

EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022

146th Year, No. 55

WINNER OF 16 ONPA AWARDS IN 2021

\$1.50

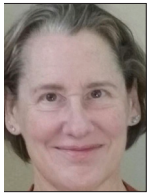
LA GRANDE

Funds raised for Ukraine have wide impact

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Good samaritans are showing that every donation, even from the other side of the world, makes a difference.

La Grande resident Anne Morrison was one of the organizers of a recent demonstration at Max Square in downtown La Grande to raise funds for those in need in Ukraine. Her local family connection to the frontlines in Ukraine is ensuring that donations in rural Oregon have a far-reaching impact. Morrison organized a demonstration on March 12, alongside Kate Gekeler and Cheryl Simpson, with live music from Al MacLeod. The event raised \$21,000 for Ukrainian citizens in need in war-torn cities, as well as Ukrainian refugees fleeing the country.



Morrison

Through a unique connection to Ukraine, Morrison is continuing local fundraising efforts to put supplies and aid directly into the hands of those in need.

Morrison's cousin, Ian Dempsey, of Colorado, met his wife, Sofia, while on a mission trip in Ukraine nearly a decade ago. The couple have numerous existing connections in war-torn areas of Ukraine, one of which involved assisting Sofia Dempsey's sister and two children in fleeing to the United States.

Inna Stasiuk and her daughters, Valariia and Alina, fled Kyiv in late February, relying on help from Ian and Sofia Dempsey in their travels through Poland, Italy, Spain and eventually Tijuana. From Mexico, the family was able to link up with Ian Dempsey at the California border after staying at refugee centers in Tijuana. Stasiuk and her daughters, ages 10 and two, found safe passage to the United States in early April and have since taken shelter with the Dempseys in Colorado.

"A big thing was not knowing what the process would be once they got to Tijuana," Ian Dempsey said. "That was a bit of a challenge, because I did not want to scare them from not making the trip. I really thought it was the best thing to do."

"It gives me such a feeling of joy and gratitude to see this photo, particularly when I think that my initial hope was to perhaps save even just one person," Morrison said in an updated newsletter.

See Ukraine, Page A9



LEFT: Volunteer April Navratil reaches for some trash as Trinidad Jones helps steady her on Saturday, April 23, 2022, during the Spring 2022 River Cleanup on the Pendleton River Parkway. ABOVE: A girl holds a tree she received Saturday, April 23, 2022, at the Spring 2022 River Cleanup in Pendleton. The Pendleton Tree Commission, Pendleton Parks & Recreation, the Umatilla National Forest and Oregon Community Trees teamed up to offer northern red oak, western larch, aspen and other trees and shrubs.

Photos By Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

SPRING 2022 RIVER CLEANUP

Volunteers remove debris from the bank of the Umatilla River in Pendleton

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The banks of the Umatilla River in Pendleton became a lot cleaner Saturday, April 23.

At least 60 people scoured the Pendleton River Parkway for trash during the morning, participating in the annual Spring 2022 River Cleanup, sponsored by Stewards of the Umatilla River Environment, or SURE. Participants gathered at 9:30 a.m. at Roy Raley Park, gloved up and spread out up and down the river.

The group found an eclectic mix of trash, including tires, a Christmas tree covered with tinsel, a length of fire hose and scores of bottles, cans, paper and cigarette butts. As they worked, they were treated to sightings of pelicans, herons, squirrels, snakes and other wildlife.

The event featured a tree and shrub giveaway in recognition of Arbor Day that offered northern red oak, western larch, aspen, golden currant, mock orange and others. The Pendleton Tree Commission, Pendleton Parks & Recreation, the Umatilla National Forest and Oregon Community Trees teamed up to offer the free flora. Arbor Day is April 29.



A squirrel eats a scrap of bread Saturday, April 23, 2022, as volunteers work below along the Pendleton River Parkway.



An old tire sits where a volunteer placed it for pickup Saturday, April 23, 2022, during the cleanup along the Pendleton River Parkway.



A volunteer hunts for trash Saturday, April 23, 2022, along the banks of the Umatilla River during the Spring 2022 River Cleanup in Pendleton.

Preserving World War II guardhouses still up in the air

By **JOHN TILLMAN**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The World War II-era guardhouses at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton are not going anywhere any time soon, Airport Manager John Honemann said. But how to preserve the shacks remain open ended.

The 11-member airport commission discussed the preservation of the guardhouses at its meeting Wednesday night, April 20. Honemann said it's been some time since the commission discussed the structures.

"I've been the airport manager for nine-and-a-half months and the preservation of the shacks is a new topic of public interest," he said.

The agenda item was there to facilitate discussion about the historical 1941 Pendleton Army air base

guardhouses that are rapidly deteriorating due to decades of neglect and possibly under threat from the construction of the adjacent Radisson Hotel and increased traffic at the airport. Honemann said the board overwhelmingly supports preserving the shacks to showcase the historic significance of the airport and Pendleton in the country's efforts in World War II.

"At this point, I don't know exactly what that will look like," he said, "but rest assured, it is not demolishing or getting rid of the guard shacks."

Preservation options

The Pendleton Air Museum has promoted preserving the buildings. PAM board member Col. Tim



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

A World War II-vintage guardhouse, one of two at the entrance to Airport Road south of the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport, Pendleton, sits near construction of a Radisson Hotel on Thursday, April 21, 2022. The airport commission is keen to preserve the shacks, but there is no plan on how to do that.

See WWII, Page A9



7 294671 10002 2