

Union County quilting group reaches out to Ukrainian refugees

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A group of talented and generous Union County women are reaching out to Ukrainian refugees in England — one stitch at a time.

The women are members of the Girls Night Out and Friends Sewing Group. The group's members have been hard at work over the past two months preparing 27 quilts for shipment to England where they will be donated to Ukrainian refugees, many of whom fled their country with little more than the clothes they were wearing. The quilts are meant to provide physical comfort for the Ukrainians and serve as a heartfelt gesture.

"We want to let them know that a lot of people are thinking of them," said Bridgett Naylor, a Girls Night Out member.

Naylor and the other approximately one dozen members of the sewing and quilting club have taken donated quilts that were partially completed and given them the finishing work they needed. For example, some of the quilts had only one layer of fabric so a second back layer was sewn on.

Each quilt has been customized for Ukrainian families with a patch that has the yellow and blue colors of their nation's flag in the shape of a heart.

"These are handmade gifts," said Ellen Carr, a Girls Night Out member.

The local sewing club will be sending 27 quilts to the Corner



Bridgett Naylor of the Girls Night Out and Friends Sewing Group on June 3, 2022, examines some of the quilts heading to England for Ukrainian refugees. Most of the quilts were completed by the Girls Night Out group.

Dick Mason/The Observer

Patch, an arts and crafts shop in the town of Eccleshall in England. The Corner Patch, owned by Janet Markwell, is donating quilts to Ukrainian refugees in England. To date, it has received 100 quilts for refugees.

England has at least 58,000 Ukrainian refugees, according to a story in the May 24 edition of the New York Times. They are among

the more than 6.4 million Ukrainians who have left their country since Russia attacked Ukraine in February.

Naylor said she and other members of Girls Night Out have felt frustrated because they wanted to reach out to the refugees but really could not in a concrete manner because they are separated by such a great distance.

"This was something tangible we could actually do," she said.

Naylor and Carr are among about 12 Girls Night Out women involved in the Ukrainian project. They are joined by Mary Brock, Lessa Adams, Joy Cleaver, Susan Le Page, Geri Hall, Cindy Jo DeLong, Teresa Smith-Dixon, Nancy Gromen, Patti Anderson and Jan McDowell.

The quilts the club is sending have an array of colors, including orange, green, red and blue. Many have varying dimensions but they have an important quality in common.

"Many are different, but they all are beautiful," said Gromen, who is Naylor's mother.

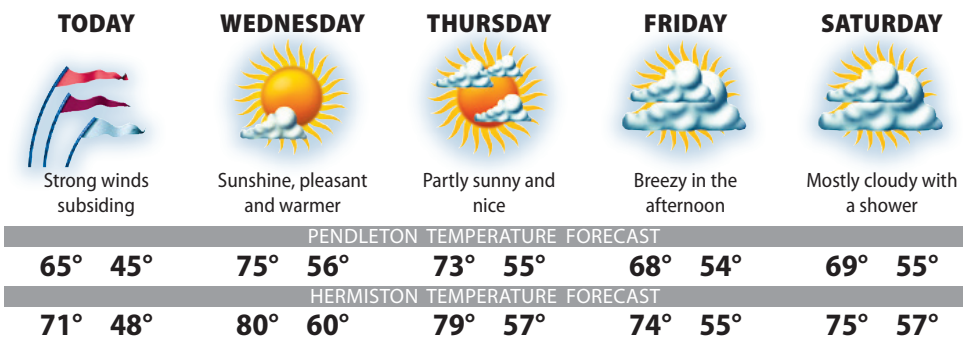
Much of the work on the quilts was done alone in the homes of the Girls Night Out members. The group, though, meets once a week in the evening to discuss their project and other topics. The meetings have given rise to their name.

The Girls Night Out quilts will later be taken across the Atlantic Ocean by Naylor and her family to the Corner Patch. Naylor is familiar with England because that is where her husband, Les, is from and she met the Corner Patch's owner during a previous visit. Naylor's family will bring the quilts in four suitcases. This will save money because Naylor's family would have gone to England anyway. Naylor said it is much less expensive to pay for check-in luggage on a flight than it would be to ship the quilts from La Grande.

