

Son of North Powder couple graduates from military training



U.S. Air Force Airman Austin J. Emery graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Emery is the son of Joe and Sandra Emery of North Powder and is 2016 graduate of Baker High School in Baker City. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that

included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

HONORS

UNION COUNTY RESIDENTS INDUCTED INTO HONOR SOCIETY

Five Union County students studying at Eastern Oregon University were recently initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

The EOU students earning this academic distinction were Ryann Alexander of Union, April Curtis of La Grande, Peter Geissing of Summerville, Laura Gow-Hogge of Summerville and Nathan Lowe of La Grande.

Phi Kappa Phi membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create an honor society that recognizes excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and the Philippines. Its mission is "to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community

of scholars in service to others."

TWO UNION COUNTY STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

Kyla Gomes of La Grande and Delanie Kohr of Union qualified for the 2018 spring quarter honor roll at Central Washington University. Central undergraduate students who earn a 3.5 or better grade point average, on a 4.0 scale, while carrying at least 12 graded credit hours of study are eligible for the honor roll. CWU is a regional, comprehensive public university located on a 380-acre campus in Ellensburg.

BMCC RELEASES SPRING TERM HONOR ROLL

Union County students attending Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton earned the academic distinction of being named to one of the school's honor rolls for spring term 2018. The highest honor is inclusion on the President's List for earning a 4.0 GPA. Receiving this honor were Rachel Berg, Hunter Browning, Harmony Collier, Darby Lahaug, Hannah Leigh and Miah Slater.

Valerie Goss was named to the Dean's List, which is for students achieving a GPA of 3.40 to 3.84. Inclusion on the Honor Roll for earning a 3.0 to 3.39 GPA were Zachary Adamson, Tori Brownell, Aleasha McIntosh, Brenale Ritter and Kevin Sword. BMCC's honor rolls are open only to full-time students.

La Grande resident to study in Baja, Mexico

Christina Wickman, of La Grande and a new master's student in the Global Field Program of Miami University's Project Dragonfly, will travel to Baja, Mexico, this month. Wickman will study desert and marine landscapes through ecological and social field methods. Wickman works as an operations manager at Ecoventure.

Project Dragonfly's Earth Expeditions graduate courses engage students in firsthand educational and scientific research at critical conservation field sites in Africa, Australia, Asia and the Americas. Dragonfly is under the direction of the department of biology at Miami University, a state university in Oxford, Ohio. Miami was established in 1809 and is listed as one of the eight original Public Ivies. Learn more about Project Dragonfly at <http://www.facebook.com/PrjDragonfly>.

Local nonprofit arts organization recognized by Merkley

LA GRANDE — U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (Oregon) recognized the efforts of Art Center East, a nonprofit arts organization headquartered in La Grande, at a July 7 town hall meeting hosted by Eastern Oregon University. As a token of appreciation, Senator Merkley awarded ACE with a U.S. flag that has been flown over the capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Senator Merkley chose to recognize Art Center East for the diversity and quality of contributions it makes to the local community.

Merkley focused on the wide variety of programs offered by ACE's limited staff as well as the organization's 10-county Artists in Rural Schools program, a grant-funded project that places teaching