

A local feast for the ages

Looking back at past Union County Thanksgivings

By Dick Mason
The Observer

UNION COUNTY — Midnight dinners, grand balls featuring orchestra music and a meal so bountiful that an Observer headline about it had an exclamation mark.

Union County's Thanksgiving Day history is marked by such highlights.

Early records of Thanksgiving celebrations in Union County date back at least to 1889 when there was an account of upcoming grand ball and supper in the Nov. 21, 1889, edition of the Oregon Scout, then a weekly newspaper in Union. An editorial in the newspaper said the grand ball would be memorable and a bargain.

"Everything will be first

class yet the price of tickets is \$2," the editorial stated.

The newspaper also commented on the abundance of turkeys in the community.

"There are lots of turkeys around the burg this year and not a few of these toothsome birds will be sacrificed in the greed of man at the approaching Thanksgiving," the Oregon Scout stated.

Twelve years later, many La Grande residents attended a Thanksgiving "grand ball" put on by the Foresters of America, a fraternal society. The ball was conducted at a local opera house. Music was conducted by a group named Meade's Orchestra and Thanksgiving dinner was served at midnight. Tickets cost \$1 and at least 100 were sold, according to an article in a November 1901 edition of The Observer.

Fast-forward to Nov. 26, 1937, when a meal that had

few if any equal locally was provided at a Civilian Conservation Corps camp near Hilgard. Served at Camp Hilgard were fruit cups, hot rolls, celery, radishes, roast turkey, cranberry sauce, creamed potatoes, scalloped corn, pumpkin pie, ice cream and coffee. Each of the men at Camp Hilgard also received a pack of cigarettes, according to a story in the Nov. 27 Observer.

The camp's crew consumed 750 pounds of turkey, 25 gallons of ice cream and 75 pumpkin pies. After their Thanksgiving Day feast they were not done eating. At 8 p.m. they were served 200 dozen doughnuts and 75 gallons of cider.

The Civilian Conservation Corps camp was one of many operating in Oregon between 1933 and 1942. The CCC was a public work relief program started as part of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.

OTEC reminds locals to stay safe

The Observer

BAKER CITY — Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative reminds locals not to let the colorful sparkle distract from safety when decorating. OTEC in a press release provided tips to help with holiday decorating safety.

- Consider the safest tree for your home. Real trees should have green needles, and the trunk should be sturdy and sticky with resin. Keep your tree stand filled with water so the tree does not become dry and a

fire hazard. Artificial trees should have fire resistance protection. Never place a tree near heat-emitting devices.

- Lights should have a label indicating an independent testing laboratory accreditation.

- Make sure the lights are rated for the location they will be used. Before hanging lights, check the strands for broken bulbs, fraying or bare wires that could present hazards. Replace damaged products.

- Extension cords should only have three strands of

lights connected to them. Never run extension cords under carpets, through doorways or where they could be damaged. When outdoors, never run extension cords through wet environments, such as snow. When securing light strands, never staple or nail them into place, as this could damage the product.

- When decorating outside, double check that you and any equipment, such as a ladder or a light strand, are a minimum 10 feet from overhead power lines.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY, NOV. 27

9:55 a.m. — La Grande police received a request for contact regarding possible abuse. An officer made contact, took information and explained options.

11:19 a.m. — A caller asked to speak to the animal enforcement officer about cats in the area of Main and East Beakman streets, Union. The officer made contact and explained options.

6:25 p.m. — A Summerville resident reported the theft of medication. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded, but no one wanted to pursue charges.

SATURDAY, NOV. 28

4:33 a.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about noise on the

100 block of Fir Street. An officer responded and counseled one person.

10:54 a.m. — A La Grande resident reported telephonic harassment. An officer contacted a person and issued a warning.

4:46 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a domestic disturbance on the 2000 block of N Avenue. Officers responded and determined it was an argument.

7:01 p.m. — A caller reported a domestic disturbance on the 1200 block of Evanston Street, Elgin. Union County sheriff's deputies responded and separated the parties, but no one wanted to pursue charges.

SUNDAY, NOV. 29

12:57 a.m. — La Grande police received a request

for assistance with a person experiencing mental illness. Police contacted a mental health provider.

9:41 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 200 block of N Avenue for a female yelling. She moved along after an officer arrived.

1:49 p.m. — A caller was suspicious someone would abandon a trailer near Pierce and Foothill roads, La Grande. A Union County sheriff's deputy found no one was abandoning the trailer at that moment.

8:06 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1300 block of Madison Avenue on a report of a burglary at a residence. Officers determined nothing was stolen and would provide extra patrols.

Holiday shopping season underway



Kaleb Lay/The Observer

Pedestrians make their way into downtown La Grande on Black Friday, Nov. 27, 2020, a day heralded as the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season.

OBITUARIES

Ray Taylor

La Grande

Ray Taylor, 82, of La Grande, died Nov. 28. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Raymond D. Omohundro

Summerville

Raymond D. Omohundro, 87, of Summerville, died Nov. 28 at his home. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Maurice Rogers

La Grande

Maurice Rogers, 92, of La Grande, died Nov. 25 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.



Please follow guidelines regarding face coverings and social distancing at all services.

Dec. 4 — ESTHER HOFMANN: 2 p.m. graveside service; Hillcrest Cemetery, La Grande.

— Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

Esther L. Hofmann

La Grande

Esther L. Hofmann, 102, of La Grande, died Nov. 27 at Grande Ronde Hospital. A graveside service will be held Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. at Hillcrest Cemetery. Attendees must wear a mask and practice social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

La GRANDE AUTO REPAIR
975-2000
www.lagrandeautorepair.com

JOE HORST
MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE
ACDelcoTSS

Charles Rothwell

La Grande

Charles Rothwell, 87, of La Grande, died Nov. 30 at his home. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Bank of Eastern Oregon.

Helping Ranchers & Farmers Grow Generations since 1945.

We offer Operating lines of credit and Term loans on Equipment and Land.

Call Kristy or David for an appointment.

New Customers Welcome!



KRISTY NELSON
Ag & Commercial Loan Officer

La Grande
BRANCH/LOANS
2514 Cove Avenue
541-624-5040
9 AM-5 PM: MON-FRI



DAVID STIREWALT
Ag & Commercial Loan Officer

Bank of Eastern Oregon
Member FDIC

Rates & terms may vary. All loans subject to credit approval. NMLS #414459

Come Check Out The **FALL Fun We Are Having** at **GRANDE Ronde**

Retirement & Assisted Living
1809 Gekeler Ln. • La Grande
541-963-4700

PROTECTING our Residents during this Pandemic

Imagine The Difference You Can Make
DONATE YOUR CAR
1-844-533-9173

FREE TOWING TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Help Prevent Blindness
Get A Vision Screening Annually

Heritage for the Blind

Ask About A FREE 3 Day Vacation Voucher To Over 20 Destinations!!!

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY!
877-557-1912

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!
Offer valid March 16, 2020 - June 30, 2020

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*Terms & Conditions Apply

dish BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet!
ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. where available

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE

\$59.99/mo. America's Top 120 Package
190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100

1-866-373-9175 Offer ends 7/15/20. **dish** ALLIANCE

All offers require credit qualification. 24-month commitment with early termination fee and eRatePay. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper w/Sling or Hopper 35/mo. more. Upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification.