



THE OBSERVER



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TUESDAY • July 7, 2020 • \$1.50 Good day to our valued subscriber Debbie McConnell of La Grande



Submitted photo
Paul Howard of La Grande died Thursday at a Boise hospital due to complications from COVID-19, his brother, John Howard, reported. Paul Howard was 62.

Local man succumbs to virus

Paul Howard contracted the coronavirus three weeks ago

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

LA GRANDE — John Howard described his younger brother, Paul Howard, as a man who didn't complain in spite of the circumstances he faced. "He did the best he could with the hand he was dealt with," John Howard said. "As family members and friends, we were proud of the way he handed himself all the way through life."

Paul Howard, 62, died Thursday due to complications from COVID-19, his brother said.

"It's just the sudden shock," John Howard said Monday. "Three weeks ago Paul was enjoying life, enjoying his work and family and doing all the things he loved to do. In three weeks, it's all gone. It's a total shock. It seems surreal."

"Paul had many years of life ahead of him if it had not been for the COVID virus."

John previously told The Observer his brother contracted the virus through community spread and was admitted to Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande, and initially returned home after a three-day stay in the hospital.

"I think he had a flare-up with the virus," John Howard

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Staff photo by Dick Mason
Jan Marrs, co-owner of Almosta Farm at Cove, shows how it easy it is to work with her Nigerian dwarf goats. Almosta Farm is on the new Union County Farm Loop map.

AROUND THE FARMS

Union County Farm Loop map to be released soon

By Dick Mason
The Observer

UNION COUNTY — GPS units will be no match for this new map.

The Union County Farm Loop map soon will be available online and in print throughout the county.

The loop map provides a self-guided scenic drive through a series of farms, ranches, backyard farm stands, pastures, orchards and agriculture-related businesses, said the map's creator, Janet Dodson of North Powder, who is involved in agritourism projects throughout Northeast Oregon.

The map outlines a route starting in La Grande at Avella Orchard on Fir Street and then running to Summerville, Cove, Union, the Hot Lake area and ending back La Grande at Community Merchants on Adams Avenue, whose features include locally raised meat.

The map, which is being finalized, will have about 18 stops.

The map is a revised edition of the Cove-Union Farm Loop map, one created by Dodson and put out 2016. That map featured stops along a 40-mile



Staff photo by Dick Mason
Jan Marrs, co-owner of Almosta Farm at Cove, greets one of her Nigerian dwarf goats on June 30. Almosta Farm is on the new Union County Farm Loop map.

loop that began in Island City and ran southeast to Union and then north to Cove and Lower Cove Road and finally west to Island City.

All of the stops on the Union County Farm Loop are at sites where visitors are welcome during operating

hours or, in many cases, by appointment.

The map is part of an effort to develop agritourism in Union County.

"Agritourism is a way for farms and ranches to diversify

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Red-tailed hawk released into wild

Raptor had been hit by a truck May 9 near Cove

By Dick Mason
The Observer

COVE — This adult red-tailed hawk lacks a name but not odds-defying spunk.

The raptor, which could not stand nearly two months ago after being hit by a truck near Cove, was reintroduced into the wild Thursday afternoon, capping an unlikely comeback story.

"It was one of those positive, feel-good events," said Donna Rainboth, an Eastern Oregon University science education professor who led the release of the hawk.

Rainboth placed the raptor back where it was found May 9 after it had spent almost two

months recovering at the Blue Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education center, Pendleton. Lynn Tompkins, director of Blue Mountain Wildlife, said the bird's recovery is nothing short of remarkable.

"It could not stand the first few days it was here," she said. "I was not optimistic that it would make it. It is nice to be wrong."

Tompkins initially feared the reason the bird could not stand was because it had a broken back or pelvis.

However, x-rays indicate the bird had no broken bones. Still, Tompkins knew the bird had

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Contributed photo by Jenny Phelps
Donna Rainboth releases a red-tailed hawk back into the wild Thursday near Cove close to where it had been hit by a truck May 9.

MORE INFORMATION
• To learn more about Blue Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education, visit, bluemountainwildlife.org.

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WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section



Tonight
47 LOW
Clear and cool



Wednesday
75/46
Sunny; pleasant

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