agree to strengthen ag program, rangeland research

By **SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN**
Capital Press

LA GRANDE — Oregon State University plans to strengthen its partnership with Eastern Oregon University and expand opportunities for

rangeland research, classes and field studies.

Officials say the soon-to-be expanded agricultural programs will likely benefit students and the farming community, especially in the cattle and dairy industries.

“We’re excited about the show of support for the program expansion,” said Penny Diebel, associate professor of applied economics and director of the Eastern Oregon Agriculture and Natural Resource Program.

Since 1985, Oregon State University has offered some classes and agricultural majors to students at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. The partner-

ship, which started with one major, has grown and changed through the years. In recent years, students have been able to dual-enroll in OSU and EOU for some programs. This allows students who prefer or need to live in Eastern Oregon to take in-person OSU classes without moving to Corvallis.

OSU and EOU are now planning to take their long-

time collaboration a step further by reinvigorating two programs: the Eastern Oregon Agriculture and Natural Resource Program and the Eastern Oregon Agriculture Research Center in Union.

The Eastern Oregon Agriculture and Natural Resource Program is the joint-degree program between OSU and EOU; the Union Experiment Station

is where researchers study rangeland ecology, livestock systems, forage crops, forest management and other topics.

The two programs have historically operated separately, with little interaction or collaboration. Now, OSU plans to build a strong partnership between the programs.

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Bear injures Sumpter man

Noah Beckner encounters bear on Thanksgiving night

By **JAYSON JACOBY**
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Noah Beckner barely had time to recognize the animal as a black bear before it was swatting a claw-tipped paw at his head.

He ducked just in time. The paw, as Beckner puts it, “nicked” his face.

Beckner, 19, who lives in Sumpter, said the encounter with the bear in his front yard, late on Thanksgiving, left him with scratches on his cheek and above one eye, among other injuries.

Beckner said the knuckle of the middle finger on his right hand, the one he used to punch the bear in the eye, was still sore.

So was his shoulder, where the bear briefly bit him.

Beckner said he was wearing multiple layers of clothing, and the bear’s teeth didn’t penetrate his skin.

‘It didn’t want to fight me’

The incident happened about 11 p.m. on Thanksgiving, and Beckner said a relative drove him to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center, Baker City.

See, **Bear/Page A7**

Preserving history

Richard Roth donates a lifetime worth of clippings to the new owners of Hot Lake

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

HOT LAKE — Gunshots in 1883 and stirring words of patriotism in 1919 from one of the United States’ most influential evangelists.

These are some of the echoes being awakened from La Grande’s and Hot Lake’s past by author and historian Richard “Dick” Roth, of Orting, Washington.

Roth is the author of four books dedicated to Hot Lake. Although he lives in Washington, he knows Hot Lake firsthand, for he grew up there. His parents, the late A.J. and Fern Roth, owned Hot Lake from 1942 to 1974.

The historian is donating his archive of newspaper and magazine articles about Hot Lake and Northeastern Oregon to Hot Lake’s owners, Michael and Tamarah Rysavy. The clippings are in nine large three-ring notebooks, two of which are filled with historic photos.

“What Dick has given us is irreplaceable. We are blessed to have all of this information,” said Michael Rysavy, who purchased The Lodge at Hot Lake with his wife in 2020.

‘Dance of death’

The earliest piece Roth has in his collection is from the June 27, 1868, edition of the Blue



Dick Mason/The Observer

Richard “Dick” Roth, left, has donated his collection of news clippings about Hot Lake to the owners of The Lodge at Hot Lake Springs, Tamarah Rysavy, center, and her husband, Michael Rysavy. The three are shown reading some of the historical articles on Nov. 20, 2021.

Mountain Times. Hot Lake was mentioned in that edition in an article about the Grande Ronde Valley’s highlights.

Clippings from the 19th century also include an article from the March 9, 1883, edition of The States Rights Democrat in Albany, about a shooting that took place at Hot Lake’s old dance hall in March 1883, one which ultimately claimed two lives. Eighteen people were in the hall at a dance when pistol shots rang out and instantly claimed the life of one Clay Miller. Another man, Henry Green, was also hit and died three years later from the effects of his wounds, according to a later news article.



The Lodge at Hot Lake Springs/Contributed Photo

This is Hot Lake and what was then its new building as it appeared in early 1903.

See, **History/Page A5**

Coho salmon run shatters record as steelhead numbers flop

Less than 40K steelhead have made it past the Lower Granite Dam this year

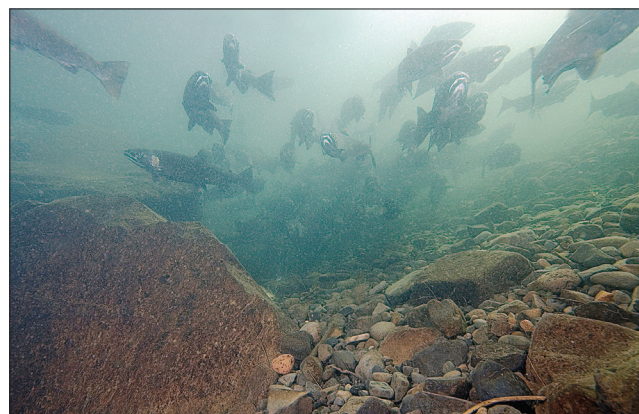
By **ALEX WITTWER**
EO Media Group

LOSTINE — A record-shattering number of coho has made the long journey from their home streams to the ocean and back.

Nearly 24,000 coho salmon have made passage through the Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River

— the last dam between the ocean and the Grande Ronde and Willowa rivers.

The prior record, set in 2014, saw 18,098 coho make their way past the Lower Granite Dam. In recent years, those numbers have fluctuated between 1,449 and 8,178, with 2020 seeing just 7,797 coho return to the Lower Granite Dam. The run this



Rick Swart/Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, File
Coho salmon swarm Eagle Creek, a tributary of the Columbia River, during the fall of 2009.

year marks a more than 300% increase from the previous year.

Part of that return could be attributed to the Nez Perce Tribe’s monumental work to reintroduce coho to the Clearwater Basin in the late 1990s, and recently in the Lostine River in 2017. The tribe’s efforts returned the salmon to the Lostine River after it was bereft of the silvery fish for more than 40 years.

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WEATHER

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|--|--|--|--|
| | Tonight 35 LOW Low clouds | | Friday 51/40 Clouds and sun |
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SATURDAY HOLIDAY FARE FROM THE FIELD AND STREAM

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