

LOCAL BRIEFING

Wednesday Night Friendship Dinners will resume in 2019

LA GRANDE — The Wednesday Night Friendship Dinners at the Presbyterian Friendship Center in La Grande will resume on Jan. 16, 2019. The weekly dinners begin at 6 p.m. and the food is prepared by Merlyn’s Catering. There is a suggested donation of \$3.

Celebrate nature rather than consumerism on ‘Green Friday’

SALEM — Oregon Parks and Recreation Department invites people to play for free Nov. 23 in celebration of “Green Friday.” The agency will waive day-use parking fees in 25 state parks the day after Thanksgiving with the aim of encouraging Oregonians to get outside and include a state park outing as part of their holiday tradition. A list of parks that require

day-use parking permits is available at www.oregon-stateparks.org.

No tai chi classes this week at Friendship Center

LA GRANDE — The free Moving for Better Balance tai chi class will not be held the week of Thanksgiving. The free Tuesday and Thursday classes will resume on Nov. 27. The one-hour classes are taught at 9 a.m. by a certified teacher at the Presbyterian Friendship Center, 1204 Spring Ave., La Grande. All ages are welcome.

Donations are needed for UC Warming Station

LA GRANDE — The Union County Warming Station opened for the winter season on Nov. 15 at 1609 N. Willow St., La Grande. Items are being collected to help ensure that all residents stay

warm. The following items may be dropped off at Nature’s Pantry, 1907 Fourth St., La Grande: socks, hats, gloves, scarves, blankets, twin-size sheets, snow suits, snow pants, coats, hand and feet warmers, sleeping bags, backpacks, coffee supplies, breakfast food, non-perishable snacks, microwavable food, bottled water, tents, tarps, laundry soap, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products and disinfectant cleaning supplies. More information is available at www.facebook.com/union-countywarmingstation.

Light up a life with annual Tree of Lights

LA GRANDE — Remembrance cards for the Grande Ronde Hospice’s annual fundraising Tree of Lights are now available for a suggested \$5 donation. The cards will be represented by lights on the Tree of Lights, which will be

lit during a remembrance ceremony at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 8 in Pat’s Alley, downtown La Grande. The tree will remain on display throughout the holidays. The donations help GRH Hospice fulfill the needs of patients and their families throughout the year. Remembrance Cards are now available at Fitzgerald Flowers, Looking Glass Books and GRH Hospice. For details, call 541-963-CARE.

Jingle into Joseph for bazaar, parade

JOSEPH — The annual Jingle thru Joseph holiday bazaar will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 23-24 and Nov. 30-Dec. 1 featuring a variety of gifts, decorations and greenery, including fresh Christmas wreaths and swags. The bazaar takes place at the Joseph Community Center. The Jingle thru Joseph parade is set for Saturday at 5 p.m.

UNION COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

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LUNCH MENU

NOV. 19-23
served 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
MONDAY: chicken pot pie, California blend vegetables, salad greens, bread, fresh fruit.
TUESDAY: hearty fall soup, salad bar, fresh fruit, cornbread, desserts.
WEDNESDAY: Thanksgiving turkey dinner with dressing, cranberries, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans with

almonds, Jell-O, baked breads, pie.
THURSDAY & FRIDAY: closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The La Grande Fire Department responded to 10 calls for medical on Friday, four calls for medical on Saturday and four calls for medical on Sunday.

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF

Arrested: Jessy Feltus, 27, Elgin, was arrested on a charge of a restraining order violation.

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Douglas Charles Haggard, 40, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of first-degree theft.
Arrested: Apkarty Sohs, 27,

unknown address, was arrested on charges of fourth-degree assault and strangulation.

Public Safety Report

The Public Safety Report is compiled from police blotter information supplied by local law enforcement agencies and fire department reports.

OBITUARIES

Elvira D. Bussard

Summerville

Elvira D. Bussard, 85, of Summerville, died Nov. 18. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Anna M. Gooder

La Grande

Anna Mae Gooder, 88, La Grande, died Nov. 17 at Grande Ronde Hospital.

An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Local funerals and visitations

The Observer publishes obituaries that conform to its obituary policy at no cost. Obituaries must be under 450 words and are edited for newspaper style.

House passes bill to drop legal protections for gray wolves

By Matthew Daly

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican-controlled House passed a bill Friday to drop legal protections for gray wolves across the lower 48 states, reopening a lengthy battle over the predator species.

Long despised by farmers and ranchers, wolves were shot, trapped and poisoned out of existence in most of the U.S. by the mid-20th century. Since securing protection in the 1970s, wolves have bounced back in the western Great Lakes states of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as in the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest.

About 5,000 wolves live in the lower 48 states, occupying less than 10 percent of their historic range.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is reviewing the wolf’s status and is expected to declare they’ve recovered sufficiently to be removed from protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The House bill would enshrine that policy in law and restrict judicial review of listing decisions. The measure was approved, 196-180, and now goes to the Senate, where prospects are murkier.

The bill’s chief sponsor, Rep. Sean Duffy, R-Wis., said

farmers in Wisconsin and other states are “one step closer to having the legal means to defend their livestock from gray wolves.”

States should be responsible for managing wolf populations, “not Washington bureaucrats,” Duffy said.

Environmental groups and many Democrats slammed the bill as a last-ditch effort by Republicans to push a pro-rancher agenda after losing control of the House in this month’s midterm elections.

“This final, pathetic stab at wolves exemplifies House Republicans’ longstanding cruelty and contempt for our nation’s wildlife,” said Brett Hartl, government affairs director for the Center

for Biological Diversity, an Arizona-based environmental group.

“The American people overwhelmingly support the Endangered Species Act and the magnificent animals and plants it protects,” Hartl said. “We don’t expect to see these disgraceful anti-wildlife votes next year under Democratic control of the House.”

Livestock industry associations representing ranchers who have to contend with wolves scaring and attacking cattle and sheep supported the bill. They said in a letter to Congress that wolf populations have recovered to the extent that the animal would have been removed from the endangered species list if not for “activist litigants” who

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