

Easement at Wallowa Lake Lodge to be dedicated Thursday

Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA LAKE — A conservation easement to the Nez Perce Tribe from Wallowa Lake Lodge will be dedicated Thursday, July 21, according to a press release.

The public ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at the lodge.

Since time immemorial, Wallowa Lake has served as the cultural heart of the local Nez Perce Wal'wama Band, according to the release. The easement encompasses the 9.22-acre lodge property, including its open ground, towering old-growth trees and riparian wetlands at the confluence of the Upper Wallowa River and Wallowa Lake.

The Cayuse-Nez Perce word for this special place is Waala'amkt, "where the braided stream disappears beneath the water."

The easement, acquired in late 2020 and today held in perpetuity by the tribe, will ensure protection of fisheries habitat and cultural resources by precluding or restricting additional development, especially in the Aquatic Zone A. It allows use of the property for a variety of activities, but does not allow permanent structures



Talia Jean Galvin/Contributed Photo

Wallowa Lake Lodge is providing a conservation easement to the Nez Perce Tribe that encompasses the 9.22-acre lodge property. The dedication ceremony for the transaction is Thursday, July 21, 2022, at the lodge.

in protected areas (Zones A and B). Limited construction is permitted in two modest building envelopes (Zone C).

The tribe and the lodge welcome the public to attend this long-awaited dedication. Tribal Chairman Sam Penney will lead the celebration to officially dedicate the easement. Others will comment on its cultural and scientific

significance and the implications for future management of the Wallowa Lake Basin.

Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands (Wallowology) and Oregon State Parks worked closely with the tribe and the lodge to help bring this unique partnership to fruition.

Funding for the \$1M project includes grants from

the Collins Foundation, the Healy Foundation, the Oregon Community Foundation, the Murdock Charitable Trust, the Meyer Memorial Trust and the Pacific Power Foundation. As well, Craft3, a bank based in Astoria, and the Bank of Eastern Oregon, played critical roles.

A private lunch follows the celebration.

EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

Northwest writers flock to La Grande Lit Week

By SHANNON GOLDEN
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University kicks off the inaugural La Grande Lit Week, July 17-23, a project of the university's Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing that will celebrate writers of the Pacific Northwest.

Nick Neely, assistant professor of English and writing at Eastern, hopes the series of events and conversations will connect local residents with aspiring and established writers alike.

"We're trying to turn outward and make sure that we engage with the public," Neely said.

The week-long event gets underway Sunday, June 17, featuring readings and conversations with faculty and visiting writers in La Grande eateries, coffee shops, bars and landmarks — all free and open to the public. Locals can even attend an evening poetry reading at Morgan Lake.

The week's lineup includes winners of the Oregon Book Awards, the

Washington State Book Awards and the Pacific Northwest Book Awards as well as authors touring newly released books and EOU's MFA students.

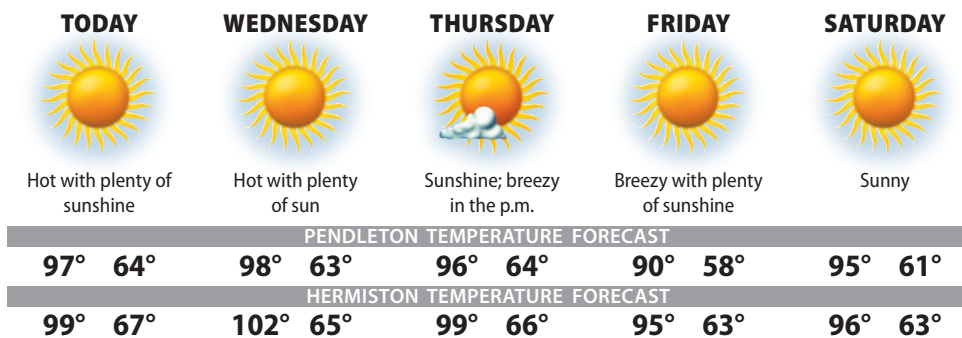
Faculty and writers will teach classes throughout the week that the public can sign up to participate in. These hour-long community classes cover a range of topics such as "Storytelling Science," "Writing Toward Joy" and "Demystifying Historical Fiction." Registration for each class is \$20.

In order to host the week-long project, the MFA program received a grant from the Union County Chamber of Commerce. Neely is hopeful the project will become an annual event.

