

# Elgin High School band qualifies for first-ever OSAA state competition

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**  
*The Observer*

ELGIN — Hard work is paying off for the Elgin High School band.

After practicing their routine since early in the winter, members of the Elgin High School band are seeing the rewards of their dedication on the big stage. The Huskies took first place at the 1A Special District 4 competition to earn an automatic qualifier to the OSAA state band competition in Corvallis — the trip to state marks the first time an Elgin band has competed in the statewide event.

“It feels amazing,” senior saxophone player Paige Gifford said. “I’m so happy we were able to pull together, get the music done and go to state. We missed out on it so many years before, so it’s awesome to finally be able to do it.”

The Elgin High School band consists of 15 members, ranging from grades seven through 12. The Huskies placed first overall against Grant Union and Wallowa at the Special District 4 competition on Friday, March 18, scoring 84, 84 and 88 and automatically qualified. The Elgin band performed the songs “Highland Legend,” “Ballade” and “Legacy” at the district competition and will play the same routine at state.



Members of the Elgin High School band practice at Elgin High School on Thursday, April 21, 2022. The band, which includes students from grades seven through 12, earned its first-ever automatic qualifier to the OSAA state competition in Corvallis.

Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

Tucker Murphey is in his eighth year as the band’s director. Prior to his tenure at Elgin, the school had not had a band program for five years.

After two years of COVID-19 cancellations and a near miss at going to state in 2019, the Elgin band is poised to make its first-ever run at

the OSAA state competition in Corvallis on May 13.

For Gifford, the collective hard work and dedication of the band stands out as a difference maker in the Huskies’ success.

“It’s a lot of work and a lot of Mr. Murphy going through drills with us to get down the

rhythms,” Gifford said. “A lot of us take home our instruments to take more time to get the rhythms down and stuff like that, making sure they sound good.”

Gifford also noted that the band members try to stay as composed as possible on the day of an important perfor-

mance like the district competition. As a senior with the most experience in the band, she makes it a point of emphasis that the band members not over stress themselves before going on stage.

At the 1A level, Elgin will be competing against eight teams from across Oregon at

the state competition. Junior trumpet player Andrew Buckley stated that being around other bands with different skill sets will be a good learning experience for the Elgin band.

“I’m definitely nervous, but it’s going to be really fun,” he said. “Hopefully we can bring home a trophy.”

While each individual band member must have their instrument ready and notes memorized, the band is very much a team.

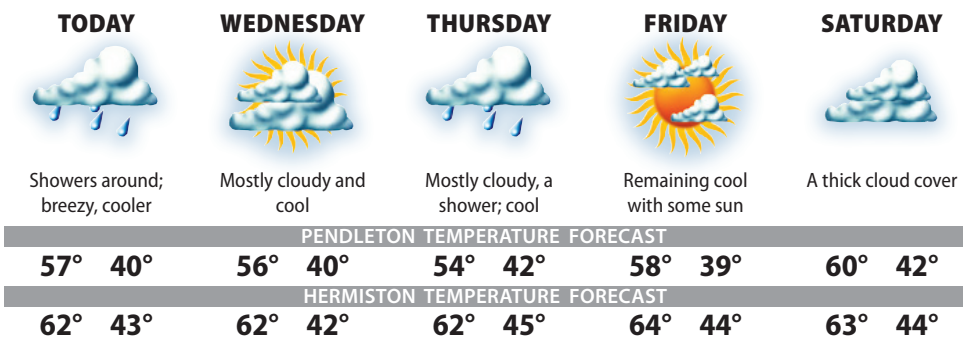
“Everybody works together really well,” Buckley said. “It’s nice being able to play with a band that is good at listening to each other, which helps the sound of the whole band.”

“It’s definitely very important,” Gifford said. “We’re kind of like a small family. We have to get along and we all lean on each other when it comes to playing our instruments well.”

In 2019, Elgin scored high enough to qualify for state but the band’s season ended after a mix-up made it ineligible for state qualification. Gifford is one of two seniors who were a part of that band, which has been a big motivation during the group’s strong showing this year.

