

# John Day looks to add 100 homes to city

By **JUSTIN DAVIS**  
*Blue Mountain Eagle*

is 2.41% over a 20-year term.

The plan is to pay off the loan over time using tax increment financing, Ketchum said. Tax increment financing captures any increase in assessed property value within an urban renewal district, with the additional revenues being directed toward the district's stated purpose — in this case, residential development.

## Ironwood Estates

Ironwood Estates, along Valley View Drive on the north side of John Day, is the largest of the three developments. It will add 73 new homes to the city once completed.

Ironwood is part of a subdivision that was conceived 30 years ago, according to developer Russ Young.

"There was already a template and proved concept of the subdivision up there," he said.

The development is in its second phase, with Phase 1 having provided sewer service, water and power to the property. The second phase includes the expansion of streets and utilities for the development of approximately 15.2 acres into 17 single-family residential lots.

Phase 2 of construction also includes 1,750 linear feet of new pavement through the addition of two new cul-de-



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

**Josh Walker uses an excavator to dig trenches for sewer lines June 22, 2022, for The Ridge. The development aims to add 23 new homes to John Day. This is one of three developments underway that could add 100 homes to the town.**

sacs and all the associated utilities for development. Fiber optic internet cable also will be extended to existing lots in the development and will be added to new lots via a grant from Business Oregon, the state's economic development agency.

The estimated cost of this project is just more than \$940,000. The URA will provide up to \$750,000 in cash and in-kind support — primarily in the form of building materials — for the

project. The balance of the cost will be funded by the developer.

Young said work on the project is on hold while he awaits a revised plat and signed agreement from the city.

"We're close," Young said, adding that once the work begins, it should all be completed within three or four months.

"It'll go fast because it's already a part of an existing subdivision," he said. "We

just don't have a finished plat because we're doing some redesigning of sewer and water."

Later phases of Ironwood Estates, Young added, will come in bigger chunks.

"The next phase is when you start to get into the 30 or 40 lot configurations," he said.

## The Ridge and Holmstrom Heights

The Ridge is above The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in John Day,

just south of Highway 26 on the east end of town. It is the second-largest of the three developments and will add 23 new dwelling units to the city once completed.

Approximately 23 acres comprising 12 multi- and single-family residential lots will be developed during the first phase of development.

Lot No. 1 of the development will be used for Oregon's first 3D-printed concrete housing. The 3D-printed dwelling is expected to be completed this summer. It is unknown how many 3D-printed housing units will ultimately wind up in the development.

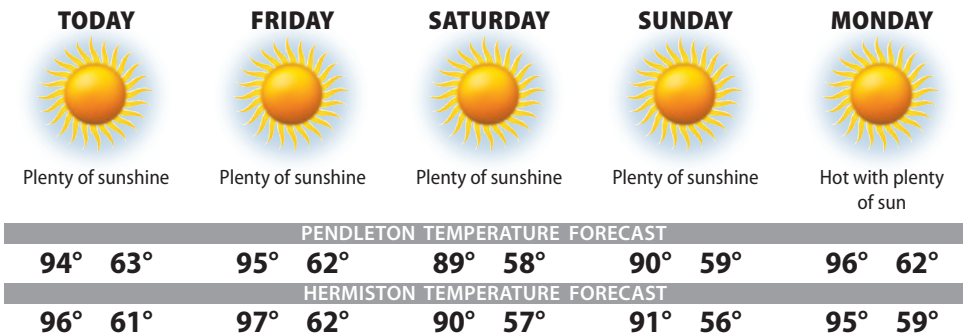
The project is expected to be completed by Oct. 31. The estimated cost of development is \$1.4 million. The URA will provide up to \$750,000 in cash and in-kind support, and the balance of the cost will be contributed by the developer, Mahogany Ridge Properties.

Mahogany Ridge also plans to build the homes on the developed lots.

Approximately 60% of the phase one lots are going to be multifamily units.

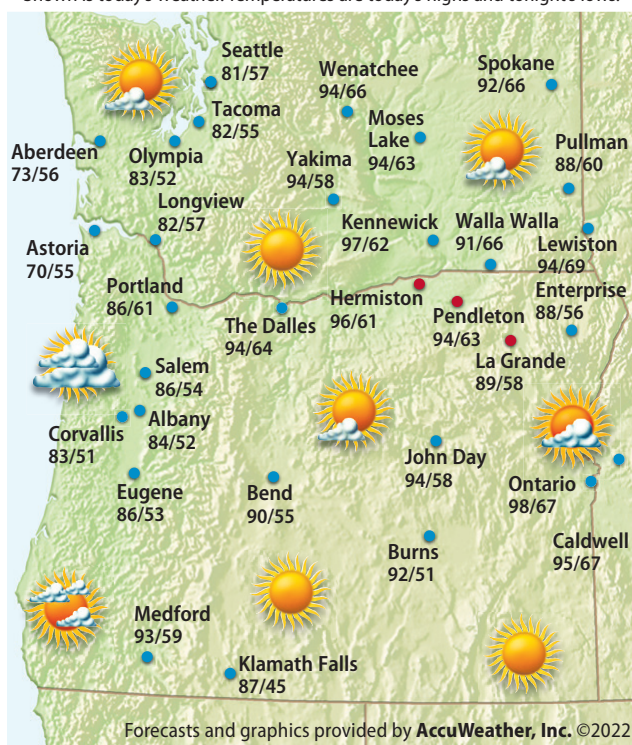
The last and smallest of the three housing developments is Holmstrom Heights at the east end of Charolais Heights on the north side of John Day. Holmstrom Heights will add four new homes to the city.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

