

Wallowa Co. man to join Water Resources Commission

By **RONALD BOND**
Wallowa County Chieftain



Wolfe

WALLOWA — A Wallowa County man is set to join a state committee.

Woody Wolfe, who owns a farm between Wallowa and Lostine, was recently appointed to the Oregon Water Resources Commission by Oregon Gov. Kate Brown. The appointment awaits a final confirmation by the state senators, with a vote set to come today, Wednesday,

Sept. 22. “I guess it either means I was qualified or nobody else applied,” Wolfe said. “I had a couple friends hit me up about applying. They felt I would be a good candidate. I’ve always been interested in water law and become fairly averse about how it applies to my property specifically. The

resource of water is one of the most valuable. I have been diligent to understand how that works.”

Wolfe is filling a vacancy in the seven-person commission left by Bruce Corn, according to Elizabeth Merah, press secretary for Brown.

“He will represent the Eastern Region, consisting of the Owyhee, Malheur, Grande Ronde, Malheur Lake, Middle Snake and Powder drainage basins,” Merah wrote in an email to the Chieftain. “Mr.

Wolfe will work with the other commission members in carrying out the duties of the commission. ... As he will represent the Eastern Region (as described above), he will bring his perspectives on that region to contribute to the statewide goals of the commission.”

The Water Resources Commission sets statewide water resources policy and oversees the work of the Water Resources Department. Five commission members each

represent one of the regional river basins, and two members represent a portion of the state in an “at-large” capacity.” Commission members are appointed to the position by the governor, confirmed by the Senate and serve four-year terms.

Wolfe said he sees the appointment and subsequent service as a learning opportunity and to be on the forefront, he said, of the changes he believes are coming concerning water use.

“I have extensive knowledge of the geographical region of a small part of Wallowa County,” he said. “Part of my task will be applying what I know and manipulating that to understand how things work in Ontario or Burns, or places that are geographically different and having the thought process of ‘Can things work there or can it not apply.’”

The term Wolfe is serving runs through June 30, 2025.

ODFW kills three Lookout Mountain wolves

Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife employees killed three wolves Friday, Sept. 17, from the Lookout Mountain Pack in eastern Baker County, including the pack’s breeding male.

ODFW workers also killed a yearling male and a 5-month-old pup. Six wolves were seen during a flight, according to Fish and Wildlife. The wolves were on private land near a dead calf, and ODFW is investigating what appears to be another attack by wolves on cattle. Wolves from the pack killed a 6-month-old calf four days earlier about eight miles away. Lookout Mountain wolves have killed at least six head of cattle, and injured two others, since mid July.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announced on Sept. 16 that agency workers intended to kill up to four wolves from pack, including the breeding male. ODFW is not targeting the pack’s breeding female. In addition, four ranchers who have lost cattle to the

pack are authorized to kill up to two other wolves total.

ODFW estimates the pack consisted of nine wolves, a count prior to the Sept. 17 killing of three wolves.

By targeting the breeding male, ODFW hopes to still allow the breeding female to raise any remaining juveniles. Reducing the number of juveniles she will need to feed increases the likelihood that some will survive, according to a press release from the agency.

The group Defenders of Wildlife criticized Fish and Wildlife’s decision to kill wolves.

“Whenever wolves are put on the chopping block, it is a tragedy,” said Sristi Kamal, senior northwest representative for Defenders of Wildlife. “Lethal control is never a long-term solution and any pups that will be killed under these permits did not even participate in the hunts. There are better solutions than just killing wolves to cultivate social acceptance. Investments in proactive non-lethal efforts can do much more for promoting coexistence.”

IN BRIEF

Wallowa-Whitman’s new supervisor starts next month

PORTLAND — The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest soon will have a new leader.

Shaun McKinney will become the supervisor for the 2.4-million-acre Wallowa-Whitman, which is based in Baker City.

Glenn Casamassa, Pacific Northwest regional forester for the U.S. Forest Service, announced Monday, Sept. 20, that McKinney will start his new job in late October.

McKinney will replace Thomas Montoya. McKinney joins the Forest Service from the West National Technology Support Center, where he leads a team providing direct assistance, training and innovative natural resources technological solutions to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff throughout the western United States.

“Shaun has worked in both public and private land conservation, drawing on his background as a fisheries biologist to inform his strategic direction and oversight of a large team tasked with developing and implementing innovative technical solutions for field science staff working on a variety of complex natural resource issues,” Casamassa said in a press release. “His considerable experience in organizational leadership, science-based decision-making, and innovative problem-solving will serve him well as he serves the residents and communities of Eastern Oregon as Forest Supervisor on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.”