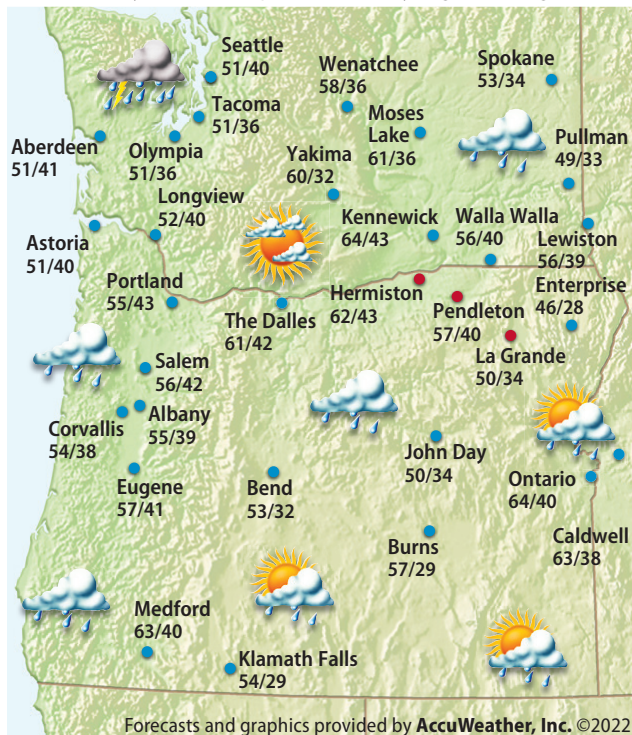
“We lost out on going to state a couple years ago and then COVID happened, so this was really exciting since it’s my senior year,” Gifford said.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

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



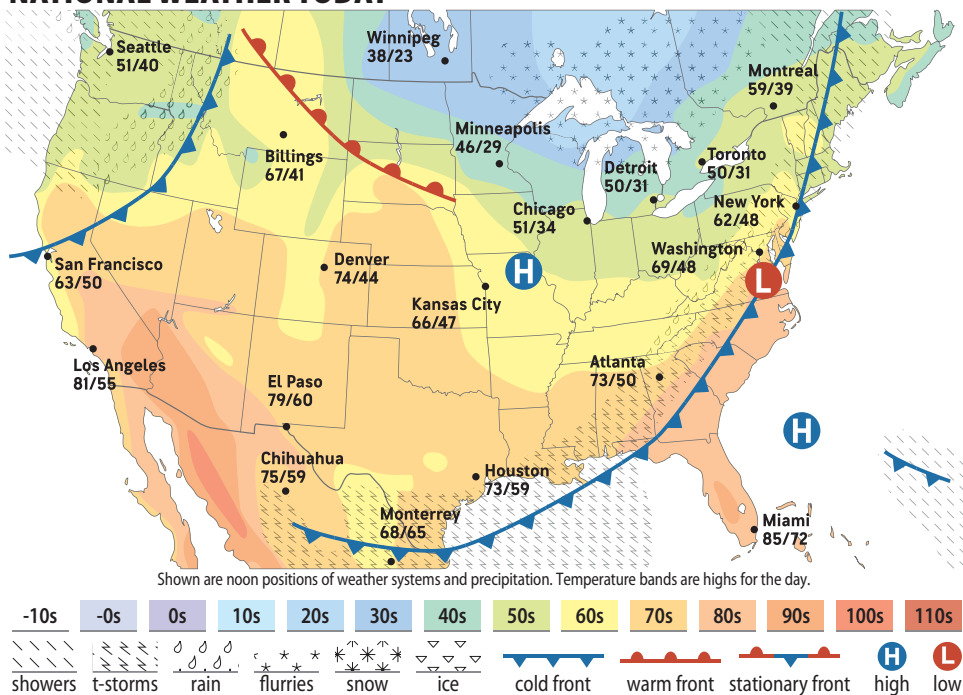
## ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	62°	43°
Normals	66°	41°
Records	94° (1910)	22° (1924)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	1.06"	
Normal month to date	1.08"	
Year to date	4.66"	
Last year to date	3.55"	
Normal year to date	5.15"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	66°	41°
Normals	70°	40°
Records	91° (1946)	27° (1929)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	1.37"	
Normal month to date	0.65"	
Year to date	3.32"	
Last year to date	1.81"	
Normal year to date	3.42"	
WINDS (in mph)		
	Today	Wed.
Boardman	WSW 10-20	WSW 7-14
Pendleton	W 10-20	WNW 6-12
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	5:51 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	7:56 p.m.	
Moonrise today	4:32 a.m.	
Moonset today	3:34 p.m.	

