

DAMS

Continued from Page 1A
for salmon to complete their migration.

After a song of prayer, Yakama Nation Chairman JoDe Goudy spoke Monday at the site of now-vanished Celilo Falls near The Dalles and said the placid Columbia River behind him looked “like a lake where we once saw a free-flowing river.”

“We have a choice, and it’s one or the other: dams or salmon,” he said. “Our ancestors tell us to look as far into the future as we can. Will we be the generation that forgot those who are coming behind us, those yet unborn?”

Celilo Falls was a traditional salmon-fishing site for the Yakama for centuries, but it was swallowed by the river in 1957 after the construction of The Dalles Dam.

The three dams operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are a critical part of a complex hydroelectric network strung along the Columbia and Snake rivers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho that powers the entire region.

Government officials were unavailable for further comment Monday due to the holiday.

Support for dams

Supporters of dams along the Columbia and Snake rivers note the vast amount of clean energy they produce and their usefulness for irrigation and transportation. For example, they allow farmers to ship about half of U.S. wheat exports by barge instead of by truck or rail. According to the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, about 40,000 local jobs are dependent on shipping on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

The Lummi Nation is in northwestern Washington state, far from the Columbia River, but it has also been touched by construction of the dams, said Jeremiah Julius, Lummi Nation chairman.

Chinook salmon are the preferred prey of endangered orcas but just 73 resident orcas remain in the Pacific Northwest — the lowest number in three decades — because of a lack of chinook, as well as toxic contamination and vessel noise. The orcas were hunted for food for generations by the Lummi Nation in the Salish Sea, Julius said.

“We are in a constant battle ... to leave future generations a lifeway promised our ancestors 164 years ago,” he said. “Our people understand that the salmon, like the orca, are the miner’s canary for the health of the Salish Sea and for all its children.

“I choose salmon,” he added. “I will always choose salmon.”



Sabrina Thompson/The Observer

Programs director for GO-STEM, Donna Rainboth, spoke at Tuesday’s luncheon about the importance of getting students involved and interested in STEM.

STEM

Continued from Page 1A
“elevate the student voice by bringing their peers and community leaders together to ignite new opportunities in STEM and innovation,” according to the CSO website.

The luncheon involved members of local businesses and government including Forest Services, the Center for Human Development, doctors and land surveyors coming together to learn about how their groups can help bring more STEM education and opportunities to Union County. They also shared what is already being done.

“We are trying to bring private, public, nonprofit and government together with the same passion for STEM,” GO-STEM Programs Director Donna Rainboth said.

GO-STEM represents the “Greater Oregon” area, encompassing Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Grant, Baker and Harney counties. The organization’s mission is to be “a regional partnership cultivating a community that values STEM learning, prepares youth for successful STEM careers and builds pathways and pipelines to meet workforce needs,” according to GO-STEM’s website.

GO-STEM combines education and professional development to reach students who may never have considered a career in the fields of STEM. CSO helps with that professional development by actively getting students involved in leadership and group activities under the umbrella of

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— **Charlie Tracy, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative director of engineering**

STEM.

“One of the biggest things I have learned is how there are so many different careers people don’t know about,” Savannah Shorts, a CSO member and senior at La Grande High School, said.

GO-STEM aims to connect students to businesses through presentations, classes, clubs and prospective internships, with funding from the State of Oregon and grants to help companies who might otherwise not consider taking on these teaching opportunities due to time or budget constraints.

“GO-STEM is wide open in how we partner,” Rainboth said. “Whatever you see us doing as best fitting in, from setting up talks to connecting students with internships, it is about how to bring STEM to the community.”

According to Southgate, there can often be misconceptions about what types of careers are in the STEM fields. She said that GO-STEM hopes to change that misrepresentation by introducing students, from elementary school to college, to all of the careers that could be considered STEM.

Through activities and programs, Southgate hopes exposure to these careers can help fulfill the local work-

force needs.

“Rural Oregonian people also have a strong sector interested in STEM, it would be wrong just to focus on urban areas,” GO-STEM member Michael Jagger said. “While the focus here may be on agriculture and food processing, they all have (some sort of) STEM focus.”

In addition to these programs and partnerships, GO-STEM wants to help students see that there are many STEM jobs and opportunities in which they could make a good wage here in rural Oregon.

“Some of the people who grew up here are motivated to stay here,” Charlie Tracy, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative’s director of engineering, said. “To develop that interaction and show that there are tech jobs here will help build interest and keep them here.”

GO-STEM doesn’t want to only educate students, however. Some of its programs involve working with educators and businesses on how to connect with the younger generation, offering classes and programs on presenting to and teaching youth.

“Our goal right now is really getting partnerships established through the region, and getting these programs to be self-sustainable,” Rainboth said. “We are teaching professionals how to teach and interact.”

CLOCKS

Continued from Page 1A
changes cost the country millions of dollars each year in cardiac arrests, workplace injuries and car accidents associated with the time change.

