

LA GRANDE

Judge denies lower bail for teen facing sex crimes

The Observer

LA GRANDE — A La Grande teen who faces nearly 30 counts of sex crimes was arraigned Monday, April 25, in Union County Circuit Court.

Circuit Judge Thomas Powers denied a request to reduce the \$300,000 bail set for Joel Phoenix Rogers, 19, arrested on charges of 28 counts of sex crimes and two counts of strangulation.

Powers said he set bail at \$300,000 based on the criminal classification of the charges Rogers faces and their felony scale.

"I did not pull the number out of thin air," the judge said during the hearing.

Rogers' attorney, Jared Boyd, asked the court to reduce the bail. He said there is no way Rogers could afford the minimum of \$30,000 he would need to make the 10% level needed for his release. People who are jailed after being arrested in Oregon can be released if they pay 10% of the bail set for them.

Boyd added Rogers previously has had no real criminal history and he has not had any contact with the victim in this case since Nov. 18, 2021.

Powers said it would be best not to lower the bail considering the serious nature of the charges and the possibility Rogers, if convicted of just a few of the most serious charges he faces, will face extensive prison time.

Rogers next appears in court May 23 for a plea hearing.

La Grande police on April 22 arrested Rogers after the court issued a secret indictment warrant two days earlier. He has been in the Union County Jail since.

In all, Rogers faces the following charges: three counts of first-degree rape; five counts of second-degree rape; two counts of strangulation; three counts of first-degree sex abuse; five counts of second-degree sex abuse; two counts of first-degree sodomy; four counts of luring a minor; four counts of using a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct; and two counts of attempted third-degree sodomy.

The state alleges Rogers committed the crimes between July 1 and Nov. 18, 2021, according to Union County Circuit Court documents. The victim was a juvenile.

Forest collaboratives receive grants

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

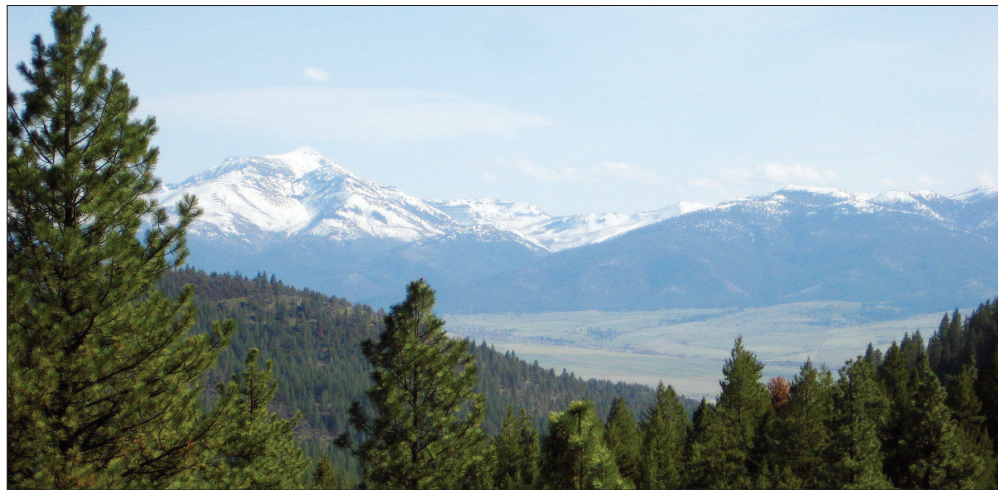
WASHINGTON — Five forest collaboratives in Central and Eastern Oregon have received word they will be receiving upward of \$11.6 million in federal funding.

The collaboratives, which bring together environmentalists, timber industry professionals and public and private land managers, seek to find common ground on hot-button forestry issues.

The projects were selected by a federal advisory committee and funded through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, which is intended to encourage ecological and economic sustainability and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

The Southern Blues Restoration Coalition, a joint effort of Blue Mountains Forest Partners and the Harney County Restoration Collaborative, received \$3 million. Both groups are forestry collaboratives, groups of diverse stakeholders formed to find solutions to stubborn forestry issues that satisfy environmental concerns while providing jobs in the woods and generating a steady and predictable timber supply to feed area lumber mills.