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday’s National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 94° in Zapata, Texas Low 11° in Gothic, Colo.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# Wheat researchers, consultants to ponder ‘minutiae’ during field tour

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**  
*Capital Press*

PENDLETON — As wheat crop tours for farmers resume in the Pacific Northwest, researchers also plan to get together for their annual field day.

The Western Wheat Workers tour June 20-22 is primarily for researchers, crop consultants and industry leaders, but farmers are also welcome, said Christina Hagerty, Oregon State University assistant professor of plant pathology at the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center in Pendleton.

“We really get into the minutiae at these meetings,” Hagerty said. “Getting researchers together like this gives us the opportunity to really understand what the biggest challenges are in the community of researchers,

and how we can tackle that as a unit.”

Topics can include different races of stripe rust, disease resistance genes and locations of cooperative trials. State reports about the greatest challenges from the past production cycle reveal opportunities for researchers to collaborate, she said.

The event returns to CBARC after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Registration is \$100. The field day is in conjunction with a conference held by National Information Management and Support System’s multi-state research committee on cereal diseases, WERA97.

Hagerty welcomed the resumption of in-person field days.

“There’s nothing like in-person conversations,” she said. “There’s just really nothing like getting to walk

the plots with your colleagues and stakeholders.”

The agenda includes discussions about cover cropping, a presentation from Syngenta about hybrid wheat and farm visits, which include a walk-through of a 15-foot trench on the Aquino family’s DLL Ranch and Chris Williams of Johns Ranch discussing dryland and irrigated winter wheat, irrigated organic dark northern spring wheat, irrigated organic spring barley and green peas.

While planning the event, Hagerty made a point to focus less on formal presentations in favor of just spending time together.

“Folks are really excited to get out in the field and just have really organic, unstructured conversations,” Hagerty said. “That’s a nice time to just sit next to a researcher you might not know, introduce yourself and have a nice conversation.”

# Umatilla National Forest to conduct invasive plant treatments in late April

*The Observer*

PENDLETON — The Umatilla National Forest is set to begin conducting invasive plant treatments starting in late April.

The treatment process targets invasive species expansion throughout the forest and is expected to last through October, according to the Forest Service.

According to a statement from Richie Garnder, integrated vegetation staff officer for the forest, the treatments will include primarily spot application through truck

sprayers, backpack sprayers and utility task vehicles.

The targeted treatment sites are scattered across the Umatilla National Forest. Herbicide treatments are set to be marked on the ground during the time of treatment. A full map of proposed treatment sites is on the Umatilla National Forest website.

The herbicides in the treatments are aminopyralid, chlorsulfuron, clopyralid, imazapic, metsulfuron methyl and picloram. Typical invasive species targeted in the treatment include common Crupina, yellow

starthistle, sulphur cinquefoil, Dalmatian toadflax and hound’s tongue.

The treatment process has been ongoing, with the work implemented under the 2010 decision for invasive species treatment project and the forest plan amended by the Pacific Northwest Region 2005 decision for preventing and managing invasive plants. The Forest Service is partnering with weed boards in Oregon and Washington, as well as the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Wallowa Resources.

**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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# EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211  
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211  
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed major holidays

[EastOregonian.com](http://EastOregonian.com)

In the App Store:



East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801.

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For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops or delivery concerns call 800-781-3214

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	Local home delivery	Savings (cover price)
EZPay	\$10.75/month	50 percent
52 weeks	\$135	42 percent
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13 weeks	\$37	36 percent

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\$1.50 Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

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