

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

Union SWCD Board meets June 12

ISLAND CITY — The Union Soil and Water Conservation District Board will meet at 7 p.m. June 12 in the conference room of the Union County Extension Office, 10507 N. McAlister Road, Island City. Principal subjects to be discussed are monthly financial statements, staff reports and partner agency reports. Call Christopher Moats, natural resources conservationist, at 541-963-1313 for more information.

Homeschool used curriculum and book sale held in Union

UNION — The Grande Ronde Valley Classical Conversations Community Group will be hosting the second annual homeschool used curriculum and book sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 15 at the First Baptist Church of Union, 1531 S. Main St. The sale is a fundraiser for the local Classical Conversations families and gives

local homeschooling families the opportunity to share curriculum, books and supplies. Examples of items that may be sold include textbooks, workbooks, teachers manuals, fiction/non-fiction books, school supplies, manipulatives, early learning tools, STEM toys, classroom posters/decorations, board games, educational DVDs/CDs and even parenting books.

Anyone who has educational materials, books and/or supplies to pass on is welcome to participate in this sale. Come to the Baptist Church between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. June 14 to set up your items. Earnings and unsold items must be picked up before 3 p.m. after the event. Any items/earnings not picked up by that time will be donated back to the Grande Ronde Valley Classical Conversations Community Group for future sales and fundraising.

For more information, call 971-506-7550 or go to the Grande

Ronde Valley Classical Conversations Facebook page.

Volunteers needed at Zumwalt Prairie Preserve June 22-23

WALLOWA COUNTY — The Nature Conservancy invites anyone interested in assisting conservation efforts on Zumwalt Prairie Preserve, located on the Imnaha River, to attend a volunteer work party June 22-23. Zumwalt Prairie Preserve is a key part of the largest remaining native bunchgrass prairie in North America, harboring 12,000 acres of abundant prairie habitat, 15,000 acres of canyons and 12 miles of creeks with spawning habitat for endangered Snake River steelhead and inland redband trout. Zumwalt is also home to one of the largest concentrations of nesting raptors in North America. During this work party, volunteers will assist with noxious weed surveys and removal, for a full day on Saturday and a half day

Sunday.

For participants who wish to stay the night, Saturday night dinner and Sunday breakfast will be provided. Registration is required by going to www.nature.org/oregon-workparties. For more information, call 503-802-8100 or email orvolunteers@tnc.org.

Average temperature in May was 2 degrees warmer than normal

PENDLETON — According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at La Grande averaged warmer than normal during the month of May. The average temperature was 56.5 degrees, 2.1 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 69.7 degrees, 3.0 degrees above normal. The highest was 85 degrees on the 12th. Low temperatures averaged 43.4 degrees, 1.3 degrees above normal. The lowest was 26 degrees on the 1st. There was one day with the

low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 2.46 inches during May, 0.47 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation (at least .01 inch) was received on eight days, with the heaviest, 1.0 inches, reported on the 17th. Precipitation this year has reached 12.96 inches, 5.16 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at La Grande has been 18.57 inches, 5.79 inches above normal.

The outlook for June from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for La Grande rise from 7 degrees at the start of June to 80 degrees at the end of June. Normal lows rise from 46 degrees to 52 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.54 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

Helicopter rescues climbers from near Mount Rainier summit

By Lisa Baumann
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A helicopter crew has rescued four climbers from near the summit of Mount Rainier after they had been stranded on the Cascade Mountain peak in Washington for several days.

The climbers were suffering from exposure and were taken to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, the National Park Service said in a statement.

Rescuers in the park's helicopter took advantage Thursday morning of a break in bad weather that had stymied earlier attempts to reach the climbers. They were taken off the mountain in two groups and all were off the upper mountain just after 10 a.m. Thursday, officials said.

The climbers, all in their 30s, were being assessed in the emergency department Thursday afternoon, Harborview spokeswoman Susan Gregg said. All were awake and alert, and none had life-threatening injuries, she said.

