

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

OSP: Be aware of financial scams

LA GRANDE — A press release from Oregon State Police Sgt. Kyle L. Hove announced that detectives from OSP Baker City had relayed they recently stopped an elderly individual from being scammed out of money in the Baker City area.

The scam involved the victim being mailed a check to be deposited into their account. The victim was then requested to mail the money to an address with the promise of being paid or winning a larger sum. According to OSP, ultimately the victim would have been out the amount of money deposited due to it being a bad check.

The Oregon State Police would like to remind everyone that there are a lot of different kinds of scams out there. Make sure you always verify who you are in contact with prior to sharing information or money with them.

Christmas trees collected for recycling

LA GRANDE — Wood smoke has been identified as the major source of air pollution in the months of January and February. The La Grande Air Quality Commission encourages residents to recycle rather than burn their Christmas trees.

Two local groups will be collecting trees for recycling from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 29 in La Grande. The recycled trees will be taken to Ladd Marsh outside of La Grande to be used as animal cover.

Boy Scout Troop 511 will be set up in the Walmart parking lot on Island Avenue (to arrange pickup, call 541-975-2000), and the La Grande High School Swim Team will be in the Safeway parking lot on Adams Avenue (for pickup, call 541-805-0581).

The cost to drop off a tree is \$5, and pickup is \$6 per tree. There is an additional charge of \$6 for tinned trees.

Smart Driver class held in January

LA GRANDE — There will be an AARP “Smart Driver” class Jan. 19 at Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande. The Saturday class will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an hour break for lunch. Cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. The class is open to all, and those who complete the course are eligible for a discount on their auto insurance. Call Fred Moore at 541-910-9797 for information and to sign up.

Free course offered on diabetes self-management

LA GRANDE — A free Diabetes Self-Management series will begin Jan. 10, 2019, in La Grande and is open to the public. The classes will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Thursdays until Feb. 14 in the Community Connection Transit Hub, 2204 E. Penn Ave. To ask questions and to

register call Kathy Ganung at 541-963-3186.

Nominations open for Teacher of Year

PENDLETON — Nominations for the Oregon Teacher of the Year awards are now open at www.oregonteacheroftheyear.org. Nominations will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2019.

Anyone can nominate a teacher from any Oregon school district. The Inter-Mountain ESD encourages school staff, students, parents and community members to nominate teachers from its school districts in Baker, Morrow, Umatilla and Union counties.

“It’s great to have people nominate teachers they know and admire, so we have a bigger pool of applicants from which to choose our recipient,” said Michele Madril, Director of Communication for the IMESD.

Each Education Service District in Oregon will

choose a regional teacher who will receive a \$500 cash prize. One of the Regional Teachers of the Year will be named the 2020 Oregon Teacher of the Year in September 2019.

For questions about the Oregon Teacher of the Year program, contact Jenni Knaus, program coordinator, at jenni.knaus@state.or.us.

Video contest promotes workplace safety for young workers

SALEM — High school students across Oregon are invited to let their video skills shine for a good cause: increasing awareness about workplace safety for young workers. The annual video contest — “Speak up. Work safe” — is now open for submissions. The top three entries will take home cash prizes ranging from \$300 to \$500, and students will earn a matching amount for their schools.

Students must create a

90-second or less video that inspires young workers to do at least one thing differently to stay safe on the job. The video must include the theme: “Speak up. Work safe.” The video must educate young workers about the importance of speaking up in the workplace.

The deadline for submissions Feb. 1, 2019. Contest winners will be unveiled at a screening event in spring 2019, and winning entries will be posted on YouTube.

For more information on contest, rules, tips, entry forms, resources and a play list of past finalist videos, go to www.youngemployee.safety.org/contest.

LG School Board meets Jan. 9

LA GRANDE — The Board of Directors of the La Grande School District will hold a regular meeting Jan. 9, 2019. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the District Office Conference Room, 1305 N. Willow.

