

COMMUNITY

Briefs

New menu for next Cove senior meal

COVE — The Cove senior meal planned for March 2 has been changed to beef stew, green salad, biscuits and cherry cobbler. The take-out lunches are offered on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Due to pandemic restrictions, meals are picked up in front of Founders Hall from noon to 12:30 p.m. Enter the driveway on Church Street from the north.

There is a \$5 charge per meal. If you haven't been contacted, call Imie Bristow at 541-568-4545 by Wednesday, Feb. 24, to order your meal.

Tickets on sale for crab and prime rib feed, Casino Night

ENTERPRISE — The annual Enterprise Elks Lodge crab and prime rib feed is set for Saturday, Feb. 27, at Cloverleaf Hall on the Wallowa County Fairgrounds. Doors open at 4 p.m. with a no-host bar and food prepared by Elks members.

All-you-can-eat crab is \$40, prime rib and a cup of crab is \$35, and prime rib only is \$25. All dinners include coleslaw, baked beans and garlic bread.

Dinner will be followed by a firewood auction and a dessert auction at 6:30 p.m. to benefit Casey Eye Institute. Casino Night begins at 8 p.m. For tickets and more information contact Kent at 541-426-1829.

Spring youth art classes taking signups

JOSEPH — The Josophy Center for Arts and Culture announces in a press release it is now taking signups for the spring session of youth clay classes.

The classes, which run each Friday from March 19 to May 7.

Sessions for ages 7-11 are 10-11:30 a.m. and for ages 12-17 from 1-3 p.m.

Tickets for the classes cost \$80. For more information or to purchase tickets visit [view.tinyurl.com/YouthClay](http://view.tinyurl.com/YouthClay).

— EO Media Group

Lottery

Megabucks: \$2.1 million 8-12-17-26-41-42

Powerball: \$78 million 4-8-22-32-58 — PB 4 x10

Mega Millions: \$20 million 27-32-47-50-53 — MB 4 x4

Win for Life: Feb. 20 8-55-68-70

Pick 4: Feb. 21

• 1 p.m.: 7-7-4-8

• 4 p.m.: 5-8-1-5

• 7 p.m.: 3-9-4-7

• 10 p.m.: 9-3-3-0

Pick 4: Feb. 20

• 1 p.m.: 5-2-3-8

• 4 p.m.: 2-6-2-5

• 7 p.m.: 8-5-3-21

• 10 p.m.: 4-8-1-4

Pick 4: Feb. 19

• 1 p.m.: 7-4-1-2

• 4 p.m.: 2-2-1-7

• 7 p.m.: 0-2-2-9

• 10 p.m.: 3-8-5-7

DELIVERY ISSUES?

If you have any problems receiving your Observer, call 541-963-3161.

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

8:06 a.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy assisted a motorist with a disabled vehicle at Sixth Street and N Avenue, La Grande.

11:13 a.m. — A caller reported a dog on the loose on the 800 block of East Ash Street, Union. The animal enforcement officer responded and counseled the owners.

12:54 p.m. — A La Grande resident reported identity theft. An officer responded and took a report.

2:48 p.m. — Law enforcement and emergency services responded to a traffic crash with injuries at Island Avenue and Mulholland Drive, La Grande.

4:40 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1500 block of Fifth Street for a domestic disturbance. The officer at the scene found the circumstances did not mandate an arrest

and separated the parties.

5:23 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 3000 block of Q Avenue for a domestic disturbance. Police separated the parties.

7:02 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office at L Avenue and 25th Street, La Grande, arrested Colin Drew Dittmer, 21, on 11 Union County warrants for failure to appear on cases for trespass, theft, misdemeanor assault and other charges.

9 p.m. — La Grande police responded to a residence on the 300 block of Adams Avenue for a non-communicative 911 call. Officers determined this was a domestic disturbance and separated the parties.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

12:33 a.m. — La Grande police responded to Riverside Park for a suspicious vehicle. An officer told the subject to go home.

1:08 a.m. — A caller

complained about loud noise on the 1900 block of Z Avenue, La Grande. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded, and the subject agreed to turn down the music.

11:46 a.m. — A caller reported an injured hawk on the 3000 block of Blue Mountain Drive, La Grande. The animal enforcement officer contacted the caller, who would take the raptor to Blue Mountain Wildlife, the bird rescue and rehabilitation center in Pendleton.

