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Good day to our valued subscriber Garry Speer of La Grande

Tribes: Dams must be removed

■ Tribes demand removal of dams on Columbia River

By Gillian Flaccus
The Associated Press

THE DALLES — Two Northwest tribes on Monday demanded the removal of three major hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River to save migrating salmon and starving orcas and restore fishing sites that were guaranteed to the tribes in a treaty more than 150 years ago.

The Yakama and Lummi nations made the demand of the U.S. government on Indigenous Peoples Day, a designation that’s part of a trend to move away from a holiday honoring Christopher Columbus.

For decades, people have debated whether to remove four big dams on the Lower Snake River, a tributary of the Columbia, but breaching the Columbia dams, which are a much more significant source of power, has never been seriously discussed.

Proposals to merely curtail operations, let alone remove the structures, are controversial, and the prospects of the Columbia dams being demolished any time soon appear nonexistent.

Tribal leaders said at a news conference along the Columbia River that the Treaty of 1855, in which 14 tribes and bands ceded 11.5 million acres to the United States, was based on the inaccurate belief that the U.S. had a right to take the land.

Under the treaty, the Yakama Tribe retained the right to fish at all their traditional sites. But construction of the massive concrete dams decades later along the lower Columbia River destroyed critical fishing spots and made it impossible

See **Dams** / Page 5A

Clocks around the state ready to FALL BACK



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Trees begin to change colors across La Grande, as shown in this photo taken from 12th Street.

By Jessica Pollard, EO Media Group

Oregon passed a law earlier this year that would abolish the clock changes, but Oregonians will still be in the business of “falling back” one hour to standard time or “winter hours” on Nov. 3.

“The short answer is, nothing changes in 2019,” Rep. Bill Post, R-Keizer, a chief sponsor of the law, wrote in an email.

Senate Bill 320 would stop the whole state — except for Malheur County, which is in the Mountain Time Zone — from rewinding clocks by an hour in the fall. Instead, the state would maintain daylight saving time or “summer hours” full time. The result would mean both later sunrises and sunsets. Gov. Kate Brown signed the bill into law in June.

The law mandates, however, that this change will go into effect only if California and Washington also choose to stick to summer hours, and if all three states receive federal congressional approval.

During the first November after federal approval, Oregon would simply not participate in the clock change, keeping summer hours.

Washington is on board and currently awaiting federal approval, according to the Seattle Times. But in California, the legislation passed through the House only and will be reintroduced in 2020.

“California’s House passed it overwhelmingly,

but now we have word that the Senate is putting it off until next year,” Post said. “So we wait.”

Federal approval is not required for a state to switch permanently to standard time, but it is to make the switch to daylight saving time, which is why Post and other legislators addressed a Senate Joint Memorial to the president and the U.S. Congress urging them to pass the law back in June.

Oregon Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, voted no on the law during the 2019 Legislature.

“I feel somewhat agnostic about daylight saving time. But I really felt that that decision should be left up to the people, since it was their vote that originally brought it into law,” Hansell said.

And while he said he sees both sides of the clock-change debate, Hansell is sure of one thing.

“What’s positive to me is that we’ll all be on the same sheet of music. (The West Coast) will be on the same time schedule,” he said.

For or against the switch, arguments vary. The measure summary for SB 320 stated that clock

See **Clocks** / Page 5A

UNION

Union council at full strength

■ Brian McDowell appointed to fill vacant position

By Dick Mason
The Observer

The Union City Council again has a full set of six members.

The council appointed Brian McDowell to its lone vacant seat at its Monday meeting. McDowell was sworn in after being appointed. The new councilor is a veteran who works for the State of Oregon in an economic development and asset management position. He was one of four applicants for the position interviewed by the city council on Sept. 27.

The other applicants were Ronald Hurd, a retiree who previously worked for 22 years for the City of Lincoln City; Lani Jones, an animal control officer for the Union County Sheriff’s Office; and Marty McKeon, a retiree who is an active community volunteer.

Union Mayor Leonard Flint said all of the applicants were excellent

See **Union** / Page 5A

Getting involved with STEM

■ Eastern Oregon works to bring STEM to students

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

Organizations and businesses in Union County learned a little bit more about the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the GO-STEM luncheon Tuesday afternoon at The Landing Hotel in La Grande. The event showcased how companies can get involved in creating the next generation of students interested in STEM fields.

“There is a lot of interest and curiosity about (the fields) and support from the state,” said Abigail Southgate, a coordinator of the Chief Science Officers organization, which seeks to

See **STEM** / Page 5A

Brown recall efforts come up short

By Claire Withycombe
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Supporters of a petition to recall Gov. Kate Brown came up short of the signatures needed for a ballot challenge, Oregon Republican Party Chair Bill Currier said Monday.

Currier made the announcement midday on the Lars Larson Show, a conservative talk show. Supporters needed at least 280,050 valid signatures by 5 p.m. on Monday to put a recall on the ballot.

One effort, filed by Currier, fell short by about 8%, or about 22,400



Brown

signatures.

A separate effort, known as “Flush Down Kate Brown,” received 100,000 signatures by people who were not on the GOP’s signature list, Larson said on the show. Larson said that effort also was not as successful as the party’s.

Michael Cross, the lead sponsor of the “Flush Down Kate Brown” petition, delivered nine boxes of petitions to the Secretary of State’s office around 2 p.m. on Monday, according

to the Secretary of State’s office.

Workers counted all 23,926 signature sheets. But since each sheet can have only 10 signatures at most, after counting the sheets it was clear there weren’t enough signatures for that effort to qualify for the ballot.

Currier told Larson that there was “absolutely” support for another recall effort.

“This fight is not over,” Currier said.

Currier said that between the two efforts, enough valid signatures were

See **Recall** / Page 5A

INDEX

Business.....1B	Dear Abby.....8B	Opinion.....4A
Classified.....4B	Horoscope.....4B	Sports.....6A
Comics.....7B	Lottery.....2A	Sudoku.....7B
Crossword...4B	Obituaries...3A	

WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section



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Rain and drizzle



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A shower, cooler

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