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Contributed photo/National Guard Capt. Leslie Reed  
**U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Joshua Paullus, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, Oregon Army National Guard, shields his eyes from the sun Oct. 2, 2014, to evaluate the work on a Commander's Emergency Response Program project in Kabul, Afghanistan. Paullus, a longtime Pendleton resident, helped his friend, Hussein, relocate from the county to the U.S. with his wife and three daughters to avoid the Taliban.**

# 'As friends we part'

## Pendleton man fears for Afghan family through U.S. evacuation

By Bryce Dole  
EO Media Group

Sgt. Maj. Joshua Paullus speaks to his old friend Hussein once or twice a week. The longtime Pendleton resident listens to the 32-year-old Afghan relate his family's plight in Kabul, Afghanistan, the high-desert metropolis where the two met at a military base seven years ago.

For weeks, half of Hussein's family has been stuck at home, watching the Taliban patrol the streets day and night in trucks and

armored military vehicles, perhaps searching for Afghans like them who worked for the United States during the 20-year war.

The other half, including his mother and father, were stuck at the airport alongside thousands of Afghans, awaiting their escape until nearby explosions killed and wounded scores of Afghan civilians and American service members on Aug. 26. Hussein's family fled back to their home.

"They don't sleep," Hussein said of his family.

Out of concern for his family's safety,

Hussein asked the East Oregonian not to publish his last name.

"When I get note from the embassy, I will tell them, 'Go to the airport.' I tell them, don't take any bags and wear your hijab," he said. "I will tell them to burn everything. If (the Taliban) finds any military document, they will shoot them."

Hussein worked for the U.S. Armed Forces for 15 years, first as a linguist and then as a contractor. By 2015, as Paullus

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EO Media Group/Alex Wittwer

**Mariah Davis pours an IPA for a flight of beers for customers at Terminal Gravity Brewery and Pub on Sept. 2. Terminal Gravity recently closed on Tuesdays following a staff shortage. Many of the kitchen staff are high school students, who have returned to school, leaving the Enterprise brewpub further short staffed.**

# Plan B

## Shortage of employees leads to altered business models

### Editor's Note

This is the second in a five-part series by EO Media Group looking at the issue of the lack of workers for jobs in Central and Eastern Oregon — why workers are not returning to previously held jobs and how businesses are pivoting to function without being fully staffed.

By Davis Carbaugh and Alex Wittwer  
EO Media Group

Enterprise isn't the largest town in Eastern Oregon, with a population of 2,052. But it's just a few miles from the ever-popular town of Joseph and its vistas across Wallowa Lake to the peaks of the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

In a normal summer, Terminal Gravity Brewing in Enterprise would be busy all days of the week serving local, handcrafted beers to patrons and traditional brewpub fare. But due to a labor shortage this summer the company had to cut hours during its lunch rush, and close altogether on Tuesdays.

Natalie Millar, chief executive officer of the Wallowa County brewery, said it's an inevitability that they'll have to close for even more days as their skeleton crew of

cooks, servers and hostesses return to school — high school, to be exact.

"Heading into fall it is looking like we're going to have to cut an additional day and probably cut lunches," Millar said. "It is pretty brutal."

Demand for restaurant meals soared over the summer as restrictions lifted across Oregon. Nearly all restaurants saw a huge uptick in customers. But where demand reached new heights, a new challenge appeared — staffing the restaurants that have balanced narrow margins and threats of closure since the pandemic hit.

In order to keep employees from burning out, Millar cut operating hours and closed

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**Worker Shortage**



SECOND IN A 5-PART SERIES

## Farm Bureau requests expansion of general season elk damage program

### Pilot program only covers main John Day Valley

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Farm Bureau called on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to expand the boundaries of a pilot program allowing for elk damage hunts on private land to encompass all Grant County private lands.

In a Sept. 1. press release, the Grant County Farm Bureau noted ODFW established its elk damage season in 2020. The program aims to control the number of elk that move onto the private property of cattle producers, eat grass, damage equipment and tear down fences, taking a big bite out of their profits.

Because the state governs elk populations, landowners must abide by hunting laws and wildlife



Contributed photo/ODFW

**The Grant County Farm Bureau is seeking a change to help reduce elk damage.**

management objectives.

Ryan Torland, a district biologist with ODFW, told the Eagle in a Sept. 2 email that elk distribution on private and public lands is

a "priority concern" and one that ODFW is working with federal and landowner partners to address.

According to ODFW's website, the program allows landowners and hunters to work together to address damage occurring during the open season directly. With permission from the private landowner, hunters can purchase a cow elk tag to hunt on a specific property within the Murderers Creek and Northside units.

The agency notes that the tag replaces 19 controlled hunts and will replace the need for landowner damage program tags in the areas and during the periods of the hunt. This is the hunter's only elk-hunting opportunity, and they cannot hunt in a different hunting unit.

Torland said that, when the ODFW's commission approved the pilot program for a three-year window, it also developed monitoring

and reporting criteria to assess the new "tool" and make changes that could include a larger swath of private lands within the county.

Over 130 hunters participated in the program, and over 40 of them harvested a cow elk. He said landowners were still learning about the program and expect it to be more popular this season.

Grant County Farm Bureau President Shaun Robertson said the damage from elk populations feasting in pastures intended for livestock has been an ongoing problem on private lands since the federal government began reducing timber harvests in the 1990s.

"Unfortunately, the failure of the federal landowners to address the lack of high-quality forage on their own lands has directly resulted in large numbers of elk translocating to private lands seeking replacement

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