

Progress made on EOU fieldhouse

Athletic facility is about eight months from completion

By DICK MASON
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The athletic skyline at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande is rising.

The \$9 million fieldhouse, which is under construction on the south side of campus, will be at least 60,000 square feet and have a top height of about 33 feet. The facility is expected to be completed by April 2022 and be ready for use by students and student athletes by fall 2022, according to John Garlitz, EOU's director of planning and facilities.

The steel frame for the fieldhouse is nearly complete and soon exterior panels will be installed, providing the protection from the weather for crews to do extensive interior work this winter.

"Seeing the fieldhouse come to life is a welcome addition to our campus," said Tim Seydel, Eastern's vice president for university advancement. "The improved capacity and opportunities this new build-

ing brings to EOU will be felt for many years to come. It's great to hear students talking about the new building and saying, 'I can't wait to get in there.' It's going to be awesome."

The facility will provide space for the Mountaineers' athletic teams to workout in the winter and other times of the year when there is inclement weather. Some EOU track athletes may view it as a second home because it will have a small track, a runway and sandpit for long jumpers and triple jumpers and pole vaulting facilities.

The structure also will house a classroom for Eastern's Health and Human Performance program that will double as a lab. In addition, the facility will be the new home of the university's Outdoor Adventure Program, now in the Hoke Union Building. The space for the program will feature a 40-by-47-foot indoor climbing center.

Upper-level features will include a mezzanine above the classroom space.

Once completed, the fieldhouse will be the largest building of its kind at any college or university in Oregon, Washington and



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

The steel frame of Eastern Oregon University's new fieldhouse gives a sense of the facility's size against a blue sky on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021.

Idaho that is not a NCAA Division I school, said Ben Welch, EOU's head men's and women's track and field coach.

"It will be a difference maker for us," he said.

Welch said he believes some student athletes may not fully appreciate what is

being built because many universities do not have such facilities.

"I don't know if they totally understand the significance of this because they have nothing to compare it to," he said.

Original designs for the building called for it to have

88,300 gross square feet, which would have allowed for a 200-meter track, making indoor track meets a possibility. However, budget constraints led to reducing the space by about 25%.

Welch said the smaller building and track still will be a big plus for his team in

the winter. He said the track team conducts its winter practices in Quinn Coliseum's small gym, which has 4,545 square feet. But in the fieldhouse, he said, his team will have access to about 48,000 square feet for practices.

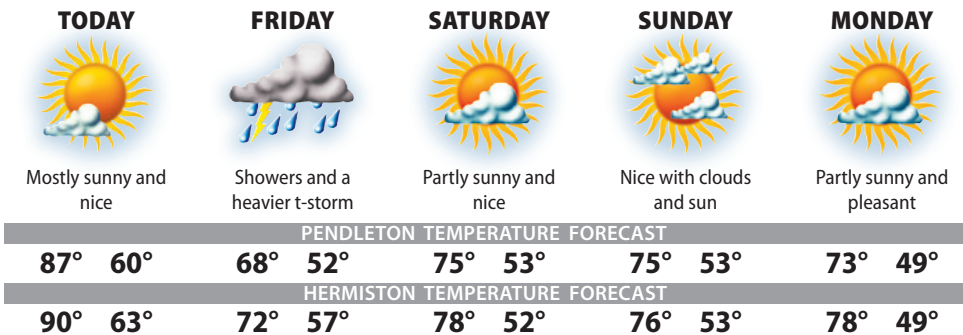
The track coach said the south side of the fieldhouse will be designed so an additional 80 feet could be added later when funding becomes available, providing the space needed to house a 200-meter track and making indoor track meets a possibility.

Garlitz said the biggest obstacle to getting the building constructed on schedule is receiving construction materials on time. He said there continues to be shipping delays because of COVID-19.

Fieldhouses are more common in the Midwest than in the Northwest, according to Welch, a University of Kansas alum. Welch had been working to help Eastern get a fieldhouse since coming to the university in the 1990s.

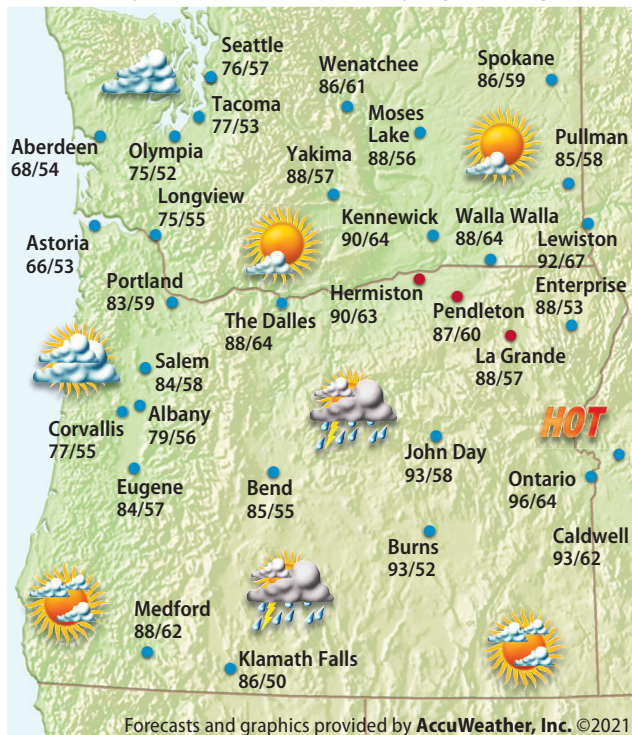
"It has been a long-term goal and dream," he said. "It is nice to see it coming to fruition."

