Local Briefing

From staff reports

NE Area Commission on Transportation meets on Dec. 6

LA GRANDE — The North East Area Commission on Transportation will hold its next meeting from 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 6 at the Oregon Department of Transportation Region 5 Headquarters, 3012 Island Ave., La Grande. The NEACT is composed of transportation stakeholders from Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Baker counties and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Time has been set aside for public comments regarding project proposals and other transportation-related topics. To schedule time on the agenda at NEACT meetings, contact Sheri Folsom at 541-963-3179 or Sheri.Folsom@odot.state.or.us.

An Area Commission on Transportation is an advisory body chartered by the Oregon Transportation Commission to help address all aspects of transportation. More information about ACTs is available at www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Get-Involved/Pages/Area_Commissions.

Parents of LHS students may schedule Friday conference

LA GRANDE — La Grande School District is holding parent-teacher conferences Dec. 7. Parents of LHS students are encouraged to check Family Link and, if concerned about their student's grade, to make an appointment with their teacher(s). This is an opportunity for students and parents to meet to discuss assignments and interventions to improve the first semester's transcribed grades. This is especially important for high school credit bearing courses before the end of the semester, Jan. 17, 2019.

Saturday ski swap benefits ski club, ice rink

ENTERPRISE — A ski swap to benefit the Eagle Cap Ski Club and the Wallowa Valley Community Ice Rink is planned for Dec. 8 at the Odd Fellows Hall, 107 NE First St., Enterprise. Anyone who would like to sell gear should come by between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. The swap itself will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Used and new equipment from Dusty's in Walla Walla, Washington, and skis, boots, poles, snowboards and ice skates will be for sale. For more information call Andie Lueders at 541-263-1188.

Book and asset sale benefits Wallowa County libraries

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa Valley Library Foundation is having a book and asset liquidation sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Wallowa County Library, 207 W. Logan St., Enterprise. Everything is priced to sell, and all proceeds will go to the WVLF, whose primary purpose is to enhance Wallowa County's libraries.

Historical Society remembers music of Dottie Brown

LA GRANDE — The Union County Historical Society will meet Dec. 8, at the log cabin at the Union County Fairgrounds. A noon potluck will be followed by the Blue Mountaineers and the annual memorial musical tribute to Dottie Brown.

Pearl Harbor remembrance dinner held Saturday

UNION — In memory of the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and to honor World War II veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars High Valley Post 4060 is sponsoring a dinner that will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at the VFW Hall in Union. On the menu is ribeye steak, baked potatoes, baked beans and salad. The public is welcome. Tickets are $14 per person. World War II vets and their spouses eat free. For more information, call Ken McCormack at 541-805-9321.

Baked potato fundraiser feeds hungry fans

UNION — Grande Ronde Valley Eastern Star is hosting a baked potato fundraiser from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 8 in the S.E. Miller gym/cafeteria. The baked potato bar will include a variety of toppings, plus salad and dessert. Cost is $5, and patrons are welcome to dine in or take it to go.Coffee and bottled water will also be available for purchase. Sports fans attending the Lions Basketball Tournament at Union High School across the parking lot are encouraged to come by and fuel their cheering. Proceeds will go toward supporting local food banks. Call 541-975-9495 or 541-562-5550 for more information.

Union and Cove senior citizens invited to Christmas dinner

UNION — Sacred Heart's annual Senior Citizen Christmas Dinner will be served from noon to 2 p.m. Dec. 9 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 340 10th St., Union. All senior citizens in the communities of Union and Cove are invited to a complimentary turkey and ham dinner with all the trimmings. There will also be raffle prizes and good company.

Annual Cove toy drive begins

COVE — The 20th annual toy drive benefiting Cove children is now under way. Donations of new unwrapped toys may be dropped off at Cheri's Main Street Salon, 603 Main St., Cove, until Dec. 13. The toys will be distributed by the Cove United Methodist Church to Cove area children on Dec. 14. For more information call Cheri Doren at 541-568-5069.

Cultural Enrichment Grants available

LA GRANDE — The Union County Cultural Coalition is currently accepting applications for its annual Cultural Enrichment Grant program. The UCCC provides matching grants directly to artists and organizations involved in cultural and heritage activities and projects. Applications from groups are encouraged and efforts will be made to fund as many as possible. Applications can be found at www.unioncountyculture.org. Completed applications must be postmarked by Dec. 31 to be considered. For more information, contact Michael Sell, UCCC chair, at msell@eou.edu or 541-962-3437.

Post offices closed in rememberance of former president

Federal offices, including the Postal Service, will be closed today for a national day of mourning for former President George H.W. Bush, who passed away Friday. Mail will not be delivered.

