

SPORTS

EOU holds first track meet since 2013

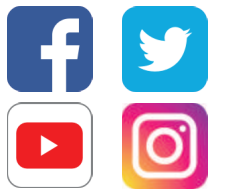


Tigers open season with strong performance, 7A

Countryside Kennels advertisement with contact info and photos of dogs.

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Good day to our valued subscriber Levon Baremore of Union

Lest we forget

Local educators support bill to mandate Holocaust education

By Dick Mason

Local educators are voicing strong support for a bill in the Legislature that would require Oregon school districts to teach students about the Holocaust and other acts of genocide.



While the Holocaust is already a part of the curriculum of a large number of Oregon school districts, Anne Marie Fritz, a La Grande Middle School social studies teacher, believes the legislation, Senate Bill 664, is important because it brings increased attention to the atrocities of World War II.

"We do not want to forget history," Fritz said. "Otherwise society will repeat its mistakes of the past."

La Grande High School history teacher John Lamoreau echoes this sentiment. Lamoreau said he doesn't know of any high school history teachers in Oregon who do not teach the Holocaust but, like Fritz, believes the bill is bringing the subject to the forefront at an important time.

"We need to keep teaching about what we have emerged from," Lamoreau said. "We (as a society) are forgetting too much of our past."

Tina Thurman, a LMS English teacher, agrees. Thurman, who teaches a unit on the Holocaust with LMS social studies teacher Holli Leavitt, said there are still people across the nation today who do not know about the Holocaust. She noted one of the videos she shows students is of adults being interviewed who have never

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WesCom file photo

Predictions for an upcoming fire season are never set in stone according to Mitch Williams, wildfire protection supervisor for the Oregon Department of Forestry, who has been working in wildfire prevention for 30 years. However, the best determinant for Union County, he said, is the amount of moisture in the area.

Previewing the 2019 fire season

By Amanda Weisbrod

Up until mid-February, 2019's fire season was looking to be a dry one because of the light snowfall in early winter. Oregon Public Radio, The Oregonian and other publications across the state ran multiple news stories outlining worries from officials about the coming summer, but once the snow finally arrived, the headlines changed to reflect a more positive outlook.

"After a February of Blizzards, Oregon Snowpack Levels Are Now Above Average for Most of the State," read one

Willamette Week article from March 12.

A day later, The Hermiston Herald declared "Ample snowfall boosts Oregon snowpack."

Snowpack is a term used to describe the amount of compressed snow that remains in high altitudes after winter is over. Throughout the warm months of the year, the snowpack will gradually melt off the mountains, keeping the ground and plants of lower altitudes — like the Grande Ronde Valley — moist for some time.

Mitch Williams, wildfire protection supervisor for the

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US Forest Service summarizes 2018 fire season

Observer staff

The 2018 fire season was the costliest for the state thus far, totaling more than \$533 million, according to the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center. The 2017 season had held the record previously with \$447 million, but due to the longevity of the fires in 2018, the record was easily surpassed.

In the Northwest, more than 1 million acres burned in the 2018 fire season, which continued through mid-November. More than 901,000 acres in Oregon, and 438,000 in Washington burned over the summer months, according to a summary from the U.S. Forest Service regarding the wildland fire season.

According to the summary, the longer the fire season — and the more severe the season becomes — the more hours the fire personnel are exposed to. It said there were more than 7 million work hours within the Pacific Northwest and Alaska regions toward suppressing fire.

"Statistically, we know we can

expect a serious accident or fatality at about a tenth of that number," according to the summary. "In that regard, the work our people did in managing risk at all levels can be considered successful."

Through the season, Risk Management Assistant Teams worked to provide "deeper analytical support"

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Junior Olympic archery club attended state tournament

By Trish Yerges

The Junior Olympic Archery Development club, led by coach Anieta Appleton of Alpine Archery and Fly in La Grande, participated in the Oregon State Indoor Archery Tournament at Redmond this month and came home with winning outcomes.

Appleton founded the JOAD club two years ago after she acquired a USA Archery Level 2 Instructor certification.

"I started the club with a couple of members in it," she said. "Then last spring membership started to grow, and in October, we hosted our first youth tournament at Alpine Archery and

Fly. At that point, (the club) doubled in size."

The October event was hosted by JOAD members to drum up more interest in the club and to give them experience at a tournament. Appleton said membership has risen to 15 archers. The youngest is 8 years old, and the oldest youth archer in the JOAD program is 16.

"Each JOAD club has their own name so we are the Flaming Arrows," she said.

There is no cap to the membership enrollment. If a young person is interested in archery, they or their parents can call the store and come to a meeting, she said. The meetings are about an

hour long. On the third Thursday of the month, they shoot for score and progress at their own pace. Appleton provides the instruction.

"We have bows to try out if you haven't shot before. If you have your own bow, bring it, but otherwise we'll supply everything," she said. "We just walk through form, safety, explain about the club, introduce them to the other kids and help them be successful archers."

Meetings are held at Alpine Archery and Fly, located beneath Raul's Taqueria, 117 Elm St. in La Grande. The range will accommodate archers shooting at 10 yards or 20 yards.

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Courtesy photo

The Junior Olympic Archery Development club teaches children how to be successful archers, giving them lessons in self-confidence and patience along the way.



Cherise Kaechele/The Observer

Solo Greene, Education Specialist for the Nez Perce Tribe, shows the third graders traditional Nez Perce items.

Event teaches third graders about environmental issues

By Francisca Benitez

On Friday, all third graders in La Grande and Island City attended Future Steward's day, a tradition that has been taking place for more than a decade. The students learned about environmental issues like air pollution, water conservation and recycling. Solo Greene, education specialist with the Nez Perce Native American tribe

also gave a presentation.

The third graders spent the day in small groups going to different stations set up in Riveria Activity Center to learn about a wide variety of conservation issues. Members of the community represented at the stations included individuals from the Forest Service, Oregon Trail Electric Co-op, the Department of Environmental

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WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

Weather forecast for Tonight (30 Low, moonlit sky) and Tuesday (59/32, mostly sunny).

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541-963-3161, Issue 33, 2 sections, 16 pages, La Grande, Oregon

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WEDNESDAY

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