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



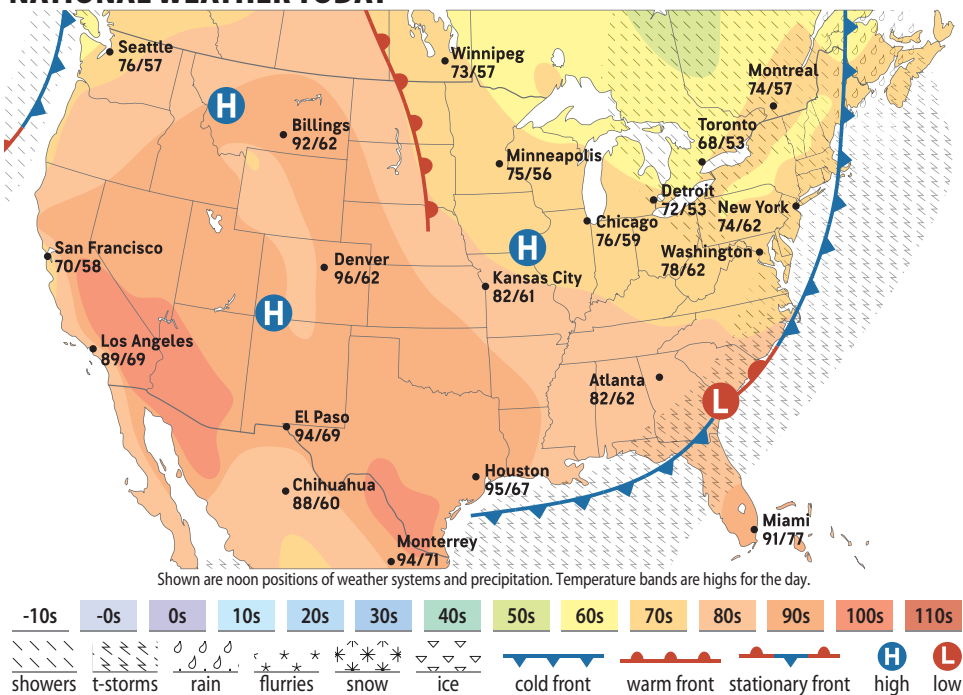
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	88°	57°	
Normals	82°	53°	
Records	98° (1981)	34° (1910)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	0.00"		
Normal month to date	0.12"		
Year to date	4.37"		
Last year to date	8.68"		
Normal year to date	8.77"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	93°	57°	
Normals	84°	50°	
Records	99° (1944)	34° (1929)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	0.00"		
Normal month to date	0.08"		
Year to date	1.93"		
Last year to date	1.66"		
Normal year to date	5.39"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Today	Fri.		
Boardman	WSW 4-8	SW 6-12	
Pendleton	WNW 6-12	SW 6-12	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	6:26 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	7:18 p.m.		
Moonrise today	9:28 a.m.		
Moonset today	8:53 p.m.		
First	Full	Last	New
Sep 13	Sep 20	Sep 28	Oct 6

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 111° in China Lake, Calif. Low 25° in Randolph, Utah

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press, File

From left to right, Mike Hanley and his wife, Linda, stand with daughter Martha Corrigan and her husband, John, at the family's ranch near Jordan Valley. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled against the family in its dispute with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Ranchers lose appeal over 'grazing priority'

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

PORTLAND — An Oregon ranch family has failed to convince a federal appeals court to preserve their property's "priority" to graze livestock on public allotments.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that ranchers automatically lose the "grazing preference" for their property upon the expiration of their permit to release livestock onto federal allotments.

The ruling has broad implications for Western ranchers, since it rejects legal arguments that a private "base" property must retain its grazing preference even if a grazing permit isn't renewed.

The 9th Circuit's decision indicates the concept of "grazing priority" doesn't mean much anymore, said Mike Hanley, a rancher involved in the litigation.

"It could be the death knell of the Taylor Grazing Act," he said, referring to the federal statute that regulates public land livestock allotments.

In practical terms, the decision will make it tougher for ranchers to transfer private property, including to family members, without encountering heavy regulatory burdens, he said.

The case demonstrates the difficulty of litigating against the federal government, particularly in the 9th Circuit, Hanley said. "In the long term, you're going to lose."

Grazing preferences provide private ranch properties with the top priority to obtain grazing permits on neighboring federal allotments.

Within the livestock industry, such preferences are crucial to the financial value of private ranches. They're also considered to stabilize the long-term connection between ranchers and surrounding federal lands.

After the U.S. Bureau of Land Management refused to renew their grazing permit, Mike and Linda Hanley of Jordan Valley leased their 1,900-acre private ranch to their daughter and son-in-law, Martha and John Corrigan.

However, in 2017 the

BLM refused to issue the Corrigan's a permit to graze cattle on about 30,000 acres of nearby federal allotments across the border in Idaho.

The agency decided the Oregon base property had lost its grazing preference when the Hanley permit wasn't renewed, which both couples challenged in federal court.

The BLM's decision raised an alarm among ranch organizations, such as the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association and Idaho Cattlemen's Association.

The groups argued the agency's interpretation undermines due process rights and "threatens to subvert the entire system of public land livestock grazing."

The 9th Circuit now has upheld a court ruling that determined BLM's actions were consistent with the Taylor Grazing Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which govern public allotments.

"After a permit expires," the 9th Circuit said, "a former permittee does not retain any preference to stand first in line for a future permit."

CORRECTIONS: The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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