Naylor and the other members of the group know they will likely never meet the refugees who receive the quilts, but that does not diminish the satisfaction they are feeling knowing that they are helping brighten the lives of people who have just witnessed the horrors of war.

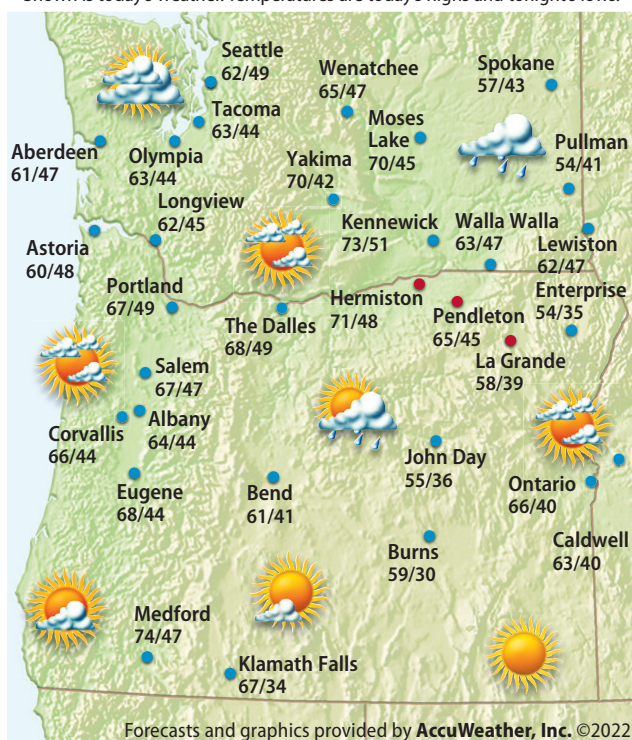
"Quilts bring comfort," Naylor said. "We are hoping that these will ease their struggle."

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	61°	49°
Normals	78°	52°
Records	98° (1974)	35° (1910)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.31"
Month to date 2.15"
Normal month to date 0.63"
Year to date 10.81"
Last year to date 4.16"
Normal year to date 7.47"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	66°	51°
Normals	81°	53°
Records	100° (2019)	41° (1952)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.46"
Month to date 1.58"
Normal month to date 0.36"
Year to date 7.37"
Last year to date 2.30"
Normal year to date 4.74"

WINDS (in mph)

Today	Wed.
Boardman WSW 15-25	ENE 4-8
Pendleton WSW 15-25	NE 6-12

SUN AND MOON

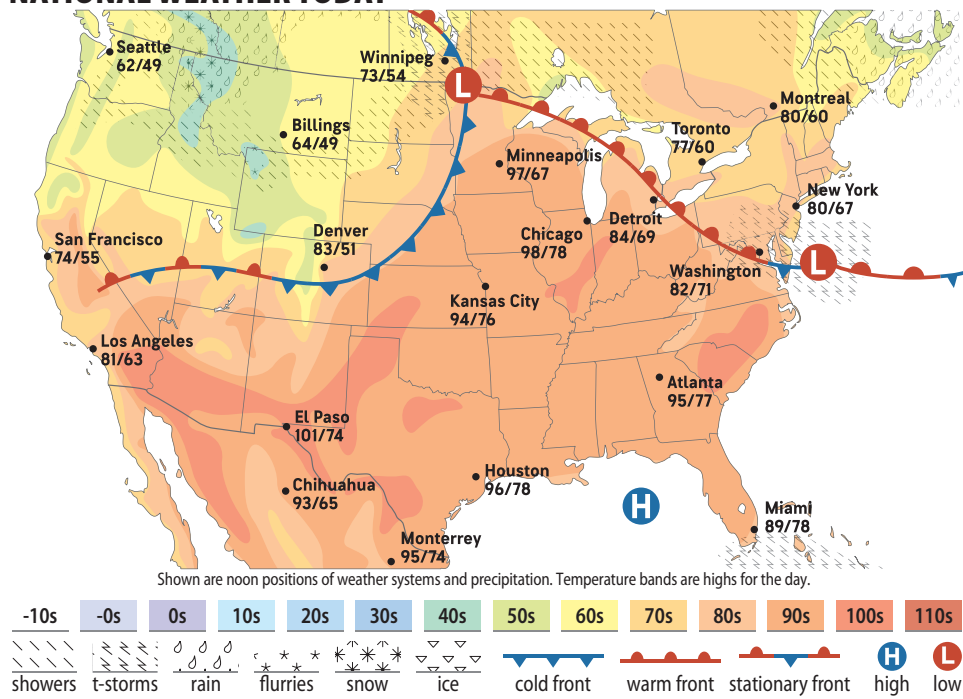
Sunrise today	5:05 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:46 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:47 p.m.
Moonset today	4:55 a.m.