11:50 a.m. — A caller reported an injured cat on the 700 block of Fourth Street, La Grande. The animal enforcement officer responded and took the cat to a veterinarian.

3:07 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a sex crime in Union.

7:32 p.m. — A caller reported criminal mischief to a vehicle on the 700 block of 16th Street, La

Grande. An officer took a report.

8:45 p.m. — A caller reported a possible disturbance on the 79300 block of Highway 204, Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy made contact. The parties separated prior to response.

11:52 p.m. — A caller complained again about loud noise on the 1900 block of Z Avenue, La Grande. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and counseled one person.

SUNDAY, FEB. 21

12:52 a.m. — Law enforcement responded to the 62100 block of Mount Glen Road, La Grande, on a report of a domestic disturbance. The Union County Sheriff's Office arrested Kyle J. Wright, 36, for fourth-degree domestic violence assault.

5:17 a.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy assisted at a traffic crash involving possible inju-

ries on McAlister Road, La Grande.

11:21 a.m. — A caller reported two dogs on the loose in the area of milepost 268 on Interstate 84, La Grande. The animal enforcement officer responded, found the dogs and counseled their owners.

1:41 p.m. — The Wallowa County Sheriff's Office arrested Joseph Everett Robb, 20, of Lostine, on a Union County warrant for first-degree theft and unauthorized entry into a vehicle.

4:35 p.m. — A caller reported a possible domestic disturbance at a residence on the 1900 block of First Street, La Grande. An officer responded and separated the parties.

11:06 p.m. — A caller reported a domestic disturbance at a residence on the 90 block of South Eighth Street, Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and had the parties separate.

DAMS

Continued from Page 1A

"This is lightning in a bottle. It really is," Slater said. "We are telling stakeholders this is a once-in-30-years opportunity. Do we want to grab it?"

Simpson was motivated by the prospect of continued litigation even as salmon die off, Slater said.

Simpson unveiled the plan in a video posted to his website on Feb. 13, saying, "The current system is clearly not working."

Four Republican House members — Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Dan Newhouse and Jaime Herrera Beutler, all from Washington, and Rep. Russ Fulcher of Idaho — oppose Simpson's plan.

"The hydropower developed in the Pacific Northwest benefits every resident, family, and business in our region," they said in a joint statement. "Without it, life as we know it in our region would cease to exist."

McMorris Rodgers, whose district has several of the dams, has long fought to preserve the structures.

"Spending more than \$33 billion to breach them — with no guarantee that doing so will restore salmon populations — is a drastic, fiscally irresponsible leap to take," she said.

Conservation and tribal groups issued statements



Ted S. Warren/Associated Press, File

The Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River from the air near Colfax, Washington. A Republican congressman has proposed removing four hydroelectric dams in the Northwest, including the Lower Granite Dam, as part of a sweeping plan to save salmon populations and provide aid to farmers and others.

*"The current system is clearly not working."*

— Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho

supporting Simpson's proposal.

"We've spent decades making minor improvements and adjustments that simply haven't worked, and what we really need is serious funding and a major overhaul," said Liz Hamilton, executive director of the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association.

"Healthy populations of wild salmon and steelhead

are essential for Northwest tribes, local economies and the region's way of life — and they're running out of time," said Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation.

The plan calls for the removal of the Lower Granite Dam near Colfax in 2030, with removal of three other dams — Ice Harbor, Little Goose and Lower Monumental — in

2031. The dams were built in the 1950s and 1960s to provide power, flood control and irrigation, and to make navigable a portion of the Snake River from Lewiston, Idaho, to the Tri-Cities of Richland, Kennewick and Pasco in Washington, and downriver to Pacific Ocean ports.

Simpson's proposal includes removing the earthen berms adjacent to all four Lower Snake River hydroelectric dams to let the river run free, while spending billions to replace the benefits of the dams for agriculture, energy and transportation. Glen Squires, head of

the Washington Grain Commission, said Simpson should look to his own backyard if he wants to help fish.

"If the representative is so interested in dams and getting fish back to Idaho, I'd suggest he look at those within his state that were built without fish passage, cutting fish off from pristine habitat," Squires said.

Nez Perce tribal Chairman Shannon Wheeler, whose ancestors kept Lewis and Clark alive with salmon from Idaho's rivers when the starving explorers stumbled into Nez Perce territory in 1805, said the tribe strongly supports Simpson's plan.