"I think it's going to be a great tradition for La Grande," he said.

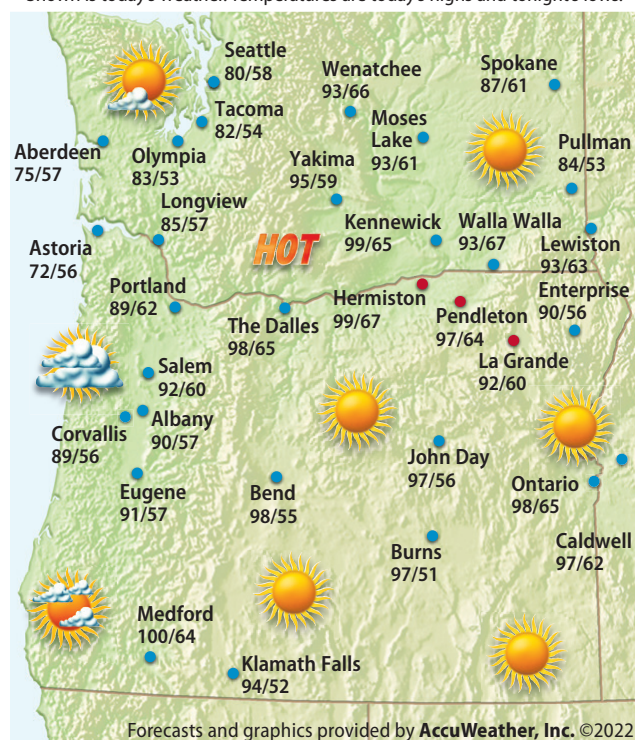
The creative writing program is low residency, meaning students complete most of their degree remotely. This week, many of the two dozen MFA students gathered at Wallowa Lake — at the edge of the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area — for the Summer Fishtap Gathering of Writers.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



ALMANAC

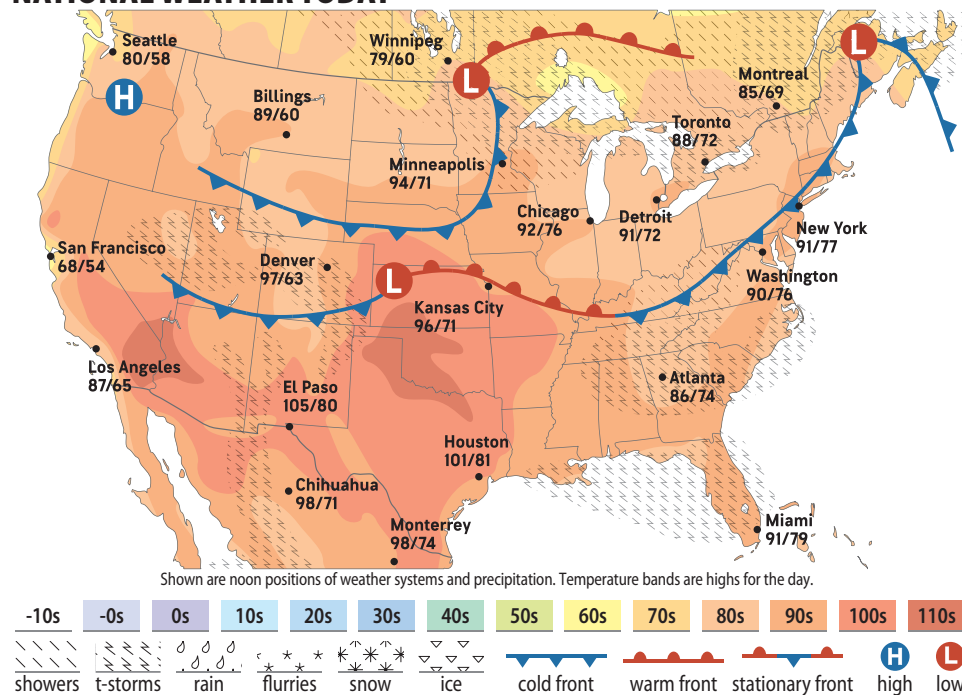
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. Mon.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Monday	81°	57°	
Normals	91°	59°	
Records	108° (1960)	43° (1915)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	0.31"		
Normal month to date	0.23"		
Year to date	11.13"		
Last year to date	4.32"		
Normal year to date	8.18"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. Mon.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Monday	84°	59°	
Normals	94°	59°	
Records	109° (1960)	43° (1945)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	0.03"		
Normal month to date	0.07"		
Year to date	7.48"		
Last year to date	2.46"		
Normal year to date	5.09"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Today	Wed.		
Boardman	SW 4-8	WSW 8-16	
Pendleton	NW 4-8	W 7-14	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	5:24 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	8:38 p.m.		
Moonrise today	none		
Moonset today	12:33 p.m.		
Last New First Full			
July 20	July 28	Aug 5	Aug 11