Backed by the two collaboratives, the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition has



Blue Mountain Eagle, File

Strawberry Mountain stands near Prairie City in Eastern Oregon. Five forest collaboratives in Central and Eastern Oregon are receiving upward of \$11.6 million in federal funding for work on hot-button forestry issues.

been supported by CFLRP money since 2012. The coalition was initially awarded \$2.5 million per year and received a bump to \$4 million per year in 2016.

Malheur National Forest program manager Roy Walker said a big chunk of the money they will receive would go toward prescribed burning. Some of the funding, he added, would go to pre-commercial thinning throughout the Southern Blues Coalition area.

Walker said the main goal is to reduce wildfire hazards on the Malheur.

"(The funding) is really helping us accelerate our restoration out here in the (Malheur)

National Forest," Walker said. The Northern Blues Forest Collaborative received \$3 million for a 10.4 million-acre project in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest to reduce wildfire risk and prepare the landscape to manage fire safely.

Nils Christoffersen, the executive director of Wallowa Resources, a member of the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership, said there had been a significant loss of capacity to manage forests on both the public and private sides since the 1990s. These funds, he said, help offset that disinvestment.

Most people, he said, concerned about the land-

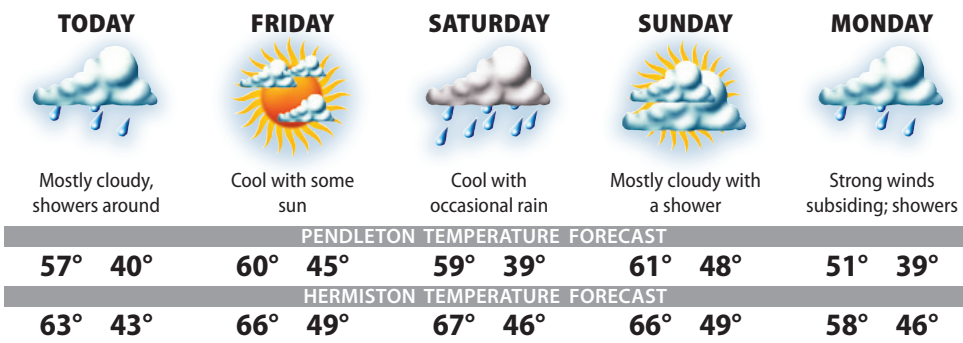
scapes and communities of Eastern Oregon have been arguing for a long time that these forests need additional money and staff to respond to the challenges they face.

Christoffersen said the No. 1 thing in people's minds is wildfire. But the funding, he said, is not limited to fire prevention.

"We're looking at how we can improve the forest's overall condition," he said.

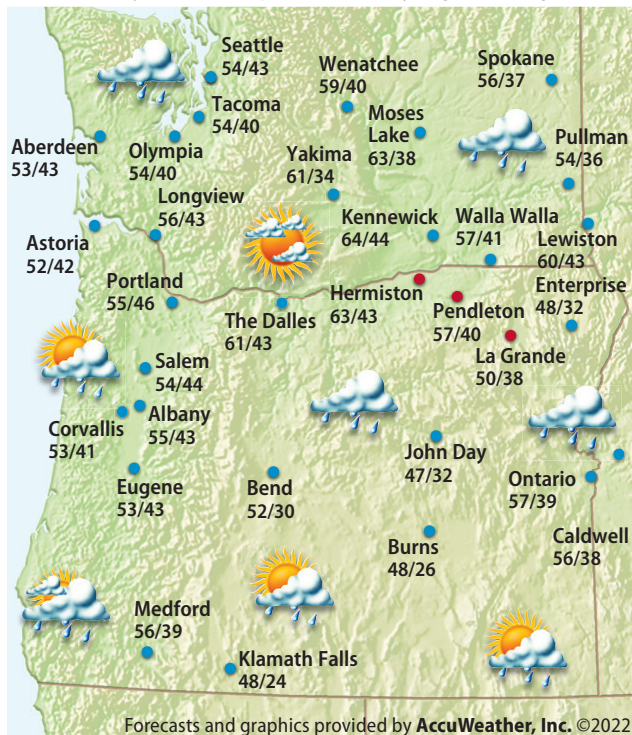
Christoffersen said that includes making sure the watersheds are operating correctly to ensure clean water, maintaining and improving wildlife habitat, and putting people back to work in the woods and the mills.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



