

## UNEMPLOYMENT

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are left, where their full employment level would be,” Rich said. “If manufacturers in the area are at full employment level or close to it, then it’s difficult for them to add any more without expansion.”

According to a report from the Oregon Employment Department, during the recession from the second quarter of 2007 to the second quarter of 2009, Oregon’s rural counties lost 27,000 private sector jobs. From the second quarter of 2009 to the second quarter of 2016, Oregon’s rural counties have gained 29,851 jobs. However, the jobs lost and gained are not at the same wage level.

Of the nearly 27,000 jobs lost, 11,374 were in higher-wage industries. Only 6,000 higher-wage jobs have been gained in rural Oregon since the recession. Of

the 29,851 jobs gained since 2009, nearly 14,000 have been in lower-wage industries.

When it comes to per capita personal income, as of 2017, Union County ranked 30th of 36 counties in the state, with an average of \$36,785. Wallowa County ranked 8th with an average of \$43,593 in personal income and Baker County ranked 32nd with \$36,412.

The Oregon Employment Department has made industry employment projections for the decade from 2017 to 2027. Overall, six Eastern Oregon counties — Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Union and Wallowa — are expected to gain 2,840 jobs from 2017 to 2027, a seven percent increase in employment. Private employment is projected to increase from 27,750 jobs to 30,150 jobs, constituting 2,400 of the 2,840 number of created jobs.

The largest percentage growth is expected in the construction

industry, with 320 additional jobs by 2027, a growth of 25 percent. In manufacturing, 270 jobs are expected to be gained in the region by 2027, a 9 percent growth.

One organization trying to bring together employers and job-seekers is WorkSource Oregon, and the local Union County branch, WorkSource La Grande. WorkSource Oregon is a project of the Oregon Employment Department and is described by Deb Gargalis, area manager for Eastern Oregon for the Oregon Employment Department, as a network of private and public partners that help bridge the gap between job-seekers and employers.

WorkSource Oregon includes partners such as the Training and Employment Consortium, Blue Mountain Community College, Eastern Oregon University and Department of Human Services Vocational Rehabilitation. These organizations help job-seekers

receive guidance, training and skill-building in order to qualify for certain job openings.

WorkSource La Grande also helps employers find qualified candidates for their open positions. At times, WorkSource conducts the pre-vetting of applicants for companies.

“We talk to the employer about these various programs and what we can do for them,” Gargalis said. “Basically, what they end up with is a quality, small pool of available workers who are job ready and ready for their employment.”

Both Gargalis and Rich agreed it is currently a job-seeker’s market. This type of market, with a higher number of available jobs and a lower number of candidates, allows job-seekers to be more selective.

“(Job-seekers) are really looking for that perfect employer that matches their skills and abilities and their culture,” Gargalis said.

## QUARRY

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data, to show the project’s impact on the community.

He added although the application says there is no impact on transportation, railroad transportation falls into that category and there will be an impact on that. “The recreational value will be impacted, too,” he said.

Many of the repeated comments revolved around the dust and the visual impacts of the quarry.

After the comments were submitted, Shuck took the opportunity to respond.

“Noise, dust and the impacts — they are good opportunities for us to do a deeper dive into that,” he said. “It’s probably a responsible approach.”

Shuck said he’d like an opportunity to address the question of impacts in the future.

Planning Commission member Melanie Tromp Van Holst said the application should be resubmitted for a new 250-acre aggregate site.

Commission member Joel Hasse agreed and said there are holes in the application that need to be addressed, such as how the dust will be mitigated and the availability of water.

West said at the beginning of the meeting that if the application were to be approved, he would do a big game management plan, but didn’t want to spend the large amount of money to do one if the application wasn’t approved.

The commission members said a big game management plan is necessary for the application to be considered.

Silas Kelty pointed out that one of the public comments questioned what the quarry will do to property values in the Perry area. He said he would like to see more information regarding that.

The applicants were encouraged to get the information that was requested by the commission as well as the public, and to resubmit the application.

# Man airlifted after being tangled in rope, suspended in air for two days

## Condition of victim remains unknown

By Cherise Kaechele

The Observer

A man was airlifted to a regional hospital after being suspended 20 feet in the air for two days north of Highway 244.

According to a press release from the Union County Sheriff’s Office, on Tuesday morning a hunter came across a man who had fallen from a tree stand and was tangled in his safety harness, hanging upside down.

The incident occurred northwest of the Frazier and Four Corners area. The hunter had to drive to the highway to get cellphone reception to call 911.

The La Grande Fire Department responded to the scene and the dispatch-

ers also called the Umatilla County first responders and the Union County Search and Rescue. SAR is trained and equipped for high angle/rope rescue, according to the release.

The man was located and a technical rescue began with assistance from Pendleton ambulance, Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office, U.S. Forest Service and OTEC personnel.

