

THE OBSERVER

SERVING UNION AND WALLOWA COUNTIES SINCE 1896

June 14, 2022

TUESDAY EDITION

lagrandeobserver.com | \$1.50

ODFW takes second Chesnimnus wolf in pack

Kill permit originally issued by state April 29

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

CROW CREEK — A second Chesnimnus Pack wolf was killed by biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website Monday, June 13.

The website stated that the kill was accomplished from the ground. ODFW also considered doing it from the air.

State officials agreed to help with the lethal removal of one Chesnimnus Pack wolf after repeated attacks on livestock in Wallowa County, a spokesperson for ODFW said June 9.

Michelle Dennehy, a communications coordinator with ODFW, said the permit was issued April 29 and extended to June 14. That permit was for two wolves and an agent of Crow Creek rancher Tom Birkmaier shot one wolf May 3.

The permit allowed Birkmaier or his agent to kill two wolves in Dorrance Pasture or Trap Canyon Pasture, where recent depredations on cattle occurred, Birkmaier said when the permit was issued. Dennehy said June 13 that since the two wolves allowed to be taken under the permit are now dead, the permit is no longer active.

ODFW will continue to assess the situation for possible further actions and another update will be made if another wolf is killed or the permit is reissued, according to the website.

Before the permit was issued, Birkmaier asked ODFW to “remove” — or completely kill — the Chesnimnus pack given its propensity toward predatory behavior, but the agency just issued the kill permits.

John Williams, a co-chair of the wolf committee for the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, said ranchers are busy enough and shouldn’t have to do what he considered the ODFW’s job of managing the wolves.

“When there’s a time to kill wolves, they’re the ones who should be doing it,” Williams said last month of ODFW.

The minimum known count of wolves in Oregon at the end of 2021 was 175 wolves, an increase of two wolves over the 2020 number, according to the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management 2021 Annual Report released April 19.

According to a May 24 report in The Oregonian, one wolf that had been part of the

“When there’s a time to kill wolves, (ODFW) ... should be doing it.”

— **John Williams**, Oregon Cattlemen’s Association wolf committee co-chair

See, **Wolf**/Page A6

EOU GRADUATION

A 65-year journey

Bob Stubbs, who made sure family members earned college degrees, finally makes his commencement walk



Amy Stubbs adjusts the graduation cap of her father, Bob Stubbs, prior to Eastern Oregon University’s commencement on Saturday, June 11, 2022, in La Grande.

Dick Mason/The Observer

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The fall of 1957 is best remembered by many as the time the Russians launched Sputnik I, the first Earth satellite, a step that ignited the space race between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

That autumn of 1957 also has personal meaning for Robert “Bob” Stubbs. It was when he started his post-secondary edu-

cation, enrolling at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. The credits Stubbs earned then proved timeless last weekend.

Stubbs, 83, was formally conferred a bachelor of science degree in interdisciplinary studies with an emphasis on information systems and business administration from Eastern Oregon University at its graduation ceremony at Quinn Coliseum, La Grande, on Saturday, June 11. Credits he earned at Miami University and many other educational institutions over the course of five decades, including those granted via

See, **Stubbs**/Page A6

EOU class of 2022 urged to serve as mentors

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Members of Eastern Oregon University’s graduating class were urged to extend hands of mentorship at the commencement ceremony on Saturday, June 11, at Quinn Coliseum.

Brady Layman, the President’s Scholar of the class of 2022, made this request after first encouraging the graduates to find their own community, one filled with people who will support them, and then to support the younger members within that community.

Layman said that when he looks back upon his time with the EOU Chemistry Club he is not proudest of the trophies and awards the club received but the students he mentored.

He said those being mentored are the next series of stars destined for greatness.

“Be the catalyst in your community to lower the activation energy barrier needed for other people to succeed,” Layman said.

He also spoke of the importance of being sure of one’s self.

“Flip that voice inside your brain telling you that ‘you can’t’ to ‘you can.’ Other people do not know the doubt you may have inside you, so don’t show it to them,” Layman said.

Near the conclusion of his presentation, the President’s Scholar encouraged the class of 2022 to

See, **2022**/Page A6

Pierce displays passion for prayer, horses

Cowboy pastor spreads message as he trains an unbroken horse at EOL Sunday service

By **ISABELLA CROWLEY**
The Observer

UNION — Champion bareback rider Todd Pierce almost met his match Sunday, June 12, during a rodeo church service on the final day of the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show in Union.

Pierce, a pastor, trains unbroken horses while delivering a sermon. The standing-room-only crowd packed into Dennis Clark Future Farmers of America Barn quickly

took to Pierce’s calm and peaceful presence. The filly, however, seemed to have her doubts.

“If I can get my hand on her, then she’ll feel my peace,” Pierce said.

Before the event started, the 2-year-old filly seemed far from wild, calmly trusting children to pet her nose through the gate. Pierce explained that she already had been trained to be led on a halter and was

See, **Pierce**/Page A6



Isabella Crowley/The Observer

Todd Pierce places his hand on the horse he trained at Born Wild during the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show on Sunday, June 12, 2022. The event was put on by Riding High Ministries in collaboration with 13 local churches from Eastern Oregon.

INDEX

ClassifiedB3	Home.....B1	Obituaries.....A5
Comics.....B7	Horoscope....B4	Opinion.....A4
CrosswordB4	Local.....A2	Sports.....A7
Dear AbbyB6	Lottery.....A2	Sudoku.....B7

WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

	Tonight 39 LOW Mainly clear		Wednesday 71/47 Warmer
--	--	--	-------------------------------------

CONTACT US

541-963-3161
Issue 71
2 sections, 16 pages
La Grande, Oregon
Email story ideas to news@lagrandeobserver.com.
More contact info on Page A4.

