

Eastern Oregon University admissions process remains steady

By **SABRINA THOMPSON**
EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — While the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the closure of Oregon’s public universities, little has changed for Eastern Oregon University when it comes to admissions.

“Admissions requirements have only shifted to accept unofficial, rather than official, transcripts,” EOU’s director of admissions, Genesis Meaderds, said. “This small change will allow students to apply and be admitted even while their high schools or community colleges are closed and ensure they are not delayed admission if they cannot obtain their official transcripts.”

The tests commonly used for the admission process, such as the SAT, have been canceled. But Eastern has been a test-optional institution for years. Meaderds said making those test scores optional allows better access for a larger variety of students from different locations and circumstances.

Advanced Placement exams still will occur, but the format has been changed for online testing. According to the College Board,



EO file photo

Eastern Oregon University has a robust online program, with 50% of students already online before the pandemic. But going completely remote costs money — money universities may not have the flexibility to spend.

which administers the test, 91% of students did not want the test canceled. By holding the tests, students can continue to receive college credit for the advanced level classes they took this year.

“We really like to look at the whole student when it comes to admissions — their coursework, involvement in the community and

“THIS WAS THE MOST REWARDING ADMISSIONS EVENT I’VE EVER BEEN A PART OF.”

— Genesis Meaderds, EOU director of admissions,

at school as well as their GPA,” Meaderds said. The application process otherwise remains the same, and Eastern’s admis-

sions office is offering guidance remotely to help students and parents. The university also has virtual campus visits that gives a tour of the facilities.

EOU held its first virtual preview day April 18, and 300 participants from all over the world spent a half day online with students and faculty, exploring and learning about the campus and opportunities at the college.

“This was the most rewarding admissions event I’ve ever been a part

of,” Meaderds said. “It went really well, and the student engagement was incredible.”

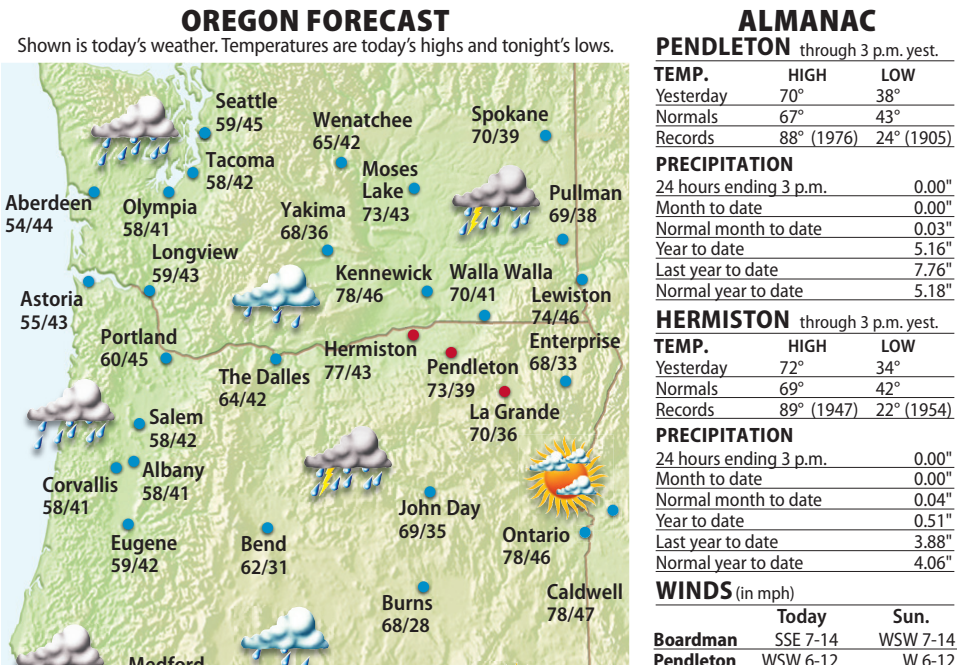
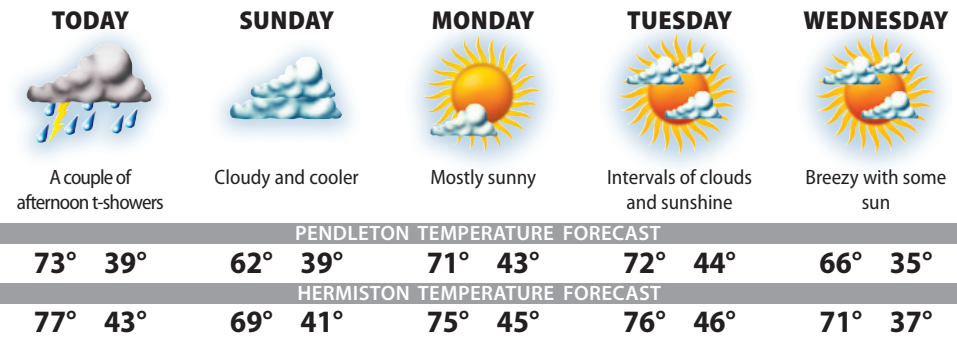
Lacy Karpilo, vice president of student affairs, said there is no concern for students being ill prepared for college courses and life.

“These students have attended public school for 12½ years prior to March,” Karpilo said. “High school seniors and their parents should know that EOU is doing all we can to make sure they succeed. We don’t want to penalize students for missing the very end of 13 years of education.”

EOU has not yet made a decision when to reopen the campus. Karpilo said the university will continue to follow government and public health agency recommendations.

