

► **La Grande's seafaring link to WWII history**

It is this city's last yet virtually forgotten link to World War II — a ship christened the S.S. La Grande Victory.

The Merchant Marine ship, named in honor of La Grande, transported supplies and troops for the U.S. military during the final months of World War II.

The La Grande Victory's eventful 25-year story began on Jan. 16, 1945. It was launched that day from the Kaiser shipbuilding yard in Portland.

"Victory Ship to Carry Name of La Grande to Seven Seas," read a headline in the Jan. 15, 1945, Observer.

The 10,500-ton vessel was the 399th ship launched during World War II at the Kaiser shipyard in Portland, according to The Observer. The vessel was also the 47th Victory ship launched at the yard. Victory ships were supply boats built during World War II.

Many Victory ships were converted into troop ships before the end of the war. The La Grande was among them. Many of the ships were used to transport

soldiers home from the Pacific.

The War Shipping Administration does not list the S.S. La Grande Victory among the ships that were damaged during WWII, according to information The Observer obtained from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York, in 2001.

The ship was sold to the Netherlands government in 1947 and was renamed the S.S. Waterman. In 1951, it was converted into an emigrant carrier that could accommodate 900 people, according to "Troopships of World War II" by Roland W. Charles of the Army Transportation Association.

The Waterman transported emigrants to Australia, New Zealand and — on several North Atlantic voyages — New York.

In 1963, the ship was sold to John S. Latsis of Greece. Latsis renamed the ship the Margarita and used it to transport tourists in the eastern Mediterranean, Charles wrote. The ship was scrapped in Japan at Onomichi in 1970. ■

SUBMARINE

Continued from Page 1A
submarine is stressful because of the demands of the job. Crew members must be ready at any time to take on emergency duties, even in matters outside their area of expertise. In addition, crews must become accustomed to confined spaces, but Daniels said steps are taken by the Navy to keep up the spirits of crew members. Movies are shown and the meals on Navy submarines are excellent.

Daniels said "the food is a morale booster" that will benefit the USS Oregon's 140-person crew. The vessel is 377 feet in length and 34 feet in diameter, and it weighs 7,800 tons. The submarine will be able to operate at a maximum depth of 800 feet and travel at a top speed of 25 knots, and its armament will include 12 Tomahawk missiles.

The submarine will be powered by a highly efficient nuclear reactor. Daniels said the nuclear reactor is so efficient the submarine will not need to be refueled during its lifespan, which is expected to be about 35 years.

The submarine will make its own oxygen with

an oxygen generator. The machine, via electrolysis, pulls oxygen out of water. There will also be an oxygen "scrubber" that will clear the submarine of gases.

"(The submarine) will produce its own environment," Daniels explained.

The USS Oregon, like all nuclear submarines, will be able to remain submerged indefinitely because of its power source and oxygen generator.

"The only thing that will limit how long it can stay under is how much food it has (to feed the crew)," Daniels said.

During the christening this fall in Connecticut, the vessel's designated sponsor, Dana L. Richardson of Corvallis, will break a bottle of champagne over it. The submarine will then be symbolically lowered into the waters of the Atlantic. Later, test runs will take place over a 12- to 14-month period to make sure the USS Oregon is in proper working order, after which it will be officially commissioned.

All of the expenses for the commissioning ceremony will be covered by funds raised by the Commissioning Committee, Daniels said. The funds

will be used for items including plaques for each of the USS Oregon's crew members, a pre-ceremony breakfast and a post-ceremony reception. Daniels said the committee hopes to raise about \$200,000.

The first Navy vessel armed in this state's honor was a battleship, the USS Oregon BB-3. Construction of the ship began in the early 1890s, and it was commissioned in 1896. The ship was used by the Navy during the Spanish American War, World War I and World War II, Daniels said.

The ship's nickname was "Bulldog of the Navy."

