



SPORTS

Magical season ends in semifinals

Walden defeats McLeod-Skinner 2A

THE OBSERVER

SERVING UNION AND WALLOWA COUNTIES SINCE 1896



Follow us on the web

WEDNESDAY • November 7, 2018 • \$1.50 Good day to our valued subscriber Larry Lorscheider of Enterprise

Incumbent Justin Rock keeps seat on La Grande City Council

By Cherise Kaechele The Observer

La Grande City Councilor Justin Rock will retain his position on the council after Tuesday night's race kept him about 10 percent ahead of his challenger, Ashley O'Toole.

Rock received 54 percent of the vote in La Grande, with 2,323 to O'Toole's 45 percent and 1,946 votes, according to the unofficial results.

Rock said he is grateful that voters wanted to keep him in the position.

"I want to thank everyone who voted and supported me," he told The Observer. "I will continue to do the very best I can for them."

Rock will be entering into his second term on the La Grande City Council.

O'Toole said the campaign has been a great life experience and learning experience.

"Justin has been a solid city council member thus far and I'm sure he will continue to do that in his second term," he said, adding he wishes the councilor the best.

When asked whether he would run for council See LGCC / Page 2A

Union County passes Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance

By Max Denning The Observer

Union County became one of eight counties in Oregon to pass a controversial Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance on Tuesday.

The ballot measure passed with 58.73 percent

of the vote.

The ordinance expands the definition of firearms and prohibits the enforcement of laws that regulate the manufacture, sale and possession in Union County. It will require the sheriff to review any state or federal laws affecting

firearms or firearms accessories and determine whether or not they are constitutional. It makes "unconstitutional in Union County any law or regulation that restricts a person from possessing firearms, ammunition, and firearms accessories," according to

the measure.

The measure appeared on the ballot in Baker, Columbia, Douglas, Jackson, Klamath, Lake, Lincoln, Linn, Umatilla and Union counties. The unofficial returns show the measure passing in all but Lincoln and Linn.

Ken Wisdom, chief petitioner for the ballot measure in Union County, said before the election the impetus behind the effort was when a group of Portland faith leaders began collecting signatures for Initiative Petition 43 See Ordinance / Page 2A

THE RESULTS ARE IN:



WES WILLIAMS TAKES DOWN INCUMBENT MONA WILLIAMS IN HOTLY CONTESTED JUDICIAL RACE

By Max Denning The Observer

In one of Northeast Oregon's closest races, Wes Williams has eked out a win against incumbent Mona Williams in the election for 10th Circuit Court Judge, which encompasses Union and Wallowa counties.

Unofficial returns from Union and Wallowa counties had Wes with 52.66 percent of the vote to Mona's 47.17 percent.

Wes said he thought it was important for voters to have a chance to choose their own judge.

"It was important to me to contest the seat because it had been a long time since the voters of See Judge / Page 5A



Audrey Love photos / The Observer

Dewey set to return to Imbler City Council

By Dick Mason The Observer

Teressa Dewey will soon begin her second term on the Imbler City Council — more than two decades after completing her first.

Dewey won the race for Position 5 on the Imbler City Council Tuesday, defeating Terry Clinkenbeard 142 to 29, according to unofficial results from the Union County Clerk's Office.

Dewey will succeed Herman Ortman, who did not file for re-election.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to serve the community. I want to get in there and work on some things I believe need to be worked on," she said.

Dewey previously served on the city council for four years in the 1990s. She grew up in Summerville and has lived in Imbler See Imbler / Page 5A



Courtesy photo



Ronald Bond/The Observer

From top left clockwise, Justin Rock, Ashley O'Toole and Jim Whitbeck took to the stage at the candidate forum in October. Rock and Whitbeck will be stepping into their roles on the La Grande City Council in January. Wes Williams has defeated incumbent Mona Williams for the Union and Wallowa counties circuit court judge position. He will be sworn in in January. The Union County Clerk's Office was filled with counters who helped with the election by sorting and preparing ballots Tuesday night. The final ballots were counted at 1 a.m. Finally, Congressman Greg Walden defeated his challenger Jamie McLeod Skinner for the 2nd Congressional District.

Duffy secures third term as Elgin mayor

By Audrey Love The Observer

Elgin Mayor Allan Duffy has secured his third term as the city's mayor, according to unofficial results for Union County's 2018 general election. After an uncontested race last election cycle, Duffy faced competition from Jon Rutherford but ultimately prevailed with 65.56 percent of the vote compared to Rutherford's 33.74 percent.

"I'm very grateful. Thank you to the great citizens of Elgin for putting their trust in me and giving me two more years," Duffy said. "I think I have a proven track record and (this re-election) shows the

confidence the community (has in me)."

An Elgin resident for 11 years, Duffy has been involved with city government since 2011 when he served on the city's planning commission. He was later appointed to a city council position following a vacancy and served for the next year and a half before eventually running and being elected to a four-year term as a city councilman. After serving two of those four years, Duffy ran for mayor and successfully defeated incumbent John Stover to begin the first of his two terms as mayor.

"It's been exciting. It's an honor

and a privilege when people vote for you to serve them and carry out the business of the city," Duffy told The Observer in a previous article. "It's satisfying when you can make changes and make things better. I think I've done some great things with the city staff and the rest of the city council. We've made some great progress."

Examples of the progress Duffy noted include re-establishing Elgin's municipal court system and ordinance officer position, the construction and grand opening of a health clinic, various infrastructure projects such as recent

See Elgin / Page 5A

INDEX

- Business.....1B Horoscope.....7B Sports.....6A Classified.....4B Lottery.....2A Sudoku.....3B Comics.....3B Obituaries.....2A Wonderword.....3B Crossword.....7B Opinion.....4A Dear Abby.....8B Record.....3A

WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section



Tonight 21 LOW Mainly clear



Thursday 46/22 Sunny

CONTACT US

541-963-3161 Issue 131 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

A SPECIAL VETERANS DAY ISSUE OF THE OBSERVER

Online at lagrandeobserver.com