“We know that many students and families in our region may be rethinking their plans for the fall and considering staying closer to home,” Karpilo said. “Out here, social distancing happens naturally. Many of our students are already from rural places where they’re accustomed to reaching across wide-open spaces to build tight-knit communities, and students who gravitate to places like La Grande and Eastern Oregon come to love it here.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area

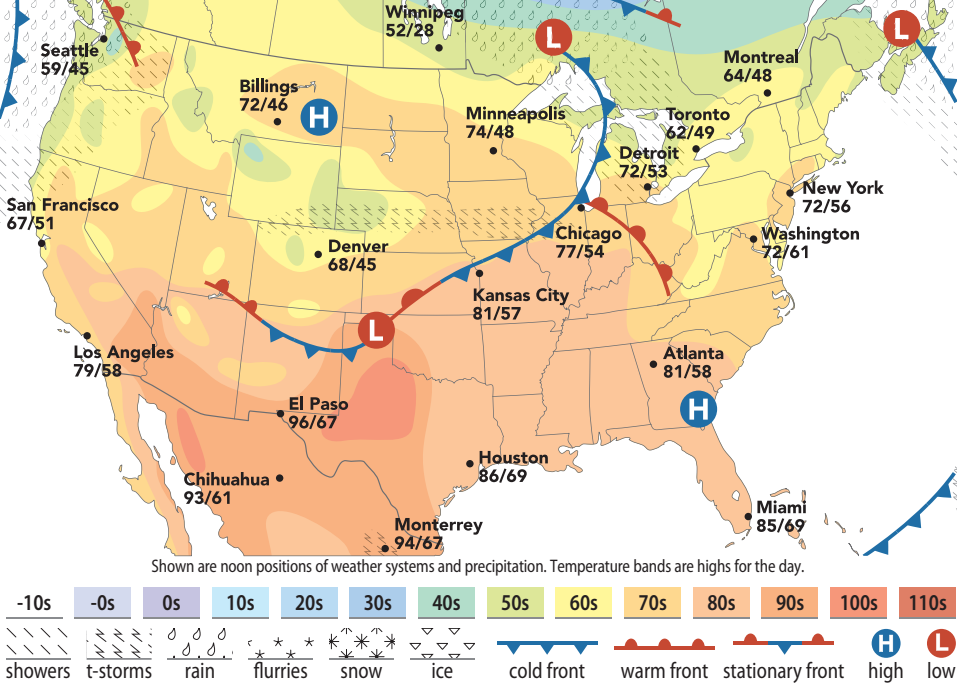


NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 104° in Wink, Texas Low 21° in Daniel, Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Movement to change Idaho border is now working in Grant County

Petitioners must submit 231 valid signatures from registered Grant County voters

By **STEVEN MITCHELL**
EO Media Group

JOHN DAY — A separatist group seeking to move Oregon’s border to create “Greater Idaho” is collecting signatures to have the proposal on the ballot for November’s general election in Grant County.

County Clerk Brenda Percy said the petitioners must submit 231 valid signatures from active Grant County registered voters. The deadline to submit is Aug. 5.

The petition is about the “Greater Idaho” effort, a movement that advo-

cates for the adjustment of the state boundaries of Idaho, California and Oregon, thereby increasing the size of Idaho to encompass several rural counties that are in California and Oregon. Grant County is one of the 19 Oregon counties the group seeks to have moved into the jurisdiction of the state of Idaho.

The petition mandates the Grant County Court hold three meetings a year for the specific purpose of discussing the merit of promoting the relocation of the Idaho border to encompass Grant County within the state of Idaho.

Greater Idaho spokesman Mike McCarter said the movement’s purpose is to preserve rural values.

According to the group’s press release, although few people are collecting signatures in traditional ways

because of social distancing, petitions are available for online and at certain locations.

“The deadline for our petition effort is Aug. 5, so coronavirus is not enough to make us give up,” McCarter said. “You can still download and print the petition from GreaterIdaho.org or pick one up at an essential business that has them.”

McCarter continued to voice his frustrations in a press release: “Rural counties have become increasingly outraged by laws coming out of the Oregon Legislature that threaten our livelihoods, our industries, our wallet, our gun rights, and our values. We tried voting those legislators out but rural Oregon is outnumbered, and our voices are now ignored. This is our last resort.”

BRIEFLY

Another 56 COVID-19 cases uncovered at Tyson

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Coronavirus test results for 400 employees at Tyson Fresh Meats reported Thursday afternoon with 56 more employees confirmed positive for COVID-19.

The results were part of the first wave of tests processed for the approximately 1,400 employees at the plant. Additional results are expected to return through the weekend, according to a news release from Community Health.

The numbers showed nearly 15% of employees are carrying or infected with the virus.

An initial report from Walla Walla County Department of Community Health on Thursday reported 75 positive cases of the batch of 400 tests. But a little more than an hour later, the number was adjusted to 56.

“There were duplicates,” Community

Health Director Meghan DeBolt said via email. “Likely, we reported too soon. We needed to clean our data more.”

Of the 56 new workers testing positive, four reside in Walla Walla County and 31 are in the Benton-Franklin Health District, composed of Benton and Franklin counties. One is from Umatilla County in Oregon and the communities of origin for the additional 20 were yet to be determined.

This brings Walla Walla County’s total cases linked to the Wallula beef processing facility, the largest in the state, to 13.

In the release, Community Health officials reiterated contact tracing will be conducted for any COVID-19-infected Tyson employees.

Those who have tested negative are eligible to return to work, according to the release, while positive-tested employees can only return to work after being symptom-free for seven days.

— Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

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