

Assistance available for OTEC members

Blue Mountain Eagle

As an essential service provider, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative knows that electricity is foundational to all other areas of the economy, including essential services such as health care and public safety. OTEC also recognizes that many member-owners continue to experience financial hardship during the nearly year-long COVID-19 pandemic and wants to remind those that are struggling to pay their electric bills that financial aid is still available.

OTEC encourages members in Baker, Grant and Union counties to contact Community Connections of Northeast Oregon, Inc., where they

can apply for funds through the recently expanded Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, on top helping find other state and federal aid. Members in Harney County are encouraged to contact the Harney County Senior Center for help to apply for assistance. OTEC will also help those members behind on their bills set up flexible payment plans.

“As a community-owned, nonprofit cooperative, we have always worked with our members in crisis and this time is no different,” said Eric Wirfs, OTEC’s director of memberservices. “If you or someone you know is having trouble paying their bills, we urge you to give us a call so we can help by letting you know about the assistance that’s available, including our flexible

payment plans.”

On top of helping procure relief for bills, the cooperative has numerous programs available for members financially impacted by COVID-19, including prepaid metering, leveled billing and OTEC continues to offer energy-efficiency rebates.

OTEC has also compiled local resources across its service territory to help those members who are experiencing other needs. That includes organizations that can provide help with other utilities, rent, food, clothing and employment.

For more information on financial aid or any of OTEC’s assistance programs, visit otec.coop or call OTEC at 541-523-3616.

Winter Storm Watch issued for Thursday and Friday

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The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Watch for the John Day Basin and central Oregon, in effect from Thursday afternoon through Friday evening.

A warm front will lift north Thursday and stall over the

region into Friday, according to a press release. This will produce some substantial snowfall over central Oregon Thursday through Friday.

Total snow accumulations of 4-10 inches are possible.

The hazardous conditions could impact travel. Plan on slippery road conditions.

OBITUARIES

Tommy Joe Ray

Aug. 24, 1945 – Feb. 1, 2021

Tommy Joe Ray, age 75, passed away Feb. 1, 2021, at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Oregon. No services are planned at this time.

Tommy was born Aug. 24, 1945, in Myrtle Creek, Oregon, to Clarence and Thelma Jackie (Turner) Ray. He married Glenda Glover in Roseburg, Oregon, on Aug. 30, 1963, and together they had three children: Tommy Joe Jr., John and Tina. They were married until her passing in 2009.

He worked for the timber industry as a logger for 50 years, working at Gilcrest Lumber in the 1970s, and for David Pitts and Gary Allen, retiring in 2002. Tommy enjoyed the outdoors, fishing and hunting.

He married Diania Snow-Fleming in John Day, Oregon, in August of 2019.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Glenda Ray, and his son, Tommy Joe Ray.

Survivors include his wife, Diania Ray, of John Day, Oregon; son, John (Kristin) Ray, of Prairie City, Oregon; daughter, Tina Ray, of Eugene, Oregon; and three grandchildren.

To offer online condolences to his family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.



MEREDITH HOUSE TAKING SHAPE



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Construction progresses on the Heart of Grant County’s domestic trauma service center, The Meredith House, on Feb. 7. The federal Community Development Block Grant is the main source of funding for the project, awarding \$1.5 million, said Heart of Grant County Board Member Rick Minster. The Heart of Grant County provided a \$15,000 match for the CDBG grant.

Mt. Vernon ranchers join American Angus Association

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Timothy and Amber Auty of Mt. Vernon are new members of the American Angus Association, according to Mark McCully, CEO of the national breed organization headquartered in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

The American Angus Association, with more than 25,000 active adult and junior members, is the largest beef breed association in the world. Its computerized records include detailed information on over 19 million registered Angus.

The association records ancestral information and keeps production records and genomic data on individual animals to develop industry-leading selection tools for its members. The programs and services of the Association and its entities — Angus Genetics Inc.,

Angus Media, Certified Angus Beef LLC and the Angus Foundation — help members advance the beef cattle business by selecting the best animals for their herds and marketing quality genetics for the beef cattle industry and quality beef for consumers.

Homer Harrison

Homer Harrison, 79, of Mt. Vernon died Monday, Feb. 8, 2021, at his home. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Mervin Ortmann

Mervin Ortmann, 77, of Prairie City died Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021, at home surrounded by his family. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

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Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Tuesday	49/35
Wednesday	39/32
Thursday.....	40/28
Friday	49/34
Saturday	48/27
Sunday.....	46/29
Monday.....	38/29

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY

162.500 MHZ

WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 10-16

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Mostly sunny	Snow likely	Chance of snow	Chance of snow	Slight chance of snow	Chance of snow	Chance of snow
43	35	27	29	32	32	49
26	22	13	14	19	20	25