Opponents decry new dam agreement to help salmon

By Cameron Probert
Tri-City Herald

KENNEWICK, Wash. — A new agreement aims to boost salmon populations and preserve inexpensive power in hopes of ending a decades-long legal battle over the future of the four lower Snake River dams.

Three federal agencies, including the Bonneville Power Administration, joined Oregon and Washington officials and the Nez Perce Tribe in signing off on a three-year plan filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Portland.

The move creates more flexibility for the federal agency running the dams, allowing them to focus on producing power for the eight hours in the day when it’s most needed, and increase the amount of water heading over the dam during the rest of the day.

The changes will affect only the dams’ operations between April and mid-June when spring Chinook are heading to the ocean.

This comes on the heels of a court-ordered spill last spring and while the 2019 spill levels will stay the same, the agreement calls for sending more water over the dams in 2020 and 2021.

Collaboration is the key to the managing the Columbia River system, federal and state officials said in a joint news release.

“Working together, the region’s states, tribes and federal agencies have developed an approach that demonstrates environmental stewardship and affordable sustainable energy are not mutually exclusive,” they said.

Alongside the agreement, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Fish and Wildlife are studying the impact the change will make on the environment.

The federal lawsuit will be paused until those studies are finished.

The agreement aims to help young salmon heading to the ocean while allowing federal officials the ability to be flexible with power production, the administration said.

Environmental groups leading the charge in court, represented by Earthjustice, called the agreement a step forward in the continuing battle over the dams, but not the solution for salmon.

“It is a stop-gap measure to help struggling salmon populations for the next three years,” said Todd True, an Earthjustice attorney. “We should ultimately be working toward restoring a free-flowing lower Snake River by removing the four lower Snake River dams.”

The move is not what Reps. Dan Newhouse, R-Sunnyside, and Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Spokane, were looking for either.

In a joint statement, they called the costly plan “worse than useless.”

They pointed out federal scientists haven’t determined whether increasing the amount spilled would help salmon, and in the meantime, it could cost the administration up to \$38 million.

“Increasing spill to this unprecedented new level may actually threaten young fish with ‘the bends’ due to the effect of increasing dissolved gasses,”

the representatives said in a joint statement. “The purpose of this agreement was to end litigation, but there is no indication that it will even do that.”

Northwest RiverPartners also questioned whether the agreement would really solve the problems faced by salmon in the area. The alliance of farmers, utilities, ports and businesses issued a statement Tuesday.

“We are encouraged that this agreement intends to put a temporary halt to the ongoing litigation that for so long has ill-served our region,” the organization said. “At the same time, we are concerned about the unprecedented and scientifically unproven levels of new spill being contemplated by the agreement.”

The organization’s leaders are calling on the state to study what the effect of the spill will be before signing off on any changes to existing water quality standards. The standards were put in place to protect salmon and other species, and this could invite more lawsuits if it hurts fish.

Whether this change will actually make a difference in the amount of salmon heading to the ocean depends on which scientific study is used. The competing models show drastically different results from sending more water over the dams.

Without more information about whether this will actually benefit the salmon, increasing the amount of water and dissolved gas in the river is a problem, Northwest RiverPartners said.

Federal program pays \$1.4 million to pikeminnow anglers

The Associated Press

SEATTLE, Wash. — A program that pays anglers to catch a predator that eats young salmon and steelhead resulted in more than 180,000 northern pikeminnows being caught and killed in the Columbia and Snake rivers this year, federal officials say.

The anglers were paid \$1.4 million for catching northern pikeminnows from May 1 through Sept. 30, the Bonneville Power Administration announced Friday in a news release.

The annual reward program is funded by the agency and is intended to remove the predatory pikeminnow that eats young salmon and steelhead headed for the ocean. Thirteen populations of salmon and steelhead in Washington, Oregon and Idaho are struggling and listed as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

“We’ve seen a substantial reduction in predation by these fish, which mean young salmon and steelhead have a better chance of making it to the ocean and eventually returning to the basin as adults,” said Eric McOmie, the program’s manager at Bonneville Power Administration.