"We view restoring the lower Snake River, a living being to us, and one that is injured, as urgent and overdue," Wheeler said.

Simpson is not the only one seeking a comprehensive solution to helping conserve the salmon population while providing for the region's power needs. The governors of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana have formed the Columbia Basin Collaborative, which must be involved in any solution, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said.

"Washington welcomes Rep. Simpson's willingness to think boldly about how to recover Columbia and Snake River salmon in a way that works for the entire region," Inslee said.

OBITUARIES

Charles L. Ritter

La Grande  
Charles L. Ritter, 93, of La Grande, died Feb. 21. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Thor Edvalson

Formerly of La Grande  
Thor Edvalson, 59, of Baker City and formerly of La Grande, died Feb. 2 at St. Alphonsus Regional

Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. A celebration of his life will be held Feb. 26 at 11 a.m. at the Harvest Church in Baker City.

The service will be livestreamed; go to [www.bakercityharvest.org](http://www.bakercityharvest.org), scroll to the bottom and click the YouTube icon. Arrangements are by Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home, Halfway.

Translator district reminds property owners of tax liability

The Observer

UNION COUNTY — The Blue Mountain Translator District has mailed reminder notices of liability for antenna TV service charges to property owners in Baker and Union counties.

Blue Mountain Translator District is a local government special district that manages a portfolio of telecommunications assets and TV translators. The district receives its funds via an annual \$100 service charges, which covers the cost of maintenance of TV translators and support the operation of KUNP Channel 16-4, "Blue Mountains Now," an over-the-air channel that broadcasts local government meetings, news and information as well as

educational content. Property owners are exempt from the payment if they do not use an antenna to view KATU, KGW, KOIN, KTVB, KPDX, KPTV or KRCW.

Payments and signed exemption requests for the 2020-21 billing cycle may be returned to BMTD at any point through May 31. If the district does not receive a payment or exemption request by the end of May, the charge will be enrolled on the property owner's fall 2021 property tax statement.

For more information about payments and exemptions, call the Blue Mountain Translator District office at 541-963-0196 or email [bmtbd.org@gmail.com](mailto:bmtbd.org@gmail.com).

VA events focus on Black History Month, women

The Observer

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — The Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington, which serves veterans in Northeast Oregon, is holding a virtual Black History Month event Thursday, Feb. 25, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The day-long event will feature numerous presenters and some musical presentations. All can attend via Webex using their smartphone, computer, tablet or other electronic device. Participate for the entire event, or drop in and out as your schedule permits. For more details and to access the online celebration, go to [www.wal-lawalla.va.gov/features/BHM\\_2021.asp](http://www.wal-lawalla.va.gov/features/BHM_2021.asp).

The Walla Walla VA in a press release also invited women veterans to participate in a women veterans COVID-19 telephone town hall Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. hosted by the VA Portland Health Care System.

Topics to be discussed will include information about the COVID-19 vaccine and side effects. Walla Walla VA personnel will be listening in on the call in order to address any issues or questions by women veterans in its area.

Participants must register for the event no later than Wednesday, Feb. 24, in order to receive access information.

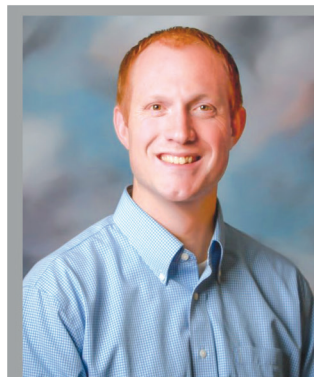
Details can be found at [www.portland.va.gov/services/women/index.asp](http://www.portland.va.gov/services/women/index.asp).

Upcoming local services



Please follow guidelines regarding face coverings and social distancing at all services.  
Feb. 26 — THOR

EDVALSON: 11 a.m. celebration of life, Harvest Church, Baker City.  
April 24 — BECKY ROBERSON: 2 p.m. celebration of life, Elgin Community Center.  
— calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande



Turning 65? We're here to help!

Joel Myer  
[jmyer@valleyinsurance.com](mailto:jmyer@valleyinsurance.com)



1603 Washington Ave, La Grande  
(541) 963-3121

Let us take the mystery out of Medicare for you!

Kathy Rienti  
[krienti@valleyinsurance.com](mailto:krienti@valleyinsurance.com)

