

Small-business & Ag

HAPPENINGS

Nature’s Pantry hosts ‘Dog Days of Summer’

LA GRANDE — Nature’s Pantry, 1907 Fourth St., La Grande, is offering “Dog Days of Summer,” a combination of special sales and dog adoptions through Aug. 31. It is the end of the store’s fiscal year, and there will be clearance items as well as sales and samples throughout the store and lunch, juice and smoothie specials. The Blue Mountain Humane Association will be onsite with dogs for adoption and there will be special deals on pet products. On Aug. 23, the community is invited to enjoy free hot dogs (meat and vegetarian) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nature’s Pantry is open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Wolf deterrent compensation available in Union County

LA GRANDE — According to a press release from the Union County Board of Commissioners, grant funding is currently available to Union County livestock producers for nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques designed to minimize wolf-livestock conflicts. Compensation is available by application until Jan. 31, 2019, or funds are depleted, whichever occurs first. If adequate grant funds are not available to fully fund each approved application, reimbursements will be determined at the discretion of the Union County Wolf Depredation Compensation committee. Additional information and applications to apply are available at www.union-county.org or by calling 541-963-1001.

Hought’s block party offers 1985 prices

LA GRANDE — Hought’s 24 Flavors, 602 Adams Ave., La Grande, is throwing a block party from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 24. There will be live music from Standard Deviation, and 1985 prices for cheeseburgers (\$1.70), fries (70 cents) and pop (45 cents). No other food will be served at that time, except, of course, ice cream. The block party will also offer face painting and a big bouncy house.

Oregon Farm Bureau releases statement on WOTUS ruling

SALEM — In a press release issued Aug. 20, Oregon Farm Bureau Public Policy Counsel Mary Anne Cooper made the following statement:

“Despite outcry from thousands of farm and ranch families from across the nation, today’s ruling by the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina means that the 2015 Waters of the U.S. rule is now in effect in Oregon.

Under the 2015 WOTUS rule, EPA could force farmers and ranchers to apply for a costly permit to do even the most basic work on their land, or potentially be hit with enormous fines and frivolous lawsuits. These permits could be required for plowing, planting, applying pesticides and fertilizers, and other normal farming activities on dry farm fields.

“The 2015 WOTUS rule goes far beyond congressional intent and the lawful bounds of the Clean Water Act as articulated by previous Supreme Court decisions. At best, it is a solution in search of a problem. At worst, it is a federal land grab designed to give DEQ and EPA control over Oregon’s farmland far beyond what the law calls for.

“We support the Trump Administration’s commitment to repeal and replace WOTUS with an alternative that achieves water conservation and quality goals without decimating the livelihood of hard-working rural Americans. Farm and ranch families are already struggling against low commodity prices, continuously rising supply costs and constantly expanding expensive rules, regulations and red tape.

“Every day Oregon’s farmers and ranchers work very hard to maximize water efficiency and protect water quality because their livelihood and future depend on it, it’s the law, and it’s simply the right thing to do. The 2015 WOTUS rule will hurt family agriculture in Oregon and is a case of extreme government overreach with no regard to the impact on rural communities.”

Farm Bureau calendar seeks pics of Oregon agriculture

SALEM — Through Sept. 15, the Oregon Farm Bureau invites the public to submit their best photos of Oregon agriculture for a chance to be featured in the 2019

See **Briefly** / Page 2B

Cycle Oregon comes to town

Elgin and La Grande lay out the red carpet

By Trish Yerges, ForThe Observer

After months of planning, the local organizing committees for Elgin and La Grande are looking at the last details of preparation for the overnight hosting of more than 2,000 Oregon Cycle guests on Sept. 11-12 and 14-15, respectively.

The 2018 Cycle Oregon route takes the bicyclists from Baker City to Halfway (Sept. 9) and from Halfway to Wallowa Lake (Sept. 10), then onward from Wallowa Lake to Elgin (Sept. 11). They stay overnight at Elgin before heading to Pendleton (Sept. 12) with an optional 54-mile ride from Pendleton to Echo (Sept. 13). Then they leave Pendleton for La Grande (Sept. 14), where they spend

the night before leaving La Grande for the finish line in Baker City (Sept. 15). The Elgin and La Grande local organizing committees are coordinated by their respective community managers, Allan Duffy of Elgin and Alex McHaddad of La Grande. Each manager ensures the necessary community groups are recruited and services are provided. Overnight campsite locations



The last details for the Cycle Oregon event are being put together now. The event will bring in 2,000 bicyclists to Northeast Oregon.

and 35,000 gallons of potable water must be procured and set up, and arrangements must be made for security, shuttle transportation and entertainment at each location.