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



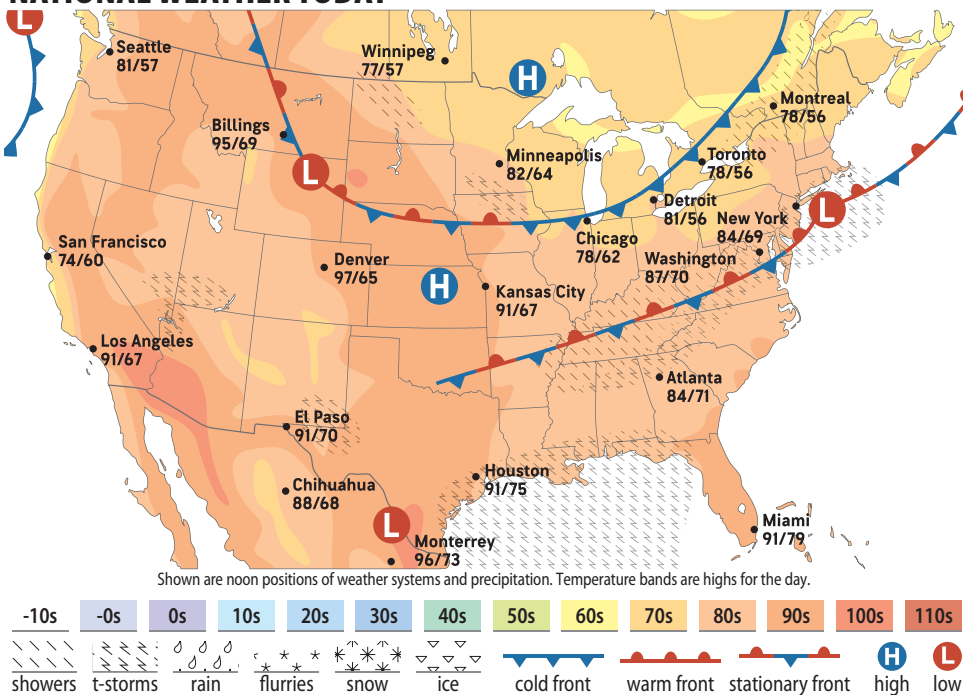
## ALMANAC

Table containing weather almanac data for Pendleton and Hermiston, including temperature, precipitation, and sun/moon data.

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 107° in Palm Springs, Calif. Low 35° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



## EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

# Board of trustees postpones naming an interim president

*The Observer*

BOARDMAN — The Eastern Oregon University board of trustees declined to move forward with a resolution to name an interim president during its annual retreat in Boardman.

The board discussed the possibility of naming an interim president during the retreat on Tuesday, Aug. 9. Outgoing President Tom Insko recommended an interim co-presidency consisting of Vice President of Finance Lara Moore and board chair Richard Chaves. "We need to be thoughtful about the transition, and fortunately, we are financially stable and have a strategic plan that gives us purpose and focus," Insko said. We have momentum and are doing great things for our students and community. My recommendation is about ensuring our progress continues, moving us forward as a university."

After a lengthy discussion,



Insko



Martin

at Collins, a wood products company based in Wilsonville. Insko was appointed Eastern's 12th president in 2015 after more than 20 years as an executive at Boise Cascade.

During its retreat, the board also engaged with area and regional business leaders, local representatives and regional stakeholders to discuss the university's role in business, industry and education in the area. The board hosted several panels made up of educational and business leaders during the two-day retreat. They also hosted a public reception where alumni and community members were able to share their stories with trustees.

"Our partners reiterated what we know to be true here in Eastern Oregon, we are in this together," Chaves said. "We need to continue working with each other to increase access to higher education for everyone in the region."

the board elected not to move in that direction.

"We want to be speedy but not hasty," vice board chair Cheryl Martin said. "The process for naming an interim president is very important. We would like more input and feedback from the university community before we make a decision."

The board plans to gather more input from the EOU community about naming an interim president in the coming weeks. They will continue discussions during a special session later in August.

Insko, who announced Aug. 1 that he is leaving his post at the end of September, has been named president and chief executive officer

## IN BRIEF

### La Grande infant still missing, police say

LA GRANDE — The whereabouts of a 3-month-old boy from La Grande still are unknown after he was reported missing last week by the Oregon Department of Human Services.

Officials believe that the infant, Oakley Miller, went missing with his mother, McKinzie Simonis, on Aug. 3.

"Oakley, as of this morning, is still missing and we are still looking for him," said Jake Sunderland, press secretary of the Oregon Department of Human Services.

According to Union County Sheriff Cody Bowen, Oakley was supposed to be turned over to Child Protective Services and law enforcement believe Simonis took off with the infant.

Bowen said that anytime CPS looks to take custody of a child they are doing so for the safety of that child.

"Now they don't know where the child is at, don't know where the mother is at, that just intensifies it," the sheriff said.

Due to federal child privacy laws, the Oregon Department of Human Services was unable to disclose any additional information outside of what was shared in the initial press release.

The sheriff's office is actively investigating and searching for Oakley. Officers are checking known locations, speaking with family members and following all leads.

Oakley has blonde hair and blue eyes. Anyone who has knowledge of Oakley's whereabouts or believes they have seen him are encouraged to contact the sheriff's office.

—EO Media Group

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