

GET NOTICED

TOP OF PAGE ONE ADVERTISING SPACE IS NOW AVAILABLE. CALL 541-963-3161 FOR DETAILS.

YOUR AD HERE

★★★ VOTE FOR ★★★

JUSTIN ROCK

CITY COUNCIL POSITION 7

LISTENING TO YOUR VOICE.

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT JUSTIN ROCK



Follow us on the web

THE OBSERVER

SERVING UNION AND WALLOWA COUNTIES SINCE 1896

WEDNESDAY • October 24, 2018 • \$1.50

Good day to our valued subscriber Ross Vanderzanden of La Grande

Farmers' market shuttered for the season

Market manager Beth Wasley concludes nine-year tenure, 2018 season

By Audrey Love
The Observer

The La Grande Farmers' Market is a community staple nearly half the year — but as the seasons change, so must the market (at least until next May).

Running in conjunction with local harvests, the seasonal, open-air market operates Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon and Tuesday afternoons from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. from

May to October, with local vendors offering produce, baked goods, specialty foods, garden products, arts and crafts, and live music at Max Square in downtown La Grande.

"I haven't crunched any numbers yet, but both (markets) seemed like they had more vendors this year — both were really full and it felt like we were always busy," said market manager Beth Wasley. "We added a

lot of events this year (and we've had a lot of community support."

Since its beginnings as the Blue Mountain Local Producers' Market in the 1980s, the market has expanded to include a kids' day, salsa contest, Double Up Food Bucks program, Farm-to-Fork brunch, beer gardens on "4th Tuesday" markets, community cider pressing and, most recently, a pie day, where market-goers paid \$5

a plate to judge bakers' pies and vote on their favorite.

"I know the vendors are happy. I've had a lot of vendors say this is their favorite market — that the people are friendly (and) they love coming here," Wasley said.

Throughout her nine-year tenure as market manager, Wasley has seen the event continually blossom and expand, with Saturday market vendors now numbering in the 30-40 range and Tues-

day's numbers up as well.

"The market has grown exponentially," Wasley said. "Our Tuesday market had 10-15 vendors — up to 20 sometimes — which is crazy. That's the way our Saturday market used to be. (Just) a couple of years ago we averaged (only) five vendors at our Tuesday market."

Wasley also sought to increase the market's online and social media

See **Market** / Page 5A

Hazards of marijuana, opioids addressed

Dick Mason
The Observer

Matt Vogel, a health promotion specialist from Southern Oregon, never

encourages people to use marijuana.

Still, he knows people are going to consume it and urges anyone

doing so to exercise caution since accidentally overdosing is surprisingly easy.

"People need knowledge. They should not use (marijuana) haphazardly," said Vogel, a former college health, wellness and psychology professor who taught for seven years at Southern Oregon University and for 16 altogether at the college level.

Vogel, who spoke to an audience of about 30 EOU students, said marijuana users are most likely to overdose while eating foods containing it instead of smoking it. The psychoactive effect of marijuana is not felt until 90 to 120 minutes after it is eaten, while those smoking it get the psychoactive effect in seconds.

People not realizing this when consuming edibles may

See **Marijuana** / Page 5A

ACE, LGCC talk about lease agreement

Cherise Kaechele
The Observer

Art Center East and the La Grande City Council held a work session on Monday night in a special location to give the councilors an inside look at the art center.

The city councilors met at ACE on Penn Avenue to discuss with the board members some needs they have.

The city and the art center entered into a lease agreement in 2008. Under the agreement, ACE agreed to cover the insurance costs, maintenance and utilities. The city owns the building, but ACE maintains it.

Nancy Knowles, board chair for ACE, said the maintenance cost of the building is very high and there's no real possibility of getting grants for the organization because ACE does not own the building.

Darcy Dolge, executive director of ACE, said funders don't give money to organizations that don't own their buildings because the organization could move out.

She told The Observer on Tuesday donors generally are donating to the overall mission of ACE and not to the maintenance of the building. If ACE were to use donations for the building, that's less money going toward the art.

The board and staff of ACE are looking to the city to help bridge the gap.

At the work session on Monday, Knowles requested a ramp be installed so the building could be ADA accessible. The ACE representatives also pitched the idea of renegotiating the lease agreement so the city could foot the building costs or add a line item to the budget to go toward ACE.

Because this was a work session, the councilors only took suggestions and did not make decisions. However,

See **ACE** / Page 5A

Coho salmon come home to Lostine River after 40-year absence



Cherise Kaechele / The Observer

Part of a reintroduction project sponsored by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Nez Perce Tribe, the first few adult coho salmon were some of 500,000 smolt released during a March 2017 ceremony. Rusty Eschler (below) holds up the female Coho salmon that came into the mouth of the Lostine River earlier this week.

Two fish return, with perhaps thousands close behind



By Katy Nesbitt
For The Observer

After a nearly 40-year absence, the first adult coho salmon entered the mouth of the Lostine River Sunday night. The silvery female is returning to the river where she was released as hatchery smolt in 2017.

According to Rick Zollman, production supervisor at the Nez Perce Tribe's Lostine River weir, the female was 57 centimeters long, healthy and ripe with eggs. Just a day later, a 71 centimeter male coho found his way into the fish trap at the mouth of the river.

In an email Tuesday morning announcing the return of the first two fish from the 2017 release, Jim Harbeck, manager of the Nez Perce Tribe's Joseph Fisheries office, joked, "Now

they're a couple."

What isn't a joke are the odds these fish overcame to get to the Lostine. Part of a reintroduction project sponsored by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Tribe, this first couple of adult coho were some of 500,000 smolt, juvenile salmon ready to migrate to the ocean, released during a ceremony March 9, 2017.

Becky Johnson, Nez Perce Fisheries production division director, said her staff has been watching for data collected from tagged adult fish as they pass over the eight dams, from Bonneville on the Columbia River to Lower Granite on the Snake, from the Pacific Ocean to the Lostine River.

"We are holding our breath watching them come over the

See **Salmon** / Page 2A

Wyden answers community's questions at La Grande Town Hall

By Max Denning
The Observer

Sen. Ron Wyden continued his tour through Eastern Oregon on Tuesday with a stop in the Grande Ronde Valley to hold a town hall at La Grande High School.

With around a hundred people in the audience, high school students and community members asked the senior Democratic senator from Oregon a host of questions covering a wide range of topics, from health care to sanctions for Saudi Arabia.

At the onset of the town hall, Wyden explained when he was first elected he promised to hold town halls in every county in Oregon every year he is in office. The La Grande gathering was his 909th town hall meeting since becoming senator in 1996.

"There is no substitute, in my view, for people being able to look you in the eye

See **Wyden** / Page 5A

INDEX

Business 1B Horoscope 5B Sports 7A
Classified 3B Lottery 2A Sudoku 2B
Comics 2B Obituaries 3A Wordenword 2B
Crossword 5B Opinion 4A
Dear Abby 8B Record 3A

WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section



Tonight
37 Low
Partly cloudy



Thursday
64/46
Clouds and sun

CONTACT US

541-963-3161

Issue 125
2 sections, 16 pages
La Grande, Oregon

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Call The Observer newsroom at 541-963-3161 or send an email to news@lagrandeobserver.com. More contact info on Page 4A.



FRIDAY

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN UNION COUNTY

Online at lagrandeobserver.com