

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

BMTD announces special meeting

LA GRANDE — The Blue Mountain Translator District Board of Directors will hold a special meeting at noon Jan. 15 at Bud Jackson's, 2209 Adams Ave., La Grande. A discussion of the channel outage is planned. The agenda will be posted at www.bmtd.org/public-notice prior to the meeting.

Community dinners resume this week

LA GRANDE — The Wednesday Night Dinners at the Presbyterian Friendship Center will resume on Jan. 16. The meals are served at 6 p.m. and all are welcome.

IMESD meets Wednesday

PENDLETON — The Board of Directors of the

InterMountain Education Service District will have a regular board meeting Jan. 16. The meeting begins at 5 p.m. at the IMESD, 2001 SW Nye Ave., Pendleton.

Gentle yoga class held at library

LA GRANDE — Cook Memorial Library is hosting another free session of Gentle Yoga for adults from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednes-

days beginning Jan. 16 in the Community Room (class will not be held the second Wednesday of the month). The class is led by Kitia Chambers, and no experience is necessary. Mats are available, but feel free to bring your own. meal begins at 12:15 p.m. To RSVP, call Imie Bristow at 541-568-4545 or Betsy Arnsen at 541-568-4902 by Jan. 17.

Composer celebrates Malheur Refuge two years after armed occupation

By Kathy Aney
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — As the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge unfolded in early 2016, Jay Bowerman watched with growing incredulity. The feeling escalated as the armed militants protested federal regulations regarding public lands by squatting for 41 days inside the headquarters of the federal bird refuge.

The occupation, he felt, had tainted one of Oregon's most beautiful spots.

"It was disturbing," Bowerman said. "Malheur deserves to be remembered not for its armed occupation, but for its natural beauty, wildlife diversity and rich cultural heritage."

After the court verdict in which seven occupiers were acquitted, Bowerman found comfort in listening to a haunting orchestral work called "Cantus Arcticus" (subtitled "Concerto for Birds") by Finnish composer Einojunhani Rautavaara. The work has birds sounds layered in with the music.

"I listened to the music over and over and over," he said. "It was so soothing."

He wondered if music could help the people who love the refuge to heal from the occupation. Bowerman isn't a guy who thinks thoughts and lets them float away.

The son of legendary University of Oregon track coach Bill Bowerman, Jay Bowerman was U.S. champion in the biathlon in 1969. He served as executive director of the Sunriver Nature Center and Observatory for 30 years and now researches and writes about such things as amphibians, spotted frogs, fungi and leeches.

He pitched the idea of the musical tribute to his wife, Teresa, and to Michael Gesme, music director and conductor with the Central Oregon Symphony. Intrigued, Gesme suggested composer Chris



WesCom News Service File Photo

The Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters were seized by armed protesters led by Ammon and Ryan Bundy for more than a month in early 2016. Jay Bowerman believes the occupation tainted one of Oregon's most beautiful locations.

Thomas for the job.

Thomas, a Pendleton native who now lives in Bend, composes and orchestrates for television and movies. Thomas, 36, was nominated for Best Orchestrator by the Film and TV Music Academy in 2007 and Best Film & TV Music at the eWorld Music Awards in Hollywood in 2011. Bowerman met with Thomas and bonded immediately over the project.

"Chris jumped in with both feet," Bowerman said.

Thomas and the Bowermans toured the refuge with members of the Friends of Malheur Wildlife Refuge. While Bowerman had spent plenty of time there, Thomas got his first look. Like Bowerman, he was blown away by the wildlife, the big sky and the color and texture of the hills.

"Between April and June, there's a cacophony of bird sounds that washes over you," Bowerman said. "It's like the way the waves make a continuous sound."

Thomas recorded some of those calls to insert into the symphony along with other sounds collected from the refuge. The soundtrack would join images meant to complement the music and

make it a more full-body experience. The sound tech person becomes another player in the orchestra. Future orchestras that perform the symphony are expected to use the recordings.

"They are written right into the score," Bowerman said.

Thomas said he did most of his composing walking around in nature. Ideas don't come when he sits down at his computer, but when he walks a trail, they often "hit like lightning." When they strike, he sings them into his phone's recorder.

"It's important to be by myself," he said, laughing.

In the beginning, the two men envisioned a 12-to-20-minute piece. After speaking with various groups of people who care about the refuge, things expanded. Each of the groups — tribal members, birders, Friends of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and geologists — gave different input about what they thought the symphony should say.

Thomas realized he had full symphony on his hands with five different movements. The first is "Dawning Light," the sound of

life beginning. The second, "Sacred Basin," tells the story of the thousands of years the Paiute people lived freely in the basin. The third, "Thunder," came after Thomas witnessed a thunderstorm on one of his trips to the refuge. It's the shortest, darkest movement. The fourth, Thomas' favorite, "Curlew Scherzo," showcases one of the refuge's residents, the long-billed curlew, and its operatic call. The final movement is a big, brass fanfare called "Awakening." The Central Oregon Symphony will perform the work at a world premiere in Burns in May and later in Bend. Thomas said the orchestra is considering doing a multi-city tour in the Pacific Northwest. He hopes his hometown is one of the destinations.

"It would mean the world to me to go to Pendleton," he said.