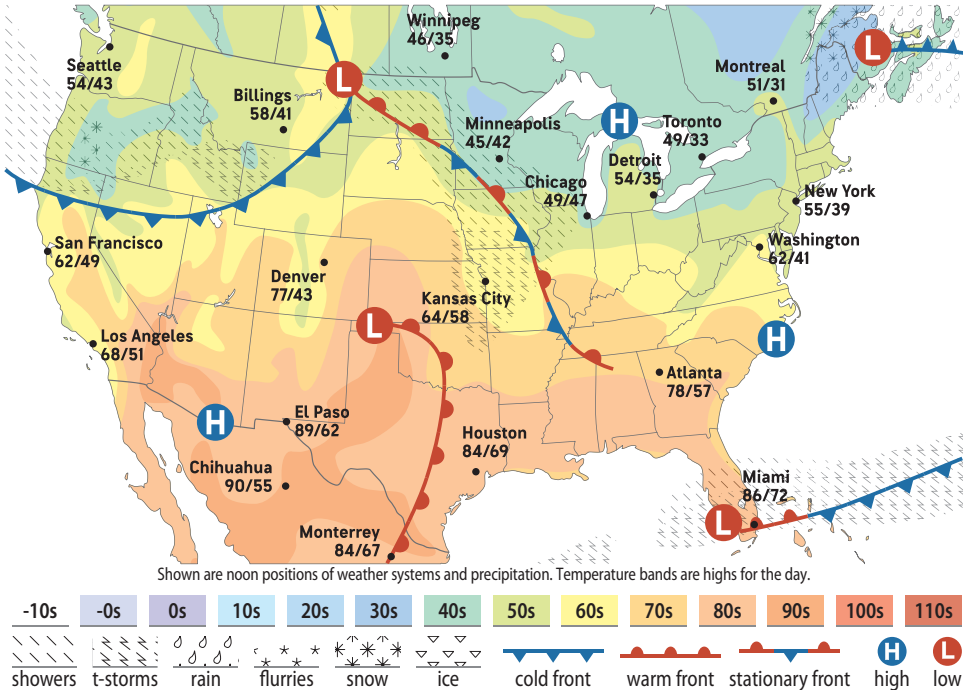
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	56°	41°
Normals	67°	42°
Records	95° (1926)	29° (1935)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace	
Month to date	1.27"	
Normal month to date	1.15"	
Year to date	4.87"	
Last year to date	3.55"	
Normal year to date	5.22"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	61°	42°
Normals	71°	41°
Records	88° (1947)	28° (1970)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	1.44"	
Normal month to date	0.71"	
Year to date	3.39"	
Last year to date	1.81"	
Normal year to date	3.48"	
WINDS (in mph)		
	Today	Fri.
Boardman	WSW 6-12	WSW 7-14
Pendleton	W 7-14	W 6-12
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	5:48 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	7:58 p.m.	
Moonrise today	5:11 a.m.	
Moonset today	5:54 p.m.	

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 95° in El Centro, Calif. Low 6° in Ely, Minn.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Girl Scouts in Baker City give \$500 each to two organizations

By IAN CRAWFORD
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — During the past year, members of Girl Scout Troop No. 50042 in Baker City conducted cookie sales and other fundraisers for their annual donation drive.

On April 14, den mother Linda Snyder oversaw a ceremony during which head Scouts Becky Snyder and Penelope Simmons presented \$500 donations to two local groups.

The donation meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Girl Scout's Oath, with as many as 10 attending in the basement of the Baker Elks Lodge. The space is also shared by the local Boy Scouts.