The Elgin Economic Devel-

opment and Growth Endeavor organization, which is organizing the hospitality services for Cycle Oregon in Elgin, met recently to discuss the plans for Sept. 11-12. The theme chosen for the 2018

See **Cycle** / Page 2B



Bicyclists will be taking the streets of Northeast Oregon in a few weeks to ride the Cycle Oregon event. The route begins in Baker City and will finish in Baker City.

CYCLE OREGON ROUTE

Participants will arrive on Friday, Sept. 7 and Saturday, Sept. 8 in Baker City and will spend the night.

Baker City to Halfway: 55/58 miles, Sept. 9

Halfway to Wallowa Lake: 78/84 miles, Sept. 10

Wallowa Lake to Elgin: 61/65 miles, Sept. 11

Elgin to Pendleton: 75 miles, Sept. 12

Optional ride from Pendleton to Echo: 54 miles, Sept. 13

Pendleton to La Grande: 57 miles, Sept. 14

La Grande to Baker City: 58 miles, Sept. 15

—Cycle Oregon

Born out of the financial crisis, bull market nears record

By Bernard Condon
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The bull market in U.S. stocks is about to become the longest in history.

If stocks don’t drop significantly by the close of trading Wednesday, the bull market that began in March 2009 will have lasted nine years, five months and 13 days, a record that few would have predicted when the market struggled to find its footing after a 50 percent plunge during the financial crisis.

The long rally has added trillions of dollars to household wealth, helping the economy, and stands as a testament to the ability of large U.S. companies to squeeze out profits in tough times and confidence among investors as they shrugged off repeated crises and kept buying.

“There was no manic trading, there was no panic buying or selling,” said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer of Cresset Wealth Advisors. “It’s been pretty steady.”

The question now is when the rally will end. The Federal Reserve is undoing many of the stimulative measures that supported the market, including keeping interest rates near zero. There are also mounting threats to global trade that have unsettled investors.

For such an enduring bull market, it shares little of the hallmarks of prior rallies.

Unlike earlier rallies, individual investors have largely sat out

after getting burned by two crashes in less than a decade. Trading has been lackluster, with few shares exchanging hands each day. Private companies have shown little enthusiasm, too, with fewer selling stock in initial public offerings than in previous bull runs.

Yet this bull market has been remarkably resilient. After several blows that might have killed off a less robust rally — fears of a euro-zone collapse, plunging oil prices, a U.S. credit

downgrade, President Donald Trump’s trade fights — investors soon returned to buying, avoiding a 20 percent drop in stocks that by common definition marks the end of bull markets.

“I don’t think anyone could have predicted the length and strength of this bull market,” said David Lebovitz, a global market strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management.

One of the market’s biggest winners in recent

See **Market** / Page 2B

Drought takes toll on Missouri crops, cattle

■ Missouri is the only midwestern state with severe drought conditions

By Jim Salter
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Parts of Missouri are so dry that corn crops are suffering and hay for cattle is in short supply, with water becoming increasingly scarce, experts say.

Missouri has had below-average rainfall since winter. The U.S. Drought

Monitor map shows nearly all of Missouri is experiencing drought, with several counties in the northwestern part of the state facing “exceptional” conditions — the most dire classification assigned by the monitor. Conditions were nearly as bad elsewhere along the northern tier and in southwestern Missouri.

Much of the western U.S. is also experiencing drought. But Missouri is the only Midwestern state with such severe conditions.

Parts of Kansas also are extremely dry, but most of

Illinois and Nebraska, and the northern half of Iowa, are drought-free.

“That isolated nature really hurts some corn growers because they’re competing against other farmers in the Midwest that have had bumper crops,” said Mark Fuchs, hydrologist for the National Weather Service office near St. Louis. “That puts a lot of them on the brink of financial ruin.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture lists soil moisture as “short” or “very short” in four-fifths of the

See **Drought** / Page 2B

How to reset retirement plans to weather a downturn

The older the current bull market gets, the more stories you’re likely to read about how this is an awful time to retire.

Yes, we’re due for a correction that trims 20 percent or more from stock values. That could be a big problem for people taking withdrawals from investment portfolios, since market losses early in retirement increase the chances of running short of money.

See **Retirement** / Page 2B

NERD WALLET
LIZ WESTON