The agency said anglers removed 11.5 percent of the pike-

minnow population measuring 9 inches or longer, meaning the program successfully met its goal of removing 10 to 20 percent of the predators. Larger fish are believed to eat the most salmon and steelhead.

Anglers who register and participate are paid \$5 to \$8 per fish. As an incentive, wildlife officials released more than 1,000 specially tagged northern pikeminnows worth \$500 if caught by an angler.

The top angler this year earned about \$71,000 after catching 8,600 fish during the five-month season. The top 20 anglers earned an average of \$29,000 each.

The program began in 1990 and, officials said, has resulted in the removal of five million pikeminnows. Officials say that has reduced predation on salmon and steelhead by up to 40 percent.

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Hannah Dawn Clark, 26, La Grande, was arrested Friday morning on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle. Clark was arrested at Fruitdale Lane and Hunter Road after a 2003 Chevy Venture minivan owned by a La Grande man was reported stolen earlier that morning. The man’s vehicle was unlocked and its keys were in the ignition after he had started it for the purpose of warming it up when it was stolen. The man called 911 to report the theft after which a vehicle matching his description was found at Fruitdale Lane and Hunter Road by the La Grande Police.

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Arrested: Christopher Charles Hayward, 42, unknown address, was arrested by the King County (Washington) Sheriff’s Office on a Union County warrant charging a probation violation. The alleged probation violation was connected to an original charge of possession of a controlled substance, oxycodone.

Arrested: A Union County juvenile was arrested on a charge of first-degree sex abuse.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

La Grande Fire Department responded to four calls for medical on Friday, eight calls for medical on Saturday and six calls for medical and one flue fire on Sunday.

OBITUARIES

Margaret B. Keith
La Grande
Margaret B. Keith, 96, of La Grande, died Dec. 21 at her residence. A funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Dec. 28 at the Trinity Baptist Church. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Caroline V. Angotti
La Grande
Caroline V. Angotti, 97, of La Grande, died Dec. 21 at her residence. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

I would like to thank my valued customers, residential & commercial

Wishing you a Merry Christmas & Safe & Happy New Year!



Don's Lawn Service
Don Junker, owner

What’s Cooking ?

by Sandy Sorrels of

TEN DEPOT STREET



Merry Christmas to all of you from the Crew at Ten Depot Street! We hope your holidays are filled with joy and contentment.

Ten Depot Street is closed today through Wednesday and open again on Thursday, December 27.

Thursday night this week *Too Bamboo* with Greg Johnson and Al McLeod will be playing original Americana and Blues from 8:00 until 10:00.

And since we only have two days this week, we will continue having the popular baked Salmon for the *Blue Plate Special*

New Years Eve is just a week away. Celebrating New Year’s Eve at Ten Depot Street is a great way to welcome in the New Year. It’s the place to have a favorite drink, a great meal, listen to some live music and perhaps dance a little. This year *Holly*

Sorensen and her band will play from 9:00 until 11:30 so that everyone can go to the town ball drop at midnight.

Our specials on New Year’s Eve will include for one of our appetizers, Chef Bill Monda’s famous *Oysters Rockefeller* and for entrees, *Tenderloin Steak and Lobster, Jumbo Shrimp, and Scallop Brochette, New York Steak, and Lamb Chops*. We always have plenty of our delicious slow roasted *Prime Rib*, as well as the many other items on our regular menu. Have a bottle of wine or champagne from our list or try one of our many micro-brew beers. Complete your dinner with a delicious homemade dessert, a *Hot Fudge Sundae, Triple Layer Chocolate Cake, or Chocolate Hazelnut Tort*. And if you haven’t tried our Cheesecake... there is no better. Call 541 963-8766 for reservations.



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