The new submarine will have a silhouette of the USS Oregon BB-3 on its

crest, which is its badge or seal. The crest will include an image of Crater Lake National Park and two images of Chinook salmon, the state fish. One of the salmon is gold to represent officers, and the other is silver to represent enlisted crew members.

The crest will also feature an eagle with outstretched wings. The eagle, which will be taken from Oregon's state seal, will include 33 feathers.

"This will align with Oregon being the 33rd state admitted to the Union," Daniels said. ■

Find information on how to make donations at usoregonssn793.org.

SCREEN TIME

Continued from Page 1A
time for children 18 to 24 months old. For children 2 to 5 years old, less than an hour of screen time was recommended.

CNN reported in January there is little evidence that time with screens affects children's development, although the issue is still being studied. According to the report, use of screens before bedtime can interfere with chil-

dren's sleep, and when screen time replaces time with parents or exercise, it can lead to obesity or underdeveloped social skills.

Dr. Rae Ette Newman-Conedera is the coordinator of the Early Childhood Education Program at EOU. She said the biggest problem with screen time is not how much children are getting at school, but what they are seeing and how much they are using screens at home.

"Some children have

very limited exposure with opportunities that are very planned and supervised, while some children may have unlimited access, with little to no oversight to what is being watched or played," she said.

Because children have very different amounts of access to screens at home, Newman-Conedera said creating a standard amount of time for a classroom would be difficult.

She also said technology in classrooms is a useful tool.

"Many districts have curriculum or additional student supports that can only be accessed through digital means," she said. "In my opinion, the negative impacts of digital tools and usage are not going to be because of classroom usage. It's going to be outside the classroom environment." ■

Contact Francisca Benitez at 541-963-3161 or email fbenitez@lagrandeobserver.com.

RECOVERY

Continued from Page 1A
with the flow and trust that things will fall into place.

"It's hard to be clean and sober in a community where you have been drinking and using (drugs). So it's important that we surround ourselves with people who aren't doing that," Riley said.

She and the other volunteers at the business will also help teach those who live in the home important life skills such as cooking, sewing, art and more. Some of the skills Riley teaches are as simple as sewing a button onto a pair of pants or a jacket.

She said for addicts some of those things aren't simple because coming out of drug addiction is like coming out of a fog.

"The end result needs to be that we are productive members of society and some of us don't have the skills to do that," Riley said of addicts in recovery.

For years Riley has been the sponsor for Teresa Freeman who is helping Riley set up the business. While Freeman has relapsed in the past, she said as long as she stays busy and involved with Riley's program for clean and sober people, she can stay clean. A sponsor is an addict in recovery who has made progress in his or her recovery and uses that experience to help another addict's progress in recovery.

"Helping others is a key to helping me," Freeman said. Freeman said after taking from the community as an addict for years, she is excited to give back.

Though Riley has been clean for over 20 years, she said she can't do it by herself and that is why she

wants to help others with similar issues.

"I'm still an alcoholic and a drug addict (because) I still think about doing them, even now," said Riley.

When she first decided to get clean, Riley didn't know how, but she contacted members of the recovery community in Portland, where she was living at the time, and started the 12-step recovery program.

"I'd been in jail, been in prison, been through lots of treatment centers and nothing happened for me," Riley said. "The thought dawned on me, it was true, I am an alcoholic and a drug addict and I can't drink or use anymore."

Riley first started using drugs at the age of 11 and for the next 20 years she was in and out of jail and drug treatment facilities.

She has been teaching life skills at local treatment centers for the last four years. She said teaching life skills to those in recovery not only gives them a specific skill, it also shows them how to follow directions.

"When I got out of prison, I didn't have any skills. I knew how to do drugs and do crime," Riley said.

Any money made from

the sale of art through the nonprofit business will go into funding the life skills program and sober home. The building that will house the business and sober home has undergone extensive remodels since Riley took ownership, including replacing much of the roof and walls. Though Riley did some of the work herself, she also had help from community volunteers.

Riley had tried to open the business three times before, but was shut down because of violations of city codes and rules.

