

BASEBALL CHAMPS

TIGERS DOMINATE IN TITLE GAME » SPORTS, A7

SERVING UNION AND WALLOWA COUNTIES SINCE 1896

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INSIDE



Eastern graduation returns to Community Stadium

Commencement speaker will share how education at EOU improved his life

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — This weekend's Eastern Oregon University commencement ceremony will bring back a tradition and provide a tale of inspiration.

The graduation ceremony, set to start at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, June 11, will be conducted at Community Stadium for the first time since 2017, according to Eastern officials.

Eastern's graduation had been held at Community Stadium for about 25 years until turf work at the site and the COVID-19 pandemic forced venue changes. Commencement was moved to Quinn Coliseum when the process of installing artificial turf at Community Stadium was underway, and in 2020 and 2021 restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic prevented graduation from being conducted there.

Community Stadium, instead of being empty on graduation day, is expected to be filled with between 2,000 and 3,000 people to watch more than 350 students make their commencement walks. The students will be among the 675 who graduated from EOU in the 2021-22 school year, according to Tim Seydel, Eastern's vice president for university advancement.

The June 11 ceremony will be the first graduation to take place on Community Stadium's artificial turf. This means there will be no tents for graduating seniors to sit under as in years past. The reason is that post holes needed for tent poles cannot be punched through the artificial turf as they could be when there was natural grass at the stadium, Seydel said.

Opening a door

The Class of 2022 will receive words of inspiration from people like Abel Mendoza, a 1972 Eastern graduate and former chemistry professor at the university who is now a member



Mendoza

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NEW OWNERS

Zipty Fiber agrees to acquire La Grande-based Eastern Oregon Net Inc.

By **ANDREW CUTLER**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Kelly Mutch and Jeff Crews are proud of what they've accomplished as owners of Eastern Oregon Net Inc. But the La Grande businessmen knew after 26-plus years, it was time for a change.

Zipty Fiber announced plans Tuesday, June 7, to acquire EONI, one of Oregon's longest serving and most respected internet service providers. Details of the deal between the two companies were not announced, but the acquisition is scheduled to close later this year, pending regulatory approvals.

"We're very proud of what everyone at EONI has built and



Eastern Oregon Net Inc. owners Kelly Mutch, left, and Jeff Crews stand next to an EONI truck Tuesday, June 7, 2022, the day Zipty Fiber announced plans to acquire the La Grande-based company.

accomplished over the past 26 years," said Crews, the vice president of EONI. "We're even more excited about our future together

with Zipty Fiber. Their commitment to service and to expanding

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Zipty Fiber worker Mark Ralph, left, watches as Danny Stubblefield operates a backhoe to dig out and replace a telephone service pedestal Monday, April 19, 2021, near Enterprise in Wallowa County.

Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain, File

Spend a vacation working on the trail

Participants will help improve a trail in Hells Canyon

By **LISA BRITTON**
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — An opportunity to fix trails in Eastern Oregon and be pampered back at camp is coming up later this month thanks to a partnership between Go Wild: American Adventures and the Wallowa Mountain Hells

MORE INFORMATION

Go Wild: American Adventures

A tourism business based in Baker City, Go Wild offers curated outdoor adventures that focus on local tourism, environmental education, community partnerships and international outreach. Find out more at www.gowildusa.com.

Wallowa Mountains Hells Canyon Trails Association

WMHCTA is a dedicated group of hikers and outdoor enthusiasts who monitor and help maintain trails in Hells Canyon and the Wallowa Mountains. To learn more about the association, visit www.wmhcta.org.

Canyon Trails Association. The "all-inclusive trail work vacation" is set for June 17-19 on the Western Rim Trail above Hells

Canyon. "It's one of the early season options — and a

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Wallowa Mountain Hells Canyon Trails Association/Contributed Photo
Volunteers in 2018 work near Dug Bar, an affiliated site of the Nez Perce National Historical Park located within the boundaries of Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.



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WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

Tonight 59 Low Cloudy
Friday 74/55 Brief showers

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