McKinney has a masters of fisheries science and statistics from Oregon State University and a bachelor of science from Michigan State University.

“I’m looking forward to returning to the Blue Mountains, where I began my career, to work together with the staff, communities and partners on healthy ecosystems and economies. It will be an exciting next chapter filled with challenges and opportunities,” McKinney said.

Amazon to open distribution center, will hire 1,500 workers

PASCO — Amazon plans to hire more than 1,500 full-time employees when it opens two new Pasco warehouses next year.

The massive international company is expanding in the Tri-Cities with the construction of two distribution centers just west of Highway 12, a company spokeswoman said Thursday, Sept. 16, in an email to the Tri-City Herald.

Each warehouse will be more than 1 million square feet.

Together, the infrastructure, both warehouses and support buildings will cost more than \$200 million, according to building permits — some of which were just issued TSept. 16.

The warehouses will be among the largest in North America. Amazon currently operates a call center in Kennewick.

“We are proud of the partnership that we have built with Amazon to locate these new operations facilities in our community,” said Pasco Mayor Saul Martinez in a news release. “This will have a long-term impact on Pasco, and it’s an opportunity to open new career paths in industries like logistics, retail, and technology with a company that is known for innovating.”

All the new jobs at the warehouses that have been labeled “Project Oyster” and “Project Pearl” in building permits and documents filed with the state will be full time.

The company said that it hasn’t started hiring yet but once fully staffed, Amazon will be among the Top 10 employers in the Tri-Cities, according to information from TRIDEC.

Only Lamb Weston and Pasco School District would have more employees than Amazon in Franklin County.



The Observer/File

The renovation of the historic Liberty Theatre in downtown La Grande — shown here in its earlier stages — is about 80% complete, its supporters said in September 2021.

Liberty Theatre Foundation gets financial boost from trust

LA GRANDE — The Liberty Theatre Foundation has received a major financial boost to move it closer to completion of the historic building’s renovation.

The foundation recently was awarded a grant of \$250,000 from the Washington-based MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, it announced Monday, Sept. 20.

“The Liberty Theatre Foundation is very grateful to the Murdock Charitable Trust for this generous grant award,” Ashley O’Toole, foundation chairman, said in a press release. “When an organization of their stature has such a high belief in our project and confidence in our abilities, it gives us all the more motivation and confidence that we can get it done — despite the challenges we’ve been facing during the pandemic.”

Receipt of the funds is anticipated in early October and the money is expected to help carry the project into early 2022.

In the release, O’Toole said the renovation is about 80% complete. He added the grant will help bring the remaining funding cap within reach of closing.

Three horses in Grant County die in collision with pickup

GRANT COUNTY — A pickup the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 15, struck and killed three horses on Laycock Creek Road and Highway 26 after fleeing from a pasture nearly 6 miles away.

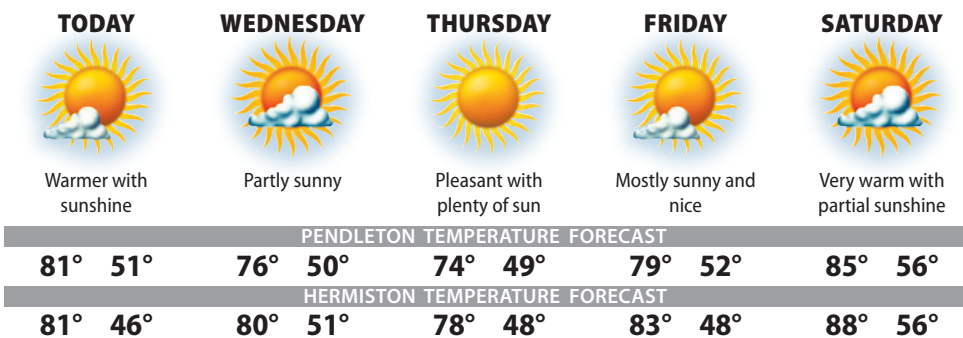
Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley in a press release reported crash resulted in the closure of both lanes on Highway 26 for roughly one hour in both directions.

McKinley’s press release also noted one of the horses had to be euthanized at the scene after the collision.

According to McKinley’s press release, an attempt was made to locate the owners of the horses that ran east of Highway 26 to no avail. Additionally, the press release noted it is unknown what spooked the horses to flee the pasture.