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 111° in Comanche, Texas Low 34° in Afton, Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



BAKER CITY

Shooting suspect could be charged as adult

By JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Baker County District Attorney Greg Baxter is seeking to have the 17-year-old suspect in a fatal shooting in Baker City on Wednesday, July 13 tried for second-degree murder and unlawful use of a weapon as an adult rather than a juvenile.

Baxter confirmed on Friday, July 15 that he had filed for a motion for a waiver under an Oregon law, ORS 419C.349.

Under that law, a district attorney can seek a hearing in a case in which a suspect who was 15, 16 or 17 years old is accused of a crime that, if committed by an adult, would constitute a Class A or Class B felony.

The male suspect is accused of fatally shooting another juvenile male just after midnight on July 13 in the parking lot at the Baker Technical Institute, on the Baker High School campus.

Police have not released the name of the victim or the suspect, nor have they given the age of the victim, who died at the scene.

Police haven't said what type of gun was used.

Baxter said he couldn't

give any additional details. He said the investigation is continuing.

The 17-year-old suspect was taken to a juvenile detention facility in The Dalles.

The shooting was reported at 12:25 a.m. on July 13, according to a press release from the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

The caller told a dispatcher that the shooting suspect had fled.

Baker City Police officers responded and found a male juvenile with a gunshot wound. Efforts to save the victim were not successful.

Police also found a female juvenile at the scene who was not hurt.

Police haven't said whether the female juvenile who was in the parking lot reported the shooting, or whether someone else called police.

According to the state law dealing with juveniles being prosecuted as adults, a judge can consider, among other criteria, whether:

- "The youth at the time of the alleged offense was of sufficient sophistication and maturity to appreciate the nature and quality of the conduct involved."
- "The amenability of the youth to treatment and

rehabilitation given the techniques, facilities and personnel for rehabilitation available to the juvenile court and to the criminal court that would have jurisdiction after transfer" (to adult court).

- "The aggressive, violent, premeditated or willful manner in which the offense was alleged to have been committed."
- "The previous history of the youth, including: prior treatment efforts and out-of-home placements; the physical, emotional and mental health of the youth; the youth's prior record of acts that would be crimes if committed by an adult; the gravity of the loss, damage or injury caused or attempted during the offense."

The law also gives the prosecutor the right to have at least one psychiatrist or licensed psychologist, of the prosecution's choice, examine the juvenile defendant.

Baxter said he doesn't know how long it typically takes for a judge to decide on a motion seeking to prosecute a juvenile defendant in adult court.

A defendant convicted of second-degree murder as an adult could be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

IN BRIEF

Walla Walla man killed in 3-car crash near Stateline Road at Oregon border

MILTON-FREEWATER — A Walla Walla man was killed and his passenger injured in a crash Friday night, July 15, that closed the highway for hours at the state line between College Place and Milton-Freewater.

Feliciano Rodriguez Lara, 47, was driving a 2005 Chevy Aveo hatchback south on state Route 125 at 7:15 p.m. when he failed to stop at the red light on Stateline Road 4 miles south of Walla Walla, according to Washington State Patrol.

His vehicle struck two others in the intersection.

Rodriguez Lara died in the crash. His

passenger, Serafin Perez-Ledesma, 51, of Milton-Freewater, suffered undisclosed injuries; an ambulance took him to Providence St. Mary Medical Center, Walla Walla.

Drugs or alcohol were involved, according to the WSP report, though the cause of the crash was listed as "under investigation." Rodriguez Lara was wearing a seat belt, but his passenger was not, WSP reported.

The other two drivers in the crash were from Washington and were not injured, according to the report.

Brianna J. Kessler, 27, of Dayton, was driving east on Stateline Road in a 2018 Mazda CX-5, and Kathryn K. Carlson, 63, of Richland, was driving north on the highway in a 2014 Lexus.

All three vehicles were totaled.

—EO Media Group

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