Bowerman couldn't be happier with the result. "My hope is that this music will help with the healing process, including the communities affected as well as the land itself, and remind people about the special place that is the Malheur Refuge," he said. "It is pretty exciting stuff."

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

OREGON STATE POLICE

Arrested: Carla Christine Snapp, 49, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County warrant charging failure to appear in court on a charge of third-degree theft.

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Ricky Ruth Mendoza, 35, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, meth. Accident: At least one person was injured in a three-vehicle accident at Adams Avenue and Island Avenue on Friday. The accident

was reported at 5:55 p.m.

Arrested: Quentin Allen Johnson, 19, unknown address, was arrested on charges of resisting arrest and interfering with a peace officer.

Arrested: Brody Kirk Johnson, 23, La Grande, was arrested on charges of resisting arrest and second-degree disorderly conduct.

Arrested: Zachary Hillis Long, 27, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass.

Arrested: Victor Edward Marlitt, 31, La Grande, was arrested on a charge of second-degree theft. Accident: Nobody was injured

in a traffic accident at Adams Avenue and Island Avenue. The accident was reported at 2:10 p.m. on Sunday.

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Arrested: Savana Ann Whipple, 31, unknown address, was arrested on a state of Washington warrant charging escape community custody.

Accident: At least one person was injured in a traffic accident on 15th Avenue in Elgin on Sunday. The accident was reported at 10:09 a.m.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Crews responded to three calls for medical assistance on Friday, five on Saturday and seven on Sunday.

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OBITUARIES

Dorothy N. (Christensen) Keltz

Formerly of La Grande
1926-2019

Dorothy Norma Keltz, 92, formerly of La Grande, died Jan. 1 at her home in War-



ren. A celebration of her life will be held in the spring. Arrangements are entrusted

to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

Dorothy was born June 27, 1926, to Benda and Alice (Haring) Christensen in Ilwaco, Washington. The family later moved to La Grande, where Dorothy graduated from high school and then completed a program of nurses training at what was then Eastern Oregon Normal School.

On Nov. 11, 1945, Dorothy married Ernest George Keltz. She was a homemaker and helped with the farm management. Dorothy belonged to a bowling league, the Eagles and Millworkers Auxiliary, was active in PTA and served as a 4-H leader. She enjoyed crafting, playing piano, gardening and preserving. In recent years, Dorothy moved to Warren to be with her daughter.

Survivors include her children and their spouses, Karen Keltz and Neal Lemery, Anita Keltz Goodwin, Sue Anderson, and Eric and Julia Keltz; siblings, Dale Johnson, Kelly Moberg, Patricia Klinkhammer and Priscilla Silva; 13 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brothers, Walter and Neil; sister, Phyllis; and grandchildren, Robbie and Katrina.

Memorial contributions may be made to the La Grande American Legion in care of Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, 1502 Seventh St., La Grande 97850.

Jeffrey A. Green

Island City

Jeffrey A. Green, 61, of Island City, died Dec. 26, 2018, at his residence. A celebration of his life will be held at 5 p.m. Jan. 19 at the La Grande County Club. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

Jerry Bradshaw

Formerly of La Grande

Jerry Bradshaw, of Pendleton and formerly of La Grande, died Jan. 10. An obituary is forthcoming. Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

Cecil Cain

La Grande

Cecil Cain, 67, of La Grande, died Jan. 8 at Grande Ronde Hospital. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Jan. 18 at Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center. An obituary is forthcoming.

Jean Gray

Hilgard

Jean Gray, 86, of Hilgard, died Dec. 24, 2018, at her home. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Jan. 19 at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in La Grande. An obituary is forthcoming. Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

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. For more information, call The Observer at 541-963-3161.

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What's Cooking ?

by Sandy Sorrels of

TEN DEPOT STREET

If you are getting the January blahs, add a trip to Ten Depot Street and enjoy some great food, good beer, wine, cocktails and local live music.

On Tuesday January 24, Colt Haney is doing his solo act called *Elwood*. Haney, a singer-songwriter with roots in Eastern Oregon, plays folk, country and soul and writes "beautiful music from his heart."

On Thursday, we welcome popular artist *Kory Quinn*. Kory Quinn is a singer-songwriter based in Portland who invokes "the folk and roots-based traditions of Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan, with a fresh and modern outlook."

On Wednesday this week, Ten Depot bartender Kevin Boylen will be starting our informal *Ten Depot Street Ski Club* meeting in the *Ten Depot Bar*. Join us at 8:00 for dollar off pints, some fun ski movies and a chance to socialize with other winter sports enthusiasts.

Ten Depot Street is again doing **Wine Tasting Wednesday**, our next one being on Wednesday, January 23. This time we will be exploring the wines and foods of **Spain** with special guest and wine expert Beverly Calder of the best little wine (and kitchen) shop in Eastern Oregon, **Bella**.

There is a lot of interest these days in Spanish wines, which are often reasonably priced and of top quality. At Ten Depot Street we are excited to be offering for our **Wine Tasting Wednesday**, a chance to try these wines as they should be enjoyed, with food. We will be serving a four course Spanish dinner, an amazing wine matched with each course. The cost is \$30. Reservations are taken on the half hour between 5:30 and 7:30. Call 541-963-8766.

BLUE PLATE SPECIAL \$10.95

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(served Monday through Friday)