

INSIDE

CHECK OUT A BIT OF CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN GO!



HARVESTING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

A Santa Claus figurine drives a combine covered in Christmas lights Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021, along Stewart Creek Frontage Road outside of Pilot Rock.

Storms boost anticipation of snowy, wet and cold winter

By KATY NESBITT
For EO Media Group

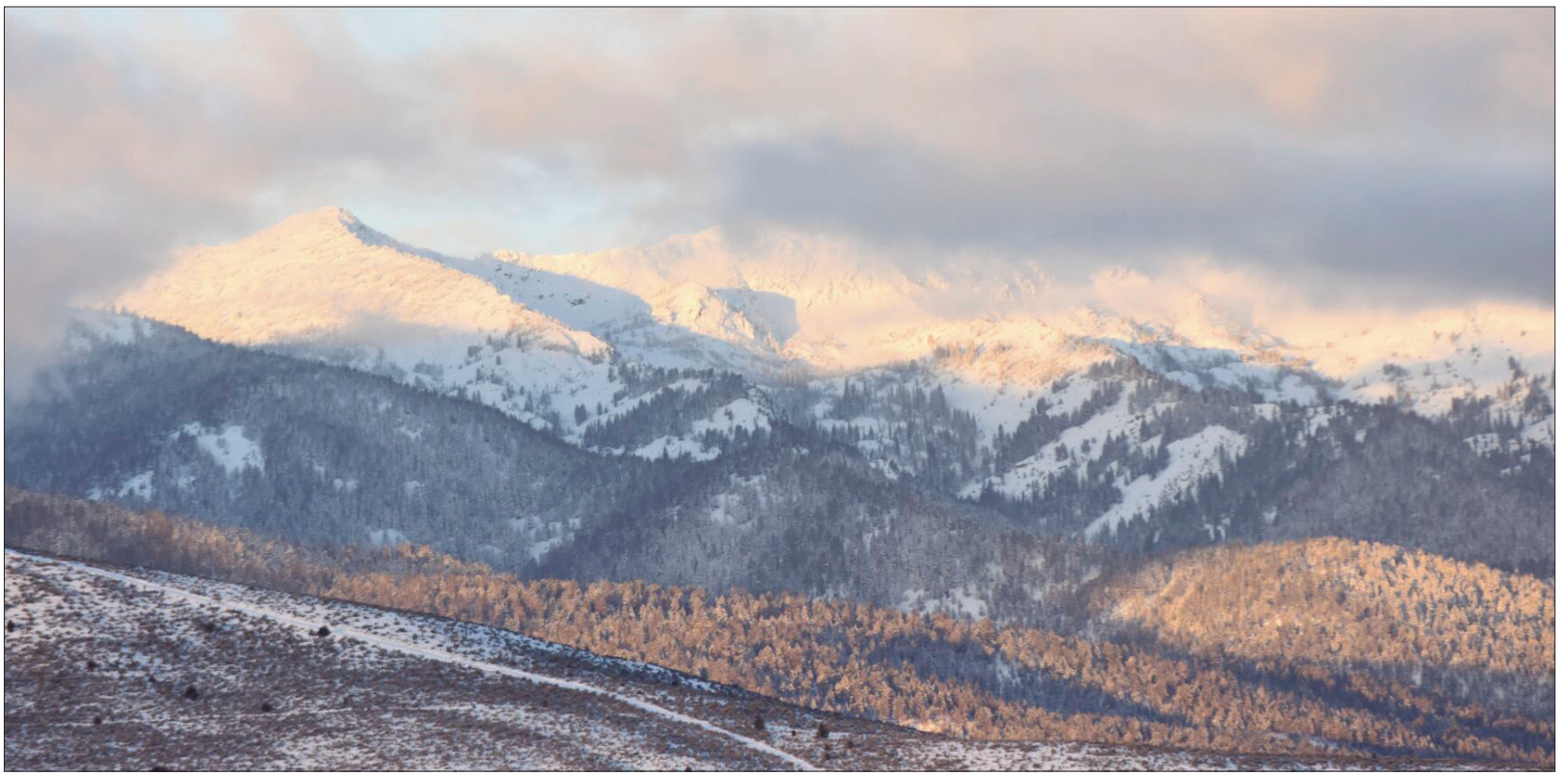
PENDLETON — After a relatively dry autumn, the days leading up to the winter solstice finally brought the prediction of a La Nina year to fruition.

According to the National Weather Service website, there is a 95% chance that La Nina conditions will continue in the Northern Hemisphere until April.

The oceanservice.noaa.gov website defines La Nina as weather occurrences affected by stronger-than-average trade winds that push more warm water toward Asia. Off the West Coast of the Americas, upwelling increases, bringing cold, nutrient-rich water to the surface. These cold waters in the Pacific Ocean push the jet stream northward and tend to lead to drought in the southern U.S. and heavy rains and flooding in the Pacific Northwest and Canada.

During a La Nina year, winter temperatures are warmer than normal in the southern U.S. and cooler than normal in the northern U.S. La Nina also can lead to a more severe hurricane season.

For Northeastern Oregon, the National Weather Service's



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

The Elkhorn Mountains near Baker City glow white in the morning sunshine on Friday, Dec. 17, 2021. The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center reports Northeastern Oregon should expect a 50-60% chance for above-average snowfall and lower-than-average temperatures.

Climate Prediction Center reports the region should expect a 50-60% chance for above-average snowfall and a 50-60% chance of

lower-than-average temperatures. Recent snowfalls have boosted the anticipation of a snowy, wet and cold winter. A look around the

region's snow sensors reveals the current conditions for the Blue and Wallowa mountains. High Ridge, in the Blue Moun-

tains east of Pendleton, sits at 4,920 feet.

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Northeastern Oregon hospitals, providers receive nearly \$8M

Program for funding rural hospitals also provides \$29.4M to Portland hospitals

By ALEX WITTWER
EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — A bevy of local hospitals and providers are receiving more than \$7.8 million in funds through the American Rescue Plan via a program specific to rural hospitals.

While the fund allocated \$118 million to hospitals across the state, nearly 25%, or more than \$29.4 million, was sent to hospitals in Portland — mostly to Providence, a hospital chain that serves the Willamette Valley and coastal regions of Oregon.

The largest single payment in Northeastern Oregon went to Good Shepherd Health Care System, Hermiston, which

collected a little more than \$2.6 million, while Baker City's Saint Alphonsus Medical Center received more than \$1.1 million through the program. The list of providers and suppliers that were awarded funds also includes: Interpath Laboratories, Pendleton; Center for Human Development Inc., La Grande; Wallowa County Health Care District, Enterprise; Blue Mountain Hospital District, John Day; and Morrow County Health District, Boardman.

"Good Shepherd Health Care System did receive the \$2.6 million, and we plan on using it for either of two areas — to be applied to additional COVID expenses we have incurred or to lost revenue due to the COVID pandemic," Caitlin Cozad, marketing and communications director for Good Shepherd Health Care System, said in an email.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Motorcycles fill a portion of the parking lot at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston on Dec. 5, 2020, following the Echo Toy Run. Good Shepherd Health Care System, which operates the hospital, received \$2.6 million in funds through an American Rescue Plan program for rural hospitals.

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