It stated that 26 states had also introduced measures that would do away with clock changes.

During Oregon’s legislative session, everyone from farmers to software developers gave testimony regarding the matter.

Farmer and parent Brenda Frietsch from St. Paul wrote legislators in March, claiming that later sunrises would not only make it more difficult for her farm workers to put in hours during the winter, but that dark mornings could deter children from wanting to ride the bus.

“This is going to be a concern for a lot of parents but particularly in rural areas where bus rides are a lot longer and a lot earlier to get to school on time,” she stated.

British Columbia announced during the summer that if the U.S. West Coast did make the change, the province would follow suit, which brought testimony from many industries and stakeholders.

A ski resort argued that morning daylight was invaluable to skiers, while a golf company stated that an extra hour of evening light would provide more play time for golfers. The Rabbinical Council of America wrote Premier of B.C. Josh Horgan to say

that a permanent switch to daylight saving time would interfere with Jewish daily prayer.

Megan Olsen, owner and operator of Big River Golf Course in Umatilla, said she’s not sure that the November clock change affects her business.

“Year-round we still have golfers out here. Time is limited for the after-work crowd,” Olsen said. “Obviously, shorter days means less time to play, but I don’t think we see a big drop-off after daylight savings.”

UNION

Continued from Page 1A
candidates and that choosing one was a difficult process.

“It was one of the few times I was glad that I couldn’t vote,” said Flint, who as mayor can vote only to break a tie or when the council does not have a quorum.

McDowell, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, has worked in the finance field since 1997 and has lived in Union since September of 2017.

“I would like to help with strategic planning, economic development and policy development efforts,” the new councilor said.

McDowell, with regard to strategic planning, also wrote that he would like to see the city have an updated plan to help it make decisions, make more efficient use of assets and complete infrastructure updates to maintain quality

of life standards “now and in the future.” He said having an updated strategic plan would help the city address important issues.

The new councilor is no stranger to volunteer public service. He previously served on the City of Tigard Planning Commission, the Washington County Cultural Affairs Board, the Pittock Mansion Board and the Oregon Maritime Museum Board.

McDowell was appointed to fill a vacancy created in

August when Walt Brookshire resigned. Brookshire stepped down in July because he is making Cove his new residence. He is the owner of the Union Drug Co. but recently sold his business. Brookshire will continue operating Union Drug Co. in the building he once owned.

Brookshire was appointed to the city council about 2-1/2 years ago to fill a vacancy. Brookshire was elected to a four-year term in November of 2018. He defeated McDow-

ell in that race.

McDowell will serve the remaining three years and 2-1/2 months of Brookshire’s unexpired term.

In other action at Monday’s meeting, the city council appointed Emilee Freeman to serve as its student liaison. Freeman is a senior at Union High School.

Freeman cannot vote but will be able to participate in all council discussions, said City Administrator Doug Wiggins.

RECALL

Continued from Page 1A
collected.

“Another way to put this is, there were enough signatures collected...they just can’t be combined,” he said.

Currier also said the petition received quite a few invalid signatures that he said could be easily corrected if petitioners file again. Many invalid signatures were “simply illegible,” Currier said.

He said over the weekend, they had been able to identify about 100,000 invalid signatures by registered voters whose signatures could be converted into valid signatures.

“We have an address and a name, and with a little bit of research, we can tie that to a specific person and make that valid,” Currier said. “And there were other folks who didn’t put the correct information down, they put the wrong address, and so we can tie them back to a correct address.”

Currier did not return requests seeking further comment Monday.

Brown, a Democrat, was first appointed governor in 2015 when John Kitzhaber resigned after an influence-peddling scandal. She was elected to fill Kitzhaber’s unexpired term in 2016 and reelected in 2018.

In the election last year, Brown received 50.05% of the vote, or 934,498 votes, according to Secretary of State data. Her main opponent, Republican Knute Buehler, received 814,988 votes.

Currier said the public and the party’s volunteers were committed to the cause of removing Brown.

The GOP petition said Brown has “overturned the will of the voters” by allowing undocumented immigrants to get driver’s licenses, “failed to protect Oregon’s foster children” and “failed to address” the state’s public pension debt, among other grievances.

“The volunteers are, for the most part, so committed to seeing Brown removed that we can carry this forward,” Currier said on the show, “But we do have to work out details like timing, when we begin round two, setting up the infrastructure for all of that to happen. So this fight is definitely not over.”

Brown’s supporters say she has fulfilled her campaign promises.

“Gov. Brown ran a campaign promising to move Oregon forward by investing in our schools, creating paid family and medical leave, and protecting the environment,” said Thomas Wheatley, political adviser to Brown, in a written statement Monday. “That’s exactly what she did this year.”

Wheatley contended that “recalls should be used only when an elected official has committed a crime, not when someone disagrees with the policies of the governor or another elected official.”

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