"The greatest barrier I had was thinking I knew how to do some stuff that I didn't know how to do," Riley said.

She doesn't expect there to be any issues when they open this week.

A grand opening and barbecue is scheduled from noon to 6 p.m. today. Riley recently held a thank-you luncheon for those who donated items, money or time to help open the shop. Amy Mecca donated money to help purchase the property.

Business hours will be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. ■

WALDEN

Continued from Page 1A
to interfere in the 2016 presidential election.

Walden said he supports both the process of and the FBI director's role in the investigation.

The report concluded there was no evidence of interference with the election, he said, adding he has "confidence in the findings." Walden said he supports making the report public, but there are laws regarding what can be published.

"There are issues considered classified (in the report)," he said. "We have to be very careful (about the identities of agents)."

In regard to ensuring there is no meddling in future elections, Walden said he was part of a group that interviewed Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg on the importance of installing social media advertising safety protocols for future elections.

Walden's visit to La Grande was one in a series of seven town halls in Eastern Oregon. He visited Wallowa County prior to the EOU meeting and visited Baker, Grant, Wheeler, Gilliam and Sherman counties. ■

EARTHLINK INTERNET
HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Get Connected for as low as **\$14.95/mo.**
HyperLink™ High-Speed 4 Mbps
Get Connected for as low as **\$49.99/mo.**
Satellite Internet

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORIZED RETAILER
855-977-9436

Authorized Dealer
EarthLink

SCORE
THE ULTIMATE LINEUP
ENJOY 3 EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES FROM AT&T.

WIRELESS
• The best network according to American Oversight
• Unlimited calls to Canada and Mexico
• Unlimited texts to 120+ countries

HIGH SPEED INTERNET
• Consistently fast speeds
• Connections with over 99% reliability
• 100Mbps download speeds
• 10Mbps upload speeds
• 100Mbps on-demand HD streaming
• 100Mbps on-demand HD streaming

DIRECTV
• Get access to 135 live and local channels with thousands of shows and movies on demand
• Stream on up to 3 screens at the same time with the DIRECTV App
• One2GO connects your whole home™ to any TV in your home

CALL NOW and ask about Next Day Installation.
iv support
Holdings LLC **855-502-2578**

AT&T Preferred Dealer

Your Family Deserves The **BEST** Technology... Value... TV!...

\$69.99 MONTH for 24 months
190 Channels America's Top 120

Add High Speed Internet **\$14.95** /mo.

CALL TODAY Save 20%!
1-866-373-9175

Subject to availability. Restrictions apply. Internet provided by DSL and will be bidirectional.

Storage Solution
www.CountrysideSheds.com

Countryside SHEDS
CCB #149931

"More Than Just a Shed"

Look at a Side-By-Side Comparison

	Rent-To-Own	Self-Storage
Ownership Option?	Yes.....	NO
Customization?	Yes.....	NO
Can I sell it when done?	Yes.....	NO
Moveable?	Yes.....	NO
Location?	Your House... Across Town	

See our display lot at
10102 S. McAlister Road Island City
(541) 663-0246 or toll free (800) 682-0589
Locally owned and operated for over 20 years

Grande Ronde Hospital Home Care Services
Home Health & Hospice
We are on the move!

NOW located in the GRH Pavilion
909 Adams in downtown La Grande.

The GRH Home Care Services—Home Health & Hospice has moved to the GRH Pavilion to serve you even better!

Our new location gives us more flexibility and greater mobility to get to where you need us most — **AT HOME!!**

Our location may change, but we are the same folks you have trusted with your care for nearly 30 years.

Call us at 541.963.CARE

HomeCare Elite **2012 TOP AGENCY**
TOP 500 **2014 AGENCY**
SHERIFF'S OFFICE **2017 TOP 100 AGENCY**
ABILITY HOME CARE ELITE

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

WEAR TEAL
Day of Action · 4-2-2019

Shelter From the Storm
10901 Island Avenue,
Island City • 541-963-7226