



SPORTS

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WEDNESDAY • September 5, 2018 • \$1 Good day to our valued subscriber Pat Ogburn of La Grande

Oregon's military story highlighted at National Guard

■ Historian to speak at 3-116th reunion

By Dick Mason
The Observer

Oregon's military history will be the focus of a presentation Sept. 8, at the Blue Mountain Conference Center.

Author Warren Aney is the keynote speaker during a reunion for those who have served as members of the Oregon National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment.

Aney, a former La Grande National Guardsman who lives in Tigard, is the co-author of "Oregon Military," a 2016 book that is part of Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series. The book covers Oregon's involvement in military conflicts ranging from the Spanish American War to Operation Enduring Freedom, and the United States' Global War on Terrorism.

The book also discusses the creation of the Oregon State Militia, which became the Oregon National Guard in 1887, and much more. Aney teamed with Alisha Hamel, a retired National Guard member who now lives in Western Oregon, to write the book, which contains many photos.

Aney's military background dates back to 1953 when he enlisted in Pendleton's Company G, 2nd Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment. He graduated from what is now Oregon State University in 1958 with an Army ROTC Commission and served on active duty at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Fort Lewis, Washington.

Aney moved back to Oregon in 1963 and for about the next decade served in infantry units in Oregon
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■ Enterprise resident spearheads efforts to commemorate deceased at historical cemetery

By Audrey Love
The Observer

"Just another day in paradise" has quite a different meaning for Sue Radford, an Enterprise resident with a personal investment in the restoration and recognition of those laid to rest in Paradise Cemetery. Radford and her group of volunteers, in partnership with Heritage Memorial and Restoration out of Walla Walla, Washington, spent three days restoring 17 dilapidated, century-old headstones in the cemetery, 40 miles north of Enterprise in the Paradise community.

"Through the years I've been thinking it would be nice if that project was done," Radford said, "to bring (the cemetery) back to its natural beauty. I'm so happy that it's (finally) happening."

Years ago, Radford reached out to Heritage Memorial following

their restoration work at Alder Slope, another historic cemetery in Wallowa County. However, a waiting list of other projects prevented Heritage from breaking ground on the Paradise project for a number of years. In the meantime, Radford did what she could to tidy the headstones herself, righting fallen stones and ensuring the cemetery was mowed every Memorial Day weekend — temporary fixes to a crumbling final resting place.

"Some of the veterans didn't even have (grave) markers, and my family always thought (that was) a shame," she said. "When (some of) those people passed away (they) couldn't afford headstones, so there was just a pile of rocks there."

To remedy this, Radford commissioned Wallowa Arts to make 55 metal crosses for unmarked



Sue Radford courtesy photos

Heritage Memorial and Restoration aided Radford on the construction portion of the Paradise Cemetery restoration project, rebasing a total of 17 headstones over the course of three days.

graves — such as those marked with rock piles — or to replace unreadable metal grave markers. Radford and others placed the crosses on Aug. 30.

Because of the cost, Radford originally planned to restore only a handful of headstones at a time. Through the Oregon Parks and
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La Grande candidates ready for elections

■ Incumbent Justin Rock is challenged by Ashley O'Toole for seat on city council

By Cherise Kaechele
The Observer

La Grande City Councilor Justin Rock, who is running for re-election, and challenger Ashley O'Toole each have a strategy for winning the community's vote.

On Tuesday, Rock told The Observer he does not plan to do any special campaigning for his election because he wants to approach the city as a whole and not focus on special groups.

Rock, who owns Rock and Sons in La Grande, said voters are worried about the focus on special groups, which exclude many voters. He doesn't want to look at a piece of the puzzle, but instead focus on its entirety.

He also said he is a conservative voice on the council and

that shows in his approach to fiscal matters.

"We keep getting these (business requests) that we're investing in, but they're not producing what they agreed to produce," Rock said.

Specifically, Rock voiced his opposition to turning the Liberty Theatre's loan into a grant, because the organization did not raise the amount of money the Liberty Theatre Foundation Board said would be raised in the agreed-upon timeframe.

Rock wants to see investments that will benefit the entire city, not only the specific people who requested the money.

"We need to make sure they're good projects we're investing in," he said.

He said examples of successful Urban Renewal Agency investments include Gust Tsatsos, who turned a dilapidated house on Adams Avenue into a thriving business, The Wine Down, and Hines Meat Co., owned by

Jake Hines.

"They came here and they made their business grow," Rock said. "They made what were eyesores to the community into really nice places that will draw people here."

Rock said those two specific businesses should be the "poster child" of URA projects worth investing in.

The incumbent said he believes the people of La Grande, for the most part, agree with his fiscal approach to city council decisions.

"I don't speak a lot (at the city council meetings). I wait until I know it needs to be said," he said. "I try to be a conservative person. I want to do what the majority of the community wants. I'm doing this because I love the community. I want La Grande to have positive growth."

Ashley O'Toole

Ashley O'Toole has started to raise money for his campaign

and plans to network with voters.

"Our first batch of yard signs went out last week, and it's caused a number of people to call and approach me asking for one in their yard," O'Toole wrote in an email to The Observer. "It's reassuring."

For the real estate agent, the housing crisis is a main issue.

"I've seen this problem firsthand as a Realtor and property manager, and it's getting worse each year," O'Toole wrote. "Supply and demand has been a primary cause for both the shortage and rising prices. La Grande wants to grow. We have several employers offering jobs that are attracting workers from outside of our area. Now we need a place to put everyone."

The candidate said he has ideas for La Grande's continued growth.

"I want to meet with lo-
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Soap box derby race comes to Cove

By Max Denning
The Observer

For a weekend in October, a stretch of Haefer Lane in Cove will be transformed into a soap box derby track and the site of a weekend of racing for participants ages 7 through 18.

At the August Cove City Council meeting, Cove resident Sam Delaney approached the council about the potential of hosting an official soap box derby rally race in Cove, coordinated through the national organization All-American Soap Box Derby and the Oregon Soap Box Derby Club, that would attract racers from Oregon and Washington.

The council was enthusiastic about the opportunity but asked Delaney to get a few things in order. First, the council wanted Delaney to check with all of the homeowners on the stretch of Haefer Lane from Jasper Street to Conklin Lane, where the proposed racing would take place. Next, the council requested
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WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section



Tonight
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Partly cloudy



Thursday
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Mostly sunny

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