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INSIDE

CLASSIC CARS ROLL IN WALLOWA MOUNTAIN CRUISE **GO!**



## B2H siting hearings set for next week

Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council to run three-day meeting in La Grande

By **DICK MASON**  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Emotions could run high at Eastern Oregon University's Gilbert Center next week.

The Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council will meet at the Gilbert Center for three days starting Monday, Aug. 29, to hear oral appeals for 30 contested portions of its proposed site plan for the controversial Boardman to Hemingway transmission line project.

"This is a critical event," said Fuji Kreider, of La Grande, secretary and treasurer of the Stop B2H Coalition, a grassroots organization of 900 individuals and organizations.

The sessions for each appeal will run about 25 minutes. At

### MEETING TIMES

The approximate times the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council will meet at the Gilbert Center, on the EOU campus, will be from 4-8 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 29, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 30, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Aug. 31.

See, **B2H/Page A7**

## Eastern Oregon Country Music Festival returns

Event showcases many musicians, but all came together due to efforts of one woman

By **ISABELLA CROWLEY**  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The origins of the Eastern Oregon Country Music Festival is the story of one woman, a love of music, a change in management and what was supposed to be a 50th birthday bash.

Amanda Hampton lives in Cove and owns Western Skies Wellness Center — a primary care clinic in Island City. She did not set out with intentions of creating a country music

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Gary Lewis/Contributed Photo  
**Archery hunting for elk starts Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022, in Northeastern Oregon. For the first time, hunting in most units is controlled, meaning hunters must have applied for and drawn a tag.**

# Big change for archery hunters

By **JAYSON JACOBY** • Baker City Herald

**B**AKER CITY — The archery hunting season will start as usual on the last Saturday in August, but this year is anything but ordinary in one respect.

For most of Northeastern Oregon, the archery season for elk is a controlled hunt for the first time.

In August 2021 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission decided to change archery hunting for elk in 13 units and parts of three others from a general hunt — meaning there's no limit on the number of tags sold — to a controlled hunt, with a limited number of tags that hunters have to apply for through the state's lottery system.

The general hunt system had been in place in Eastern Oregon since 1979 for both elk and deer.

Since 1983, the archery season for both species has lasted about a month, from late August to late September. This year, the season runs from Aug. 27 through Sept. 25.

But in 2020, officials from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announced a proposal to change archery hunts from general to controlled for deer and elk, starting in 2021.

Agency officials cited multiple reasons for the proposal, including a growing number of archery hunters over the past few decades, and a higher suc-

cess rate among hunters due to better bows and arrows.

ODFW said the number of archers hunting elk in Eastern Oregon rose from about 12,300 in 1995 to about 18,500 in 2019.

Because the archery seasons remained general hunts, with no limits on how many tags are sold, ODFW's lone tool to limit hunting and maintain deer and elk herds with sustainable numbers has been to cut tags for rifle hunts, which are controlled hunts with limited tags awarded through the lottery system.

In choosing which units to change from a general to a controlled archery season, ODFW officials considered the current elk populations in those units, as well as hunter density and hunter displacement, which are based on a public survey of hunters done in 2020.

In some units the ratio of bulls to cows is below the state's goals, and in other units the bull elk harvest is near what biologists consider the unit's capacity. In some units, archery hunters have been taking as many or more branch-antlered bulls than rifle hunters have, according to ODFW.

Although the agency initially planned to change both elk and deer hunts to controlled seasons in 2021, the commission ended up making the shift for deer hunting only starting with the 2021 season. The switch to mostly controlled archery hunts for elk was delayed until 2022.

The change to controlled archery hunts, for deer and elk, has been controversial.

Bob Reedy, a Baker City bowhunter who also owns an archery shop, said he thinks the changes

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## Schools hope to overcome staff shortages with incentives

School and education service districts are applying for state dollars to offer hiring, retention bonuses for staffers

By **ALEX BAUMHARDT**  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

SALEM — School districts plan on spending millions of dollars in state and federal funds to pay teachers higher salaries and offer hiring and retention bonuses to fully staff schools by Sept. 1.

Nearly all of Oregon's 219 school districts and

education service districts have applied for a portion of \$100 million allocated by the state Legislature this year for staff bonuses. Districts also have had access to \$1.7 billion in federal COVID relief money since 2020, of which Oregon has more than \$1 billion left to spend. Districts are allowed to use this money to maintain, retain and

recruit staff.

Across the state, district superintendents say they continue to face teacher shortages for certain grades and subjects, including special education and English language teachers, along with shortages of administrators, bus drivers, custodians and auxiliary staff.

A lack of teachers and other staff has meant that a growing number of students are taught by substitute teachers and emergency teachers after months of online learning

during the pandemic. It has meant larger class sizes for some students and teachers forced to teach during pre-planning periods and to work more hours.

The Capital Chronicle reached out to 100 superintendents across the state and heard back from more than one-third. A majority had most of the staff they needed but were still hiring in the runup to the first day of school.

To fill gaps, Lane County's Siuslaw School District in Florence on the Oregon coast plans to ask a

few retired teachers to help manage special education programs at the 400-student high school, Superintendent Andrew Grzeskowiak said in an email. Right now the school has one only special education teacher. Lane County also lacks bus drivers. Grzeskowiak said Siuslaw will try to attract them by matching hiring bonuses offered to drivers from private companies or in nearby school districts.

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### WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

**Tonight**  
58 LOW  
A starry night

**Friday**  
91/54  
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### CONTACT US

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