The first recipient is the Rachel Center, a nonprofit volunteer program in Baker City that offers pre and post natal support to teenage moth-

ers, including testing, ultrasounds, parental education classes and material needs for infants up to three years.

Rachel Center Director Vera Grove accepted the award.

The other \$500 donation went to Best Friends of Baker, Inc. operated by Carmen Ott and Jane Barrett, both former Girl Scouts.

Best Friends is a nonprofit that accepts strays and surrenders of dogs and cats, offering spay and neuter services and rehoming. Prior to Best Friends' creation in 1986, uncollared and unclaimed dogs caught in Baker City would be euthanized within 24 hours.

Becky and Penelope are working toward earning the top awards in the Girl Scouts program.

In pursuit of the Silver Award, Becky conducted a dog food drive and is donat-

ing 50 hours of service to the community.

"Did you see the barrels set outside the grocery stores? That was all Becky," said Linda, who is Becky's mom.

Penelope, who is seeking the Gold Award, must fulfill 80 hours of community service and create a permanent public feature. She aims to have a splash pad, with an interactive play fountain, built at a Baker City park.

"I'll have to make a proposal to the city, and it will require funding," Penelope said.

With the Baker City troop's membership dropping substantially during the pandemic, Linda Snyder hopes to boost the numbers. Girls interested in getting involved with the Girl Scouts can learn more at GirlScouts.org.

"Before COVID, we had 22 Scouts," Linda said. "Today we only have five."

Medical supply donations pour from Grant County to Ukraine

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant County Road Department, Blue Mountain Hospital District and Juniper Ridge Acute Care Center collected outdated medical supplies and first aid kits to send to Ukraine last week.

Mindy Stinnett, the John Day hospital's trauma program manager, said the effort started when Ryan Palmer from the road department called the hospital to see about donating expired first aid kits.

Stinnett said that triggered her to look into a place

to donate medical supplies. Sure enough, she found herself in a meeting where she heard about a program through St. Charles Medical Center in Bend. She said the hospital donated through St. Charles to the Humana Medical Relief Fund out of Wisconsin.

Stinnett said the whole team at the hospital was supportive when the email went out to the different departments urging them to gather up medical supplies.

She said the hospital's outpatient coordinator, Meganne Mortensen, stepped out to drive the supplies to Bend without hesitation.

Stinnett said the hospital could have sent the supplies to St. Charles through the mail, but when that was mentioned to Mortensen she said she wanted to do her part by driving the supplies to Bend herself.

The hospital's chief financial officer, Eric Pryce, was supportive as well. Stinnett said Pryce agreed to pay for Mortensen to drive the supplies to Bend.

"We got huge support from everyone," Stinnett said. "It was really neat to see that everybody was really wanting to figure out a way to get involved in the process of the donation."

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.

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

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.
Copyright © 2022, EO Media Group

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Local home delivery	Savings (cover price)
EZPay	\$10.75/month	50 percent
52 weeks	\$135	42 percent
26 weeks	\$71	39 percent
13 weeks	\$37	36 percent

Single copy price:
\$1.50 Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

ADVERTISING

Regional Sales Director (Eastside) EO Media Group:
• Karrine Brogotti
541-963-3161 • kbrogotti@eomediagroup.com

Multimedia Consultants:
• Angel Aguilar
541-564-4531 • aaguilar@hermistonherald.com
• Melissa Barnes
541-966-0827 • mbarnes@eastoregonian.com
• Audra Workman
541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com

Business Office
• Dayle Stinson
541-966-0824 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com

Classified & Legal Advertising
Classified advertising: 541-564-4538
Legal advertising: 541-966-0824
classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legal@eastoregonian.com

NEWS
• To submit news tips and press releases: call 541-966-0818 or email news@eastoregonian.com
• To submit community events, calendar items, engagements, weddings and anniversaries: email community@eastoregonian.com, call 541-966-0818 or visit eastoregonian.com/community/announcements.
• To submit sports or outdoors information or tips, email sports@eastoregonian.com.

COMMERCIAL PRINTING
Commercial Print Manager: Holly Rouska
541-617-7839 • hrouska@eomediagroup.com