



Faith and family

Local woman pushes on through treatment for pancreatic cancer

By Kaleb Lay
The Observer
ELGIN — Ask about Connie Carter, and her friends and loved ones are likely to describe a woman whose boundless compassion is rivaled only by the solidity of the faith that drives it.

They might also tell you she is a devoted mother, a loving wife and a dedicated and naturally capable mental health professional — so devoted, in fact, she still works with her patients as she fights through bouts of chemotherapy.

“God called me to help people, and I don’t want to give that up,” Carter said. “I’m not ready to (die), I have so much more that I can give. I don’t want to go out like this.”

Carter was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer after falling ill in July.

“I went from being fine to being sick — really sick — really fast,” she said. “I had several weeks where I felt, like, not normally me.”

She began rapidly losing weight, she said, before developing a widespread itching sensation she described as “horrible” and which grew worse as time went on. After a sudden onset of diabetes, she sought medical help.

“It just happened so fast it was unrealistic,” said Glen Carter, Connie’s husband.

Shortly afterward, she received a call from a doctor informing her there was a tumor growing on her pancreas. A subsequent endoscopic biopsy surgery confirmed the tumor was cancerous.

“They told us that day that it was cancer,” she said. “So then, there’s just a cascade of events that had to happen. I had to have a port placed for chemo, I needed to have a cat scan done, there’s been just this whole host of tests and lab work, all so I could start chemo, and I started chemo the second of September, I think.”

Glen Carter said the chemotherapy nearly killed his wife early in her treatment and led to her hospitalization. Afterward, she was put on a less intensive chemotherapy battery, but even on the

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Dick Mason/The Observer

Nancy Scott, right, a food service staff member of the Union County Senior Center, La Grande, talks with Meals on Wheels driver Gerry Stairet on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020.

DINNER’S ON!

Union County Senior Center again offering Christmas dinners

By Dick Mason
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Union County residents have a two-for-one opportunity.

They have the chance to enjoy a tasty Christmas meal and help people in need at the same time.

The food service program at the Union County Senior Center, which is part of Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, is set to again provide grab-and-go Christmas dinners for families of four. The meals, which cost \$35.

The dinners include tender beef, horseradish, potato casserole, Harvard beets, rolls and Christmas cobbler. Those purchasing dinners also will be able to buy extra items, including cookies, cinnamon rolls and cheesecake.

The deadline for signing up for the senior center’s Christmas dinners is Dec. 18. Forms are available at the Union County Senior Center.

The meals will be available for pickup between 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 23 at the Union County Senior Center, 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande.

All proceeds from the din-



Dick Mason/The Observer

Nancy Scott, food service staff member of the Union County Senior Center, La Grande, checks items from one of the center’s freezers on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020.

ners will go to Union County Senior Center programs, which help those in need, including Meals on Wheels. The program relies on volunteer drivers to serve meals each day to home-bound residents. The need for Meals on Wheels locally has increased significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

The program served between 60 and 70 people a day before the COVID-19 pandemic hit in

March and now provides meals to between 95 and 110 people a day, said Sydney Gleeson, the Union County Senior Center’s food service manager.

Gleeson said there is a greater need for Meals on Wheels today in part because many seniors are reluctant to leave home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Seniors are more at risk if they

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Walden one of few in GOP to accept Biden win

By Gary A. Warner
Oregon Capital Bureau

WASHINGTON — Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, is among just 27 Republican members of Congress who will say Democrat Joe Biden has been elected president, according to a survey The Washington Post published Saturday.

Walden, who did not run for reelection and will leave Congress after 20 years in office, represents all of Oregon east of the Cascades and a portion in the southwest, including Ashland, Medford and Grants Pass.

The newspaper asked all 249 Republicans in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House “Who won the election?”

Walden was among the 70% of those polled who did not respond directly to the newspaper’s query. But the Post reviewed recent public statements and put Walden on the list of 27 accepting Biden as the next president based on a Dec. 1 interview for a National Journal podcast.

“I think in the end we’ll have a transition here, and you’ll have a new president come Jan. 20,” Walden said in the interview. “I don’t see the math where this gets overturned and so far I’ve not seen the evidence of the amount of fraud it would take, or mistakes — and those occur in every election — to overturn the results in any state.”

Walden added, “So, I think the die is pretty well cast” on who would be president.

Walden could not be reached for comment by EO Media Group on Saturday. Former state senator Cliff Bentz, a Republican from Ontario, was elected in November to succeed Walden. Bentz could not be reached for comment on Saturday.

Walden is the only Republican in Oregon’s delegation of two U.S. Senators and five members of the U.S. House.

Biden beat President Donald Trump by 7 million votes and an

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CSI offers on-farm micro hydropower assessments

By Katy Nesbitt
For the Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — For more than 100 years, hydropower has brought electricity to Wallowa County farms. This fall, Community Solutions Inc. is encouraging landowners with streams, ditches, canals or piped water moving over their property to schedule a hydropower assessment.

Matt King, Renewable Energy Program manager, said now is a good time to have an assessment because Community Solutions and Energy Trust of Oregon are wrapping up a comprehensive analysis of Wallowa County’s hydro development potential as part of an update of a 10-year study.

“We are trying to map out, and get an idea, where the highest potential for hydro projects might be,” King said.

He said it starts with a phone call.

“After that preliminary call, if it warrants further evaluation, one of us will go out and have a look and do a scoping study at no cost,” King said.

An assessment looks at how much elevation a farm ditch might have; if it’s too flat, that will immediately eliminate the possibility of a hydropower installation, King said. How much water savings could be realized also is taken into account as well as ease of development.

“In some cases, a landowner can save water through piping a ditch, there can be a benefit of timing of water delivery for aquatic species and can give people the ability to add storage

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Contributed photo

The second of two micro hydropower plants was installed on the Spaur Ranch in Lostine in October 2016. The plants help power the ranch’s businesses. Community Solutions Inc. is encouraging Wallowa County landowners with streams, ditches, canals or piped water moving over their property to schedule a hydropower assessment.

LEARN MORE

To determine if a project on your property is eligible, go to preview.tinyurl.com/WallowaHydro. For more information, contact Joe Basile, CSI’s Renewable Energy project manager, by email at joe@wallowaresources.org or by phone at 541-561-4426.

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Full forecast on the back of B section



Tonight
32 LOW
A shower late



Wednesday
41/31
A little snow

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Email story ideas to news@lagrandeobserver.com. More contact info on Page 4A.



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THURSDAY

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