Full Last New First
June 14 June 20 June 28 July 6

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 108° in Pecos, Texas Low 29° in Lakeview, Ore.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



ODFW to help eliminate wolf

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

CROW CREEK — State officials have agreed to help with the lethal removal of one Chesnimnus pack wolf after repeated attacks on livestock in Wallowa County, a spokesperson for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said Thursday, June 9.

Michelle Dennehy, of ODFW, said only one wolf has so far been taken under a kill permit issued April 29 and extended to June 14. That permit was for two wolves and an agent of Crow Creek rancher Tom Birkmaier shot one wolf in May.

The permit allowed Birkmaier or his agent to kill two wolves in Dorrance Pasture or Trap Canyon Pasture, where recent depredations on cattle occurred, he said when the permit was issued. Dennehy said since one wolf has been taken, the permit is good for one more. The ODFW website stated it would be updated if another wolf is killed or the permit is reissued.

At the time, Birkmaier asked ODFW to "remove" — or completely kill — the Chesnimnus pack given its propensity toward predatory behavior, but the agency just issued the kill permits.

John Williams, co-chairman of the wolf committee Oregon Cattlemen's Association, said ranchers are busy enough and shouldn't have to do what he considered the ODFW's job of managing the wolves.

"When there's a time to kill wolves, they're the ones who should be doing it," Williams said last month of ODFW.

The minimum known count of wolves in Oregon at the end of 2021 was 175 wolves, an increase of two wolves over the 2020 number, according to the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management 2021 Annual Report released April 19.

According to a May 24 report in The Oregonian, one wolf that had been part



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/Contributed Photo, File
The breeding male of the new Chesnimnus Pack walks into camera view in December 2018 during the winter survey on U.S. Forest Service land in northern Wallowa County. Oregon officials Thursday, June 9, 2022, agreed to help with the lethal removal of one member of the pack.

of the Chesnimnus pack and found dead Jan. 8 southeast of Wallowa originally was determined to have been killed by a gunshot wound, Oregon State Police said at the time. But the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory in Ashland conducted an analysis that showed the wolf actually died of blunt-force trauma to the chest and pelvis. State police said and those injuries were consistent with being hit by a car.

Nonlethal efforts tried

Birkmaier has been known for his efforts to use nonlethal deterrents to keep wolves at bay.

"He's doing every nonlethal (action) everybody can dream up," Williams said. "What was more effective was he had a lot of people out there helping with nonlethal presence of humans."

"I'm still continuing the relentless nonlethal measures, including two AM-FM radios, two fox lights that come on at night and motion-triggered noise-making devices that have a siren and flashing lights," Birkmaier said. "I've been putting those in saddles on ridges or any natural crossing area where wolves may enter pasture."

Dennehy confirmed "the producer" has been attempt-

ing to use nonlethal methods of deterring wolf attacks with limited success.

More livestock deaths

ODFW in its ongoing Wolf Depredation Report on June 8 reported one more confirmed and one probable wolf kills of livestock in Wallowa County.

The two were attributed to the Chesnimnus pack, one a 225-pound, 4-month-old calf in the Chesnimnus Creek area June 4 and the other a 245-pound, 2½-month-old calf in the Crow Creek area the same day.

Another three kills were confirmed June 6 in the Daly Creek area of Baker County. They were attributed to the Lookout Mountain pack, ODFW reported.

The Chesnimnus pack has been reported to have killed numerous livestock in Wallowa County this year.

The report lists five confirmed or probable wolf kills of livestock in Wallowa County and two others designated "possible/other" since early May. In that time, another 18 confirmed/probable and 10 possible/other kills are listed in the report for neighboring counties. The livestock deaths, while mostly cattle, also include sheep, goats, working dogs and at least one horse, according to the ODFW.

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