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WEDNESDAY • August 1, 2018 • \$1

Good day to our valued subscriber Tom Farnham of Elgin

Walden challenged to debate

By Antonio Sierra

Jamie McLeod-Skinner literally stopped traffic to get a debate with Rep. Greg

Walden. As documented on a

video posted to

McLeod-Skin-

ner's campaign Facebook page,

the Terrebonne

strode up to the

cream-colored

convertible

Walden was

and shook his

Democrat





riding in during the Chief Joseph Days Parade in Jo-McLeodseph Saturday Skinner

hand. "I would like to challenge you to at least three debates within the district," she said. "I will debate you in every

single county if you like." McLeod-Skinner continued by telling the 10-term incumbent from Hood River that she would at least like him to debate her three times, one time each in Eastern Oregon, Central Oregon and Southern Oregon.

Walden seemed to answer affirmatively.

"I look forward to debating you," he said. "We'll figure out a schedule that works.

Then the parade had to

move on. Since winning the Democratic nomination in May, McLeod-Skinner said in an interview with the East Oregonian Monday she and Walden have received numerous invitations from various organizations willing to sponsor a debate. Nichole van Eikeren, McLeod-Skinner's campaign manager, said some of those organizations include Central Oregon Community College, the American Association of University Women, and the Grants Pass Daily Courier,

McLeod-Skinner said her campaign accepted these invitations but they didn't receive word about Walden agreeing to the debate.

With both candidates in Joseph for the parade, McLeod-Skinner said "it seemed like a good time to invite him face-to-face."

McLeod-Skinner said she would like to debate Walden in all 20 counties of District 2 to give as many voters a chance to see the candidates as possible.

Regardless of the number of debates, McLeod-See Debate / Page 5A

Dear Abby8B Record3A

Double Up Food Bucks makes dollars go farther

Community rallies to ensure program continues

By Dick Mason

Thanks to generous donations, the Double Up Food Bucks program at the La Grande Farmers Market will continue to help many local families put fresh produce on the table.

The Double Up Food Bucks program — which provides qualifying individuals and families with extra money to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the farmers market — was in peril after its two-year state grant ended last fall. Then the community rallied behind the program, raising at least \$14,000.

"It has been overwhelming," said Liberty Merrill, president of the La Grande Farmers Market Board. "We thought we might get \$10,000. This has been incredible. We had such a great response."

Much of the \$14,000 the Farmers Market has received for the program was donated by Wildhorse Foundation; Grande Ronde Hospital: the Imbler High School FFA chapter, which provided money from a Community 101 Foundation grant; and the



Terryl Aichele, of Aichele Farms, sells fruit at the La Grande Farmers Market Tuesday afternoon. The farmers market has a new program that will help those with EBT cards get more food for their money.

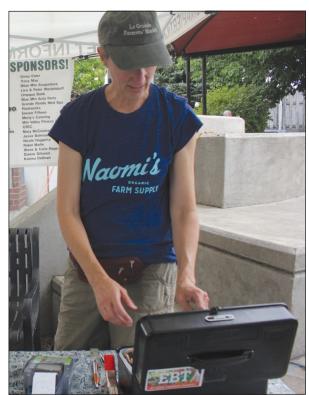
Community Advisory Council of the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization. Thanks to these donations, and organizational help from the Northeast Oregon Network, this summer the La Grande Farmers Market is able to continue providing extra help to those who receive money for food via the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The money SNAP recipients receive comes via an electronic benefit transfer card that can be used at grocery stores, certain businesses and

See Market / Page 5A

"When you take \$10 off your EBT card, we give \$10 free to spend at the farmers market."

- Jessica Bogard, vice president of the La Grande Farmers Market Board



Beth Wasley, who helps operate the farmers market, works at the stand where people can get tokens for their EBT cards.

Cherry Fair says no to political booths

By Dick Mason

Balloon rides, pie-eating contests and sourdough pancake breakfasts will be among the Cove Cherry Fair's offerings, but not politics.

Cindy Edwards, president of the Cove Community Association, which annually puts on the Cherry Fair, is emphasizing this in light of three inquiries and requests the event recently received from two political organizations and a candidate.

The organizations and candidate expressed interest in having booths at this year's Cove Cherry Fair, set for Aug. 18. Edwards said all three were told they cannot have booths at the event. She said they were rejected for two primary reasons. One is the festival traditionally is about family fun and history, not politics.

"It has never been a political thing," Edwards said. "We want people to relax and have a good time."

A second reason is less subjective. Edwards explained the Cove Community Association wants to steer clear of politics in order to maintain its nonprofit 501(c)(3) status.

The Union County Democratic Central Committee, also known as the Union County Democrats, was one of the two political organizations denied an opportunity to have a booth at this year's Cherry Fair. The Union County Democrats requested permission to have a voter registration booth. The booth would have given fair-goers a chance to register as a member of a party or as an independent, said Randy Knop, vice chair and acting treasurer of the Union County Democratic Central

See Booths / Page 5A

Baum Industrial Park drawing business

■ Commissioner Beverage takes the lead in helping businesses

By Cherise Kaechele The Observer

Union County Commissioner Donna Beverage is following up on her campaign promise to help businesses in Union County by being the point person for the Baum Industrial Park.

The Baum Industrial Park is a 60-acre piece of industrial-zoned land owned by the county near the La Grande/Union County airport.

One of the county's goals for this particular piece of land is to bring in businesses that will create family-wage jobs.

Recently, utilities for the park — including a

conduit for electricity, sewer, gas and water were brought to the industrial park in order to make it ready for businesses.

"People are getting interested," Beverage said. "Existing businesses are wanting to expand. The utilities going in is a big incentive, and it's reasonably priced."

Last week, the Union County Commission-

See Park / Page 5A

INDEX

Business......1B Horoscope.....5B Sports... Classified......4B Lottery.....2A Sudoku......3B Comics.....3B Obituaries.....3A Crossword.....3B Opinion.......4A

WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section



Tonight 57 LOW



Thursday 89/51

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FRIDAY

OREGON'S FERAL SWINE NUMBERS PLUMMET

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