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Lucas Manfield from the Willamette Week reported that EO Media Group, which runs the East Oregonian and 11 other Pacific Northwest newspapers, will soon stop printing five of them.

The La Grande Observer, Blue Mountain Eagle, Hermiston Herald, Wallowa County Chieftain, and Baker City Herald will all cease to publish print editions on July 1, according to an announcement from the chain's publisher, Joe Beach. Subscribers will get copies of the East Oregonian in their mailboxes instead.

The chain is also laying off 28 employees, but the remaining staff at the five papers will "continue to post news online and contribute to the East Oregonian print publication," based in Pendleton. That paper will now "serve as the regional newspaper for all of Northeastern Oregon," according to an article in the East Oregonian announcing the changes.

All five papers, which serve rural Oregon communities, were founded over a century ago. But the rural newspaper business has struggled in recent years, as advertising revenue dropped, and postal costs rose.

EO has previously attempted to stem the loss of print media across the state. Two of the now-affected papers were previously acquired by EO after the bankruptcy of their former owner in 2019. Last year, EO announced it was stepping in to open a new paper in Medford after the shutdown of the Mail Tribune.

But the company ultimately succumbed to the same headwinds. The firm's owners are evaluating "all options" for the company's future, including switching to a nonprofit model.

"Small family-held media companies like EO Media have to adjust operations to the new realities of the industry in order to survive," CEO Heidi Wright said.

## Students selected for the Billy Gentry Memorial Scholarship

Columbia Basin Electric is pleased to announce the recipients of four \$500 Billy Gentry Memorial Scholarships for 2024. The scholarships were awarded to Seniors in our service territory. Applications were accepted from each high school; Condon, Lone, Fossil, and Heppner/Lexington.

This year's recipients are Lyja Whitbeck of Fossil, Irelynn Kollman of Heppner, Casey Nelson of Condon, and Morgan Cutsforth of Heppner.

Lyja Whitbeck is the son of Rob and Lari Whitbeck of Fossil, Oregon. Lyja plans on studying history at the College of the Siskiyous. While at college, he will be playing on their basketball team. He plans on using his degree to become a teacher and hopefully a coach someday. Lyja was an active member of many things, some of them included football, basketball, track & field, student council, and school band.

Irelynn Kollman is the daughter of Brian and Amy Kollman of Heppner, Oregon. Irelynn is considering a career as a PA. She plans to start her education at Boise State University studying biology and minoring in Spanish. Irelynn has been involved in cross country, basketball and track. She has also served as a men-

tor to children, a lifeguard, FFA, as well as many other activities.

Casey Nelson is the son of Eric Nelson, Amanda Richardson, and Matt Kamerrer of Condon, Oregon. Casey plans on attending the University of Idaho to study agriculture business and systems management. Casey has been actively involved in farming since the age of 12. Casey has enjoyed many years participating in 4-H, as well as football, Community Builder Leadership, and many other activities.

Morgan Cutsforth is the daughter of Stanley and Pamela Cutsforth of Heppner. After graduation, Morgan hopes to attend Eastern Oregon University with the goal of being accepted into OHSU's nursing program in her third year. She would like to become a labor and delivery nurse. Morgan has been active in volleyball, basketball, high school softball, as well as club softball. Morgan has also been involved in FFA, FBLA, class president, and vice president her senior year.

Columbia Basin Electric would like to congratulate this year's recipients of the Billy Gentry Memorial Scholarship and wish the best to everyone who applied.

## 2024 Glen Ward Memorial Youth Fishing Derby



Jesse and Maison Gonzales with their 10lbs 9oz fish, Maison took home the trophy for the 6-9 age group. -Photo contributed.



