

THE OBSERVER

SERVING UNION AND WALLOWA COUNTIES SINCE 1896

April 26, 2022

TUESDAY EDITION

lagrandeobserver.com | \$1.50



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

Members of the Elgin High School band practice at Elgin High School on Thursday, April 21, 2022. The band will be performing at the state competition in May, a first for the school.

ON TO STATE

Elgin High band readies for first-ever trip to state competition

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

ELGIN — Hard work is paying off for the Elgin High School band.

After practicing their routine since early in the winter, members of the Elgin High School band are seeing the rewards of their dedication on the big stage. The Huskies took first place at the 1A Special District 4 competition to earn an automatic qualifier to the OSAA state band competition in Corvallis — the trip to state marks the first time an Elgin band has competed in the state-wide event.

“It feels amazing,” senior saxophone player Paige Gifford said. “I’m so happy we were able to pull together, get the music done and go to state. We missed out on it so many years before, so it’s awesome to finally be able to do it.”

The Elgin High School band consists of 15 members, ranging from grades seven through 12. The Huskies placed first overall against Grant Union and Wallowa at the Special District 4 competition on Friday, March 18, scoring 84, 84 and 88 and automatically qualified. The Elgin band performed the songs



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

Madelyn Adams plays the drums during band practice at Elgin High School on Thursday, April 21, 2022. The band qualified to go to the state competition in Corvallis in May.

“Highland Legend,” “Ballade” and “Legacy” at the district competition and will play the same routine at state.

Tucker Murphey is in his eighth year as the band’s director. Prior to his tenure at Elgin, the school had not had a band program for five years.

After two years of COVID-19 cancellations and a near miss at going to state in 2019, the Elgin band is poised to make its first-ever run at the OSAA state

competition in Corvallis on May 13.

For Gifford, the collective hard work and dedication of the band stands out as a difference maker in the Huskies’ success.

“It’s a lot of work and a lot of Mr. Murphy going through drills with us to get down the rhythms,” Gifford said. “A lot of us take home our instruments to

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Parents, recovery advocates call for action

Availability of residential treatment has dropped but deaths have risen since the start of the pandemic in 2020

By LYNN TERRY
Oregon Capital Chronicle

PORTLAND — Moms and others concerned about addiction rallied in Portland on Saturday, April 23, calling for the Oregon Health Authority to take effective and immediate action against substance use.

They included a father who lost his son two years ago after he consumed a counterfeit opioid pill he bought online that was laced with fentanyl.

They included a mom with a 35-year-old son who recently relapsed with a drug addiction.

And they included at least three moms whose children are struggling with addiction on the streets of Portland.

They gathered outside the northeast Portland office of the Oregon Health Authority.

The rally was organized by Mike Marshall, executive director of Oregon Recovers, an advocacy group. He has frequently criticized the state agency’s handling of Measure 110. The ballot measure, passed in November 2020, decriminalized the possession of personal amounts of drugs and was supposed to build recovery facilities throughout the state, pay for harm reduction and point addicts toward treatment. But two years later little of the nearly \$300 million allocated has been spent while Oregon’s addiction crisis continues.

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, alcohol-related deaths have jumped more than 70% and drug overdose fatalities have risen nearly 40%, according to state data. Residential treatment capacity for adults and adolescents has also fallen, and the state has shelved a public education campaign on drinking, Marshall said.

He said the Oregon Health Authority has failed to help an advisory group that is overseeing the distribution of Measure 110 funds. They have a lot of experience with addiction but little experience allocating taxpayer dollars.

“Take action — or resign,” those attending the rally repeatedly chanted, while speakers addressed the need for addiction and recovery services in Oregon.

In recent years, the state consistently has ranked near the top in the prevalence of

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‘He gave his heart and soul to the Elgin Stampede’

New Elgin Stampede event to be named after Ty Hallgarth

By DICK MASON
The Observer

ELGIN — A new event is being added to the Elgin Stampede, a move meant to keep the event’s rodeo vibrant and the name of one of its beloved leaders on the forefront of the public’s mind for many years.

The Stampede’s board of directors has announced that Xtreme Bronc Riding is being added to the lineup, an event that will be named in honor of longtime volunteer and

leader Ty Hallgarth, who died in January.

“He gave his heart and soul to the Elgin Stampede. We want to keep his memory alive,” said Lara Moore, the secretary of the Elgin Stampede.

Hallgarth, 53, had been president of the Elgin Stampede since 2017 and a member of the Stampede board since 2013. He was president of the Stampede when the Elgin rodeo was named the best small rodeo on the Columbia River Circuit in 2017.

Randy Burgess, president of the Elgin Stampede, credits Hallgarth



Hallgarth

with working harder than anyone at the Elgin Stampede grounds when the rodeo or other events there were coming up.

“He was always the first one there and the last one to leave,” he said.

Burgess said Hallgarth was not the type of leader attracted to the spotlight.

“He was a behind-the-scenes guy,” he said. “He pointed you in the right direction, and if you needed something he made sure that you had it.”

Rob Moore, vice president of the Elgin Stampede, said Hallgarth had a remarkable ability to repair things, noting that he could fix everything from water lines to

bucking chutes.

“He was a handy person to have at the arena,” he said.

People who needed tips on fixing items at their homes also often sought out Hallgarth.

“He was always lending a helping hand,” Moore said.

Hallgarth was adept at more than fixing things, Moore said, adding Hallgarth spent a lot of time working to keep the Stampede grounds looking sharp.

Hallgarth always had a good disposition regardless of what he was doing.

“He had the greatest smile and laugh,” Moore said. “You could

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Issue 50
2 sections, 16 pages
La Grande, Oregon

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