Santa is ready for his close-up

LA GRANDE — Santa Claus will be at Northeast Oregon Physical Therapy, 301 Fourth St., La Grande, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 9. Bring your kids to have their photo taken with St. Nick.

The photos will be available online for free and low-price units will be sold.

The photo op is hosted by Tribe Nomad, and funds raised will go to families in need.

Cove Library spreads holiday cheer

COVE — Stop by the Cove Library for refreshments and some holiday cheer between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Dec. 10. All are welcome to attend the Holiday Open House at the library, 606 Main St.

Mountain Works celebrates 40 years

LA GRANDE — The Union County Chamber of Commerce invites the community to celebrate 40 years of The Mountain Works in La Grande from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 7. There will be a potluck at the shop, 1301 Adams Ave., with a raffle, games, special sales and a happy hour. Come by for a quick visit or stay for the whole party.

Obituaries

Velma LeClair-Asher

La Grande

Velma LeClair-Asher, 86, of La Grande, died Dec. 3 at her residence. 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.

Public Safety Report

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cited:Two Union County juveniles were each cited on a charge of unlawful possession of marijuana by a minor.

OREGON STATE POLICE

Arrested: George Frederick Jones, 53, Rochester, Washington, was arrested on charges of first-degree failure to appear in court, second-degree failure to appear in court and providing false information to a police officer.

Arrested: Olivia Ann Golightly, 24, Boise, Idaho, was arrested on a warrant out of Ada County in Idaho.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The La Grande Fire Department responded to two calls for medical on Monday and two calls for medical on Tuesday.

Public Safety Report

The Public Safety Report is compiled from police blotter information supplied by local law enforcement agencies and fire department reports. Individuals named as arrested and/or charged with crimes in this report are presumed innocent until proved guilty in a court of law.

Oregon's trumpeter swan breeding program adds new pair

Two new swans arrived at Pronghorn Resort near Bend on Monday in efforts to restore population

WesCom News Service

BEND — Oregon's trumpeter swan breeding program has added a new pair of the elegant white water birds as part of its ongoing bid to restore the population of the species after it was hunted to near-extinction.

A 4-year-old male arrived at Pronghorn Resort near Bend from Pennsylvania and his mate, a 3-year-old female, came from Indiana, The Bulletin reported Monday.

The birds were purchased for about $2,600 each by the Trumpeter Swam Society and arrived by a commercial airplane.

Bend resident Gary Ivey, past president of the Trumpeter Swan Society and former biologist at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, picked up the swans at the Portland International Airport and released them Nov. 12 at the resort. The swans can be seen gliding along a pond near the 18th hole of the resort's Tom Fazio Championship Course.

"They seem to have taken to each other right away," Ivey said.

The pair represents a potential boost to the state's recovery effort.

In recent years, the repopulation effort hit multiple setbacks from illegal hunting and deadly run-ins with power lines, coyotes and even a lightning strike.

Last year, five pairs across the state produced 17 baby swans, or cygnets. But that is short of the state's goal to have 15 breeding pairs, enough to sustain a wild population.

State wildlife officials hope the new pair starts mating in the spring.

Any cygnets from the pair would be transported to the Summer Lake Wildlife Area, 30 square miles of wetlands in central Lake County overseen by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Courtesy Photo

A pair of swans were purchased by theTrumpeter Swan Society.They reside at the Pronghorn Resort near Bend.

The Summer Lake area allows cygnets that are hatched in captive environments such as the Pronghorn Resort to grow up and produce young of their own in the wild.

Swans that are raised in the wild are more savvy and likely to survive, Ivey said.

"We should start to see these wild-hatched birds breeding in a couple years," he said.

During past breeding seasons, wildlife officials could count on cygnets from the Sunriver Nature Center's beloved Chuck and Gracie. The pair produced six offspring over the years and was considered an important piece to the repopulation effort.

But a year ago, Chuck was illegally shot and killed by a hunter on the Deschutes River.

The resort has also lost two swans to coyotes.

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Holiday Party!
Friday, December 14
5 - 8pm
7 pm
Photography Presentation
by Rick McEwan
Hosted Bar & Holiday Drinks
Desserts & Light Snacks
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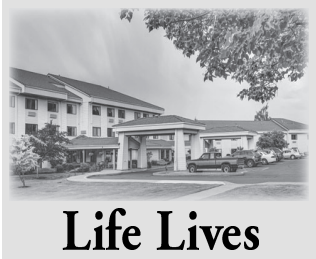
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• When you suspect a stroke – facial droop, weakness on one side, slurred speech
• After an accident or injury where you suspect a concussion, broken bone, internal injury, or other serious condition.
For most other health concerns, call your primary care doctor or provider. For life-threatening emergencies, call 9-1-1.
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