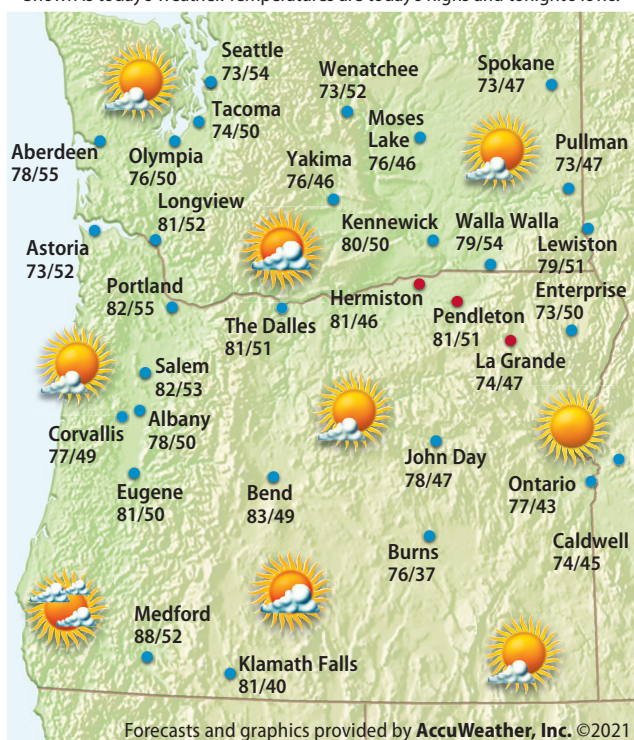
— EO Media Group and wire services

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	68°	47°
Normals	78°	49°
Records	92° (1917)	31° (1912)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.30"
Normal month to date	0.34"
Year to date	4.67"
Last year to date	8.73"
Normal year to date	8.99"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	71°	48°
Normals	80°	47°
Records	93° (1967)	30° (1983)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.16"
Normal month to date	0.20"
Year to date	2.09"
Last year to date	1.71"
Normal year to date	5.51"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Wed.
Boardman	NE 4-8	WSW 6-12
Pendleton	NE 4-8	W 6-12

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:41 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:54 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:37 p.m.
Moonset today	7:12 a.m.

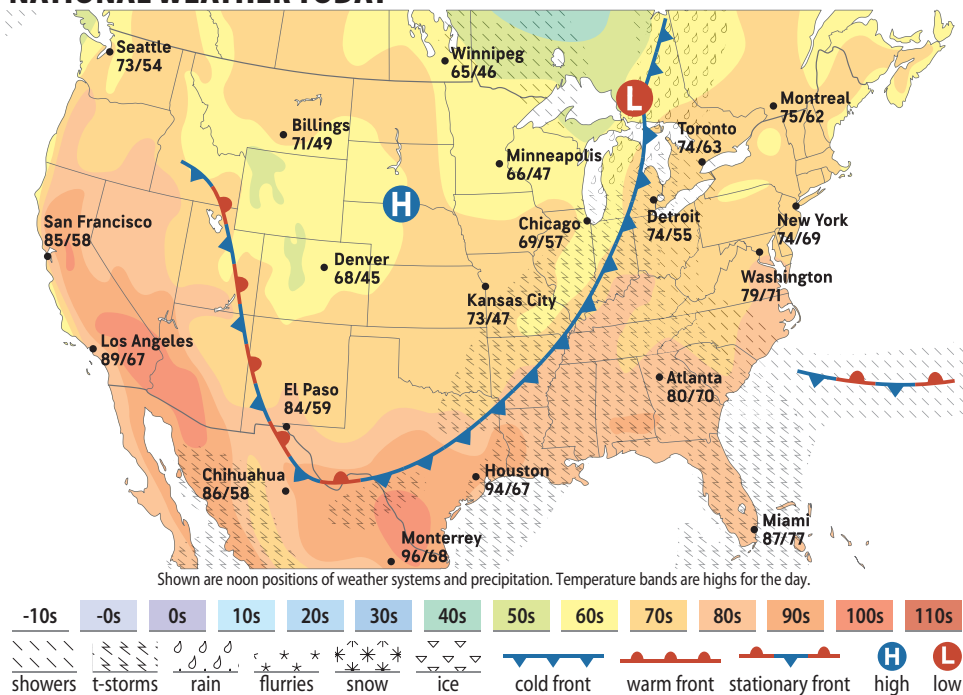


NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 107° in Zapata, Texas Low 18° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



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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