Due to being tangled in his safety harness, which cuts off regular blood flow, the man was likely to suffer compartment syndrome once he was released from the harness. According to LGFD Capt. Robert Tibbetts, compartment syndrome is the release of blood flow after a prolonged

period of time, which will negatively impact the pH levels in the body and can be life threatening.

Tibbetts said in this incident, the rescuers were prepared for compartment syndrome to set in and made plans to use an Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op boom truck bucket to transfer the patient to paramedics as quickly as possible. The man did lose consciousness halfway through the rescue and his heart stopped beating, according to the release.

A landing zone was set up for the rescue and the man was air-lifted to a nearby hospital. His name and his condition were not known at the time of the release.

## DUNN

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ing forest management, particularly when it came to timber harvest and thinning. He was a founding member and chairman of the county’s Natural Resource Advisory Committee.

“What I loved so much was even though Bruce had these really strong opinions, he was always open to listening,” Stein said.

Dunn was facilitating a healthy conversation among people with varying opinions on how the timber stand should be managed, he said.

“Bruce asked us, ‘How can we learn from what we are doing out here?’ as he was reading through the monitoring items we had talked about last year. He was loving it, and he was in such fine form, being a leader and a caring instructor,” Stein said.

Clint Foster, the district’s silviculturist and forester in charge of planning timber sales for the Wallowa Mountains Office, said he chose the group’s first stop that day because it was in an old-growth stand.

“I wanted more than anything to get the group’s buy-in and gauge their comfort level with the (forestry)

prescription,” Foster said. “Bruce was in prime form, pontificating his beliefs on forest management and what we should be doing.”

Jeff Costello is the Wallowa-Whitman Forest Collaborative facilitator. Over the last two years, he said, he has worked closely with Dunn in meetings and in the field.

“He looked so good that day,” Costello said. “He had this excitement about being in the forest — like a little kid at Christmas. He was at home in the forest and he was at home that day.”

As a forester, Dunn’s focus was usually centered on forest health and timber harvest, but Costello said as he facilitated the conversation that day he gave everyone’s concerns equal weight, including the effects on fish, wildlife and soils.

“I was so delighted to watch him be the facilitator. It was Bruce Dunn at his best,” he said.

Costello said he was one of the first in the group to reach Dunn after he collapsed.

Within less than a minute he was in rotation with a handful of others performing CPR on the commissioner-elect as Forest Service personnel called for help on the radio and Williams

and Rod Childers, rancher and vice president of the county’s advisory committee, sought cell service.

Dunn was transported in a pickup truck to Coyote Campground to meet up with a helicopter dispatched from Lewiston, Idaho, Costello said, while the CPR team continued their rotations. He said an ambulance from Enterprise arrived about 15 minutes later.

Despite the medical personnel and equipment on scene, Dunn could not be revived.

Dunn was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1943, the son of a police officer. He studied forestry at Michigan Tech and Michigan State and worked on his family’s tree farm in the northern part of the state until he was hired by the U.S. Forest Service to work in Idaho. In 1978 he met and married his wife, Jane, while studying logging and engineering

systems at Oregon State University. In 1986 Dunn was hired by RY Timber out of Boise, Idaho, to work at the company’s Joseph mill. When the mill was sold in the 1990s, Dunn stayed on as forester, selling logs off of 20,000 acres of north-eastern land owned by RY and managing the land for recreation, hunting and cattle grazing.

In 1992, Snake River chinook salmon were listed as threatened. Dunn, along with a contingency of Wallowa County natural resource professionals and members of the Nez Perce Tribe fisheries staff, wrote the Wallowa County Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Plan, a guide for responsible land use along streams with endangered species.

During his time on the county’s Natural Resource Advisory Committee, Dunn worked with hundreds of forest stakeholders repre-

senting the Forest Service, the state, private industry and environmental activists.

Mary DeAguiro served as the Eagle Cap and Hells Canyon district ranger in Wallowa County from 2004 to 2012. Now the Rocky Mountain Region’s top engineer based in Denver, Colorado, she shared her memories of Dunn.

“Bruce liked to test me and enjoyed keeping me at the top of my game. I would not have achieved what I did as a district ranger had it not been for Bruce,” DeAguiro said.

While the Lower Joseph Creek project has been contentious for nearly a decade, the Lostine River Corridor Safety Project

was planned in much less time through an expedited authority allowed under the 2014 Farm Bill. Sitka Pence was the environmental planner on the project. A lawsuit was filed against the project designed to improve safety in the highly visited area, but the Forest Service prevailed in federal court this month.

Pence shared a memory from a 2016 field trip to the Lostine: “Bruce was so happy we were finally doing something in the Lostine. At the end of the day we were talking; he was leaning on his truck, smoking his pipe with the river behind him. That will be the picture in my mind of him forever.”

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