The park had received a

report Monday afternoon that the climbers needed help because wind blew away or destroyed a tent and some of their climbing equipment.

The climbers, who began their ascent on Friday, include Yevgeniy Krasnitskiy of Portland, Oregon; Vasily Aushev and Kostya "Constantine" Toporov of New York City; and Ruslan Khasbulatov of Jersey City, New Jersey. At least two of them have been described by family as experienced climbers, park officials said.

Krasnitskiy this spring climbed Mount Hood in Oregon and made an earlier unsuccessful attempt to climb Mount Rainier, roommate Scott Dupuis told The Seattle Times.

He described his roommate as organized, disciplined and humble.

"He respects the difficulty and challenges there (on Mount Rainier)," Dupuis said. "You can sense that."

A park helicopter crew located the climbers Monday on the Liberty Ridge route at 13,500 feet.

After rescue attempts

were thwarted by high winds Monday and Tuesday, park officials requested a U.S. Army Chinook helicopter and crew, which arrived Tuesday. Both crews were unable to make the rescue until Thursday because of high winds, rain and cloud cover, park officials said.

The climbers were found about a half-mile away from the site where they had been seen Tuesday, and in a place much less affected by wind and more accessible for rescuers. Park officials said the route between the two sites requires expert and technical climbing, and the climbers "contributed greatly" to their own rescue.

The Liberty Ridge route is described by officials as one of the more technical and dangerous routes on Mount Rainier. One person died and two other climbers were injured in a rock fall in that area last week.

The death of the climber was the first fatality on the route since 2014, when two guides and four climbers died after falling more than 3,000 feet, according to park officials.

US can label nuclear waste as less dangerous to quicken cleanup

By Nicholas Geranios
The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Washington — The U.S. government on Wednesday will reclassify some of the nation's most dangerous radioactive waste to lower its threat level, outraging critics who say the move would make it cheaper and easier to walk away from cleaning up nuclear weapons production sites in Washington state, Idaho and South Carolina.

The U.S. Department of Energy said labeling some high-level waste as low level will save \$40 billion in cleanup costs across the nation's entire nuclear weapons complex. The material that has languished for decades in the three states would be taken to low-level disposal facilities in Utah or Texas, the agency said.

"This administration is proposing a responsible, results-driven solution that will finally open potential avenues for the safe treatment and removal of the lower level waste," Energy Undersecretary Paul Dabber said. "This will accelerate cleanup and reduce risk."

The agency will maintain standards set by the independent Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "with the goal of getting the lower-level waste out of these states without sacrificing

public safety," Dabber said.

Critics said it's a way for federal officials to walk away from their obligation to properly clean up a massive quantity of radioactive waste left from nuclear weapons production dating to World War II and the Cold War.

The waste is housed at the Savannah River Plant in South Carolina, the Idaho National Laboratory and Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state — the most contaminated nuclear site in the country.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democratic presidential candidate, and state Attorney General Bob Ferguson said the Trump administration is showing disdain and disregard for state authority.

"Washington will not be sidelined in our efforts to clean up Hanford and protect the Columbia River and the health and safety of our state and our people," they said in a joint statement.

The new rules would allow the Energy Department to eventually abandon storage tanks containing more than 100 million gallons of radioactive waste in the three states, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Cited: Two juveniles were each cited on charges of second-degree burglary, first-degree criminal mischief, criminal conspiracy, second-degree theft and second-degree trespass.

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF

Arrested: Gregory Howard Skinner, 58, Lynwood, Washington, was arrested on a charge of theft of services.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firefighters responded to 10 calls for medical assistance on Thursday and 10 on Wednesday.

Christina M. (Seidel) Dowdy

La Grande
1926-2019

Christina "Chris" Margaret Dowdy, 92, of La Grande, died May 30. A



funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. June 10 at Loveland Funeral Chapel. Christina, also known as Chris, was born Aug. 16, 1926, in Newberg, to Ernest Heinrich and Margaret Sarah Seidel. She attended public schools in Newberg. After graduating high school, she moved to Portland, where she attended business college. She earned an associate's degree and obtained a job in Portland with Allis Chalmers as a bookkeeper.

