



Tiller's Folly performs in Go!

Inside Mounties, Yotes battle, 8A Virus impacting business, 1B

# THE OBSERVER

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Good day to our valued subscriber Patty Hindman of La Grande

## Not guilty: Senate acquits Trump

■ Article one falls by 52-48 decision; Article two goes down, 53-47

By Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump won impeachment acquittal Wednesday in the U.S. Senate, bringing to a close only the third presidential trial in American history with votes that split the country, tested civic norms and fed the tumultuous 2020 race for the White House.

With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, senators sworn to do "impartial justice" stood at their desks to state their votes for the roll call — "guilty" or "not guilty" — in a swift tally almost exclusively along party lines. Visitors, including the president's allies, watched from the crowded gallery. Roberts read the declaration that Trump "be, and is hereby, acquitted of the charges."

The outcome Wednesday followed months of remarkable impeachment proceedings, from Speaker Nancy Pelosi's House to Mitch McConnell's Senate, reflecting the nation's unrelenting partisan divide three years into the Trump presidency.

What started as Trump's request for Ukraine to "do us a favor" spun into a far-reaching, 28,000-page report compiled by House investigators accusing an American president of engaging in shadow diplomacy that threatened U.S. foreign relations for personal, political gain as he pressured the ally to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden ahead of the next election.

No president has ever been removed by the Senate.

A politically emboldened  
See **Trump** / Page 5A

# Winter work land



Staff photos by Phil Wright

Jeremy Jones and his children Jeremiah and Kylie shovel their driveway Wednesday in La Grande during the midst of the big snow storm that moved over the region Tuesday night and prompted local school closures. Truckers to police to plow drivers took on dealing with the snow. Locals reported snow was anywhere from 8 - 14 inches deep around La Grande, including a measurement of 13-3/8 inches on North Third Street. The National Weather Service reported 5.5. miles northeast of La Grande received 175 inches of snow.



## CCNO bridges gaps in services

By Sabrina Thompson  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Community Connection of Northeast Oregon is the closest Union, Baker, Grant and Wallowa counties have to a one-stop shop for all community services.

The nonprofit organization established in 1969 has been working since then to bring local communities the programming and partnerships that help anyone who needs it. Jeff Hensley, assistant director at Community Connection, said the model works well.

"Instead of us doing everything and being spread too thin, we can work with other agencies," he said.

Community Connection provides an array of services, from housing assistance to youth and senior programming and health and wellness programming. The organization also is the location of the Union County Regional Food Bank, which



Observer file photo

Raymie Blanchard examines onions in November 2019 at Community Connection of Northeast Oregon's Regional Food Bank, La Grande. Community Connection serves Union, Baker, Grant and Wallowa counties.

is the distribution center for 21 food pantries across the four counties.

One pantry, Neighbors Together, has partnered with Community Connection for years. Hannah

Voetberg, chair of the board at Neighbors Together, said the partnership helps with organization, especially when there are donations coming in from a variety of sources.

"If you want to have a comprehensive food bank, you have to work with CCNO," Voetberg said. "If these stores did donations individually, it would be

See **CCNO** / Page 5A

## Kids Club to close in June

By Dick Mason  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The sounds of children playing and laughing have reverberated daily from this three-story brick building at 2609 Second St. each fall, winter and spring for the past 130 years.

Soon this joyful daily clamor may be an echo of the past at the Riveria Activity Center in La Grande.

Kids Club, a certified child care center with education features, run at Riveria by Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, is set to close June 2. Community Connection's board of directors has voted to discontinue it for financial reasons.

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### WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

Tonight 39 LOW Rain and drizzle  
Friday 45/32 Mainly cloudy

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