Bram Adams and his father. -Photo contributed



-Contributed Photo



-Contributed Photo



-Contributed Photo

The sun beat down on the grass around the pond at Cutsforth Park for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Glen Ward Memorial Youth Fishing Derby. Fifty-three (53) children of all ages chattered excitedly, their eyes shining with anticipation of catching a big one. The Heppner Elks Lodge prepared and served coco, coffee, water, chili, and hot dogs to the participants during and after the event. The Rice family in memory of Glen donated flashlights for all the registered participants and three bicycles of various sizes for a door prize drawing. Volunteers aided with registration, measuring fish, and handing out participant bags filled with items. A surprise waited in the pond for the fishers as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife surprised everyone with the fish stocked in the pond, one being a record fish for the annual derby. The largest fish of the day and derby history record measured in at 28 1/4 inches and weighed in at 10lbs. 9oz. that was landed by Maison Gonzales who took home a trophy for the 6-9 age group. Ella Brannon not far behind turned in a fish measuring 27 3/4 inches and weighed

8lbs. 6oz. taking home a trophy for the largest fish in the 10-14 age group. Ella didn't stop there she also received a second trophy with her fish measuring 8 1/2 inches weighing a mere 3oz. for the smallest legal fish of the day. Bram Adams represented the 0-5 age category out did himself each time he brought up a fish to be measured. In total Bram turned in four fish with two that were nice 10-inch fish, but he also managed to turn in two that were over 25 inches. Bram's largest fish came in at 26 inches and weighed 5lbs. 5oz. landing him the trophy for the 0-5 age group. In total there were 43 fish turned and measured for an average of 14.8 inches and 2 pounds. There was a total of eight fish that were over 20 inches in length and two plus pounds. Door prize winners were Marcus Umana with the tent, tackle box, game ball set package, Jullian Spicer/Kuhn small red bicycle, Conen Papineau medium blue bicycle, and Ella Brannon the large gray bicycle. After the derby witnesses reported that there were still families and youth fishing landing some larger fish.

Members and Guest please join us at Cutsforth Park, Sunday June 16 at 12 pm for our annual Elks Father's Day Picnic hosted by Loyal Knight Tate Gentry and Molly Dale.



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## ANNUAL WIMER GOLF SCRAMBLE



Best Ball  
Saturday, June 29th

Continental Breakfast,  
Steak Lunch

\$50.00 per person

RSVP by June 22, 2024

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Reduced price

\$350,000

9.09 ACRES

Secluded mountain property! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to own your own mountain property. Whether you're looking for a hunting retreat or a permanent residence, this property has it all. With approximately 9.09 acres of land and a private pond you can embrace the beauty of nature and create a life of serenity in the mountains you've always desired. 80844 Black Mountain Ln Heppner MLS#:23510132

\$160,000

Reduced Price

This charming bungalow is move-in-ready gem! New flooring and light fixtures. It also offers a one-car garage with a utility room attached. The fenced backyard provides a serene view of Willow Creek, with the soothing sounds of the creek flowing at night. MLS#:24544788 - 310 W Union Ave Heppner

New Listing

\$475,000

Experience luxury living in this stunning home located in Heppner, Oregon. Built in 2016, this beautiful property boasts luxurious features such as heated bathroom floors, a central vacuum system, a water softener, and central air for ultimate comfort. Enjoy the convenience of being close to the high school, Heppner pool, baseball park, elementary school, fishing spots, and downtown, all within walking distance. With an expansive lot, this is the perfect opportunity to own your dream home in an ideal location. 480 W Morgan St Heppner

New Listing

\$145,000

350 S Gilmore St, Heppner

For Sale: Charming bungalow with 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom, nestled in a tranquil neighborhood. Spacious backyard ideal for memorable family gatherings. Recent renovations include upgraded floors, kitchen improvements, fresh paint. Home has a mini split for efficient heating and cooling. Conveniently situated near Hagar Park, just a short stroll away from downtown, the hospital, and the elementary school. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity. MLS#: 24241555

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The County Commission has worked hard for you  
**VOTE NO on Recall!**

While serving as your Morrow County Commissioner, I and the other commissioners have faced many tough and difficult decisions. In tackling these issues we we have always acted legally, openly and fairly.

During these complex and sometimes contentious times we have always put your, and the county's interests first. We take these problems and issues seriously and head on, always working towards informed, equitable, legal, and balanced solutions.

Our county is changing, and many new, difficult and challenging tasks lie ahead. Please allow us to continue this important work for you.

**Vote No on this Misguided and Unnecessary Recall!**



David Sykes

**VOTE NO on Recall!**