

# THE OBSERVER

SERVING UNION AND WALLOWA COUNTIES SINCE 1896

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## Book provides in-depth look at area history

Summerville residents research history of road names in Union County

By DICK MASON  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Trish Yerges admits that the finding took her breath away.

The Summerville resident was doing research for a book about Union County road names when she began looking into the history of Palmer Junction Road. She knew that actor Kevin Costner had once lived there but then she discovered that the road's story was illuminated by more Hollywood star power than she realized.

Yerges learned that there was a timeshare home on Palmer Junction Road where Roy Rogers had once lived.

"That was a big surprise. It was really cool," said Yerges, co-author with her husband, Dave, of the new book "Historical Guide to Union County, Oregon Roads."

Trish Yerges said Rogers had a home along a section of road known as "the millionaire's hill" because the singer and actor lived there. She also discovered that Rogers rode a horse on his Palmer Junction land, one that was reportedly a descendant of Trigger, the famous palomino Rogers rode in many movie appearances. Yerges said that when the horse died, Rogers reportedly buried it at his timeshare property on Palmer Junction Road. She said the owner of the property today has looked for where the horse was buried but has not been able to find it.

Rogers is mentioned in the new book along with Costner, who lived on Palmer Junction Road's Cabin Creek Ranch. It was complete with a helicopter pad and a backyard pool, said Dave Yerges, who

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## 'We're always paying attention'

Low COVID-19 numbers at Eastern Oregon University reflect county-wide trends

By DAVIS CARBAUGH  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Officials at Eastern Oregon University are satisfied with recent stagnant COVID-19 numbers, which reflect a country-wide

drop in cases.

The university has not recorded a single COVID-19 case since Friday, Feb. 25. Eastern has tallied 295 total COVID-19 cases this academic year, 157 of which are from off-campus students. The recent

drop in cases mirrors Union County's recent trends, with the county recording single digit or no cases every day since Feb. 23.

"I'm happy where we're at, but we're always paying attention," said Lacy Karpilo, vice

president of student affairs.

"While we have lowered some of the restrictions, we're still looking in the future as to what could be on the horizon."

The university dropped its

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Karpilo

## Calling it a season

Union County Warming Station wraps up 2022 campaign



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Joe McGuire serves up a helping of broccoli salad at the warming station appreciation lunch at Zion Lutheran Church, La Grande, on Saturday, March 19, 2022. The Union County Warming Station concluded its fourth year of operation on March 15, and saw a steady stream of individuals throughout the year — most were from La Grande.

By DAVIS CARBAUGH  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — When cold weather strikes, the Union County Warming Station opens its doors to those in need of shelter.

The warming station concluded its fourth year of operation this March, providing temporary housing and services for homeless individuals during the coldest months of the year. With a number of individuals and organizations combining efforts, the station's board and volunteers credit a community effort for keeping the service up and running through 2022.

"It keeps people alive — that's the main reason we do it," said Lisa Ladendorff, the shelter's board treasurer. "It was probably one of our smoothest years ever. We had very minimal law enforcement calls or mental health calls."

The Union County Warming Station officially closed its 2022 season on Tuesday, March 15, holding a lunch-in to celebrate the efforts of its numerous volunteers on March 19.



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Fred Knappe dishes up a plate of food at the warming shelter appreciation lunch at Zion Lutheran Church, La Grande, on Saturday, March 19, 2022.

In its second year at the 3rd Street location, the Union County Warming Station experienced a busy year throughout the 2021-22 winter months. The space has a maximum capacity of 20, which allows 18 individuals to join two volunteers on a nightly basis throughout the winter

— in the case of more than 18 individuals seeking shelter, the station partners with Community Connection to provide emergency motel rooms for those in need. In addition to the 18 individuals staying the

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### WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section

	<b>Tonight</b> 41 Low Mainly clear		<b>Wednesday</b> 66/39 Partly sunny
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Email story ideas to [news@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:news@lagrandeobserver.com).  
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