Shortly thereafter, Chris met her future husband, William "Bill" Carrington Dowdy, who was a dental student. They were married July 21, 1947, and after his graduation from dental school in 1951, they moved to La Grande. They had six children: Judith, Kathryn, Nancy, Richard, Patricia and Steven.

In addition to raising her family, throughout her life Chris had numerous hobbies and interests. She was an avid seamstress, knitter, cross-stitcher and crafter. Many of her handmade Christmas ornaments still grace the families' Christmas trees, and several of her hand-stitched quilts contain the material left over from all the clothing she sewed. Chris took pride in canning and preserving food, and her descendants continue that tradition today.

Chris loved watching sports on TV and was a rabid Blazer and Mariners fan. She enjoyed attending sporting events her children and grandchildren were in, whether it was football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, tennis, soccer, wrestling or swimming. She was often the loudest fan for the teams, much to her youngsters' embarrassment.

Chris loved the arts and

music and took every opportunity to pass that passion on to her children. Her faith in God and her church, the United Methodist Church, was extremely important to her. Family and the church were her two greatest priorities.

Surviving relatives include her children and their spouses, Judith and Daniel Schwenk of Eagle, Idaho, Kathryn and Ron Eggers of Lake Oswego, Nancy and John Schassen of La Pine, Richard and Jamie Dowdy of Canby, Patricia and Baxter Dyer of Bend, and Steven and Teresa Dowdy of La Grande; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bill; and brother, Heinrich Seidel.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

Karen L. Homan

Union

Karen L. Homan, 54, of Union, died June 4 at her home. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Irma Freels

La Grande

Irma Freels, 80, of La Grande, died June 5 at Grande Ronde Hospital. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Walter R. Olp

La Grande

Walter R. Olp, 91, of La Grande, died June 6 at his residence. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Casey W. Kuiper

Summerville

Casey W. Kuiper, 29, of Summerville, died June 4. A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. June 15 at the Faith Center in Island City. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

MENU

UNION COUNTY SENIOR CENTER
1504 Albany St., La Grande
lunch served 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
first-time visitors eat free (age 60 & older)
June 10-14

MONDAY: shepherd's pie, salad greens, cottage cheese, fruit, cookies.

TUESDAY: baked potato bar with chili, salad greens, fruit.

WEDNESDAY: fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, steamed vegetables, Jell-O, rolls, birthday cake.

THURSDAY: red peppers

stuffed with beef and rice, cabbage slaw, fresh fruit, rolls, mousse.

FRIDAY: potato corn chowder, variety of salads, baked bread, light dessert.

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UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS

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**June 8 Lloyd F. Clark:**

11 a.m., memorial service and celebration of life, Elgin Community Center.

June 10 Dollie Bristow:

11 a.m., celebration of life, Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center; potluck lunch follows at the Cove Sportsman Club.

Christina Dowdy:

11 a.m., funeral service, Loveland Funeral Chapel.

June 15 Lawrence "Gene" Bowman:

memorial service, 3 p.m., Enterprise Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Jean Enderlin:

noon to 4 p.m., potluck-style celebration of life, 277 W. Bryan in Union.

Molly Murrill:

memorial service, 4 p.m., Bollman Funeral Home, Enterprise.

Frances "Fran" Perren:

10 a.m., Mass of Christian Burial, St. Katherine Catholic Church, followed by vault interment at the Enterprise Cemetery.

Casey Kuiper:

4 p.m., memorial service, Faith Center in Island City.

Make a Summer Memory

Grande Ronde Mennonite Church
69371 Lantz Lane, Cove

June 17-28 (M-F) 6:30 p.m.

Pre-K thru 8th Grade
To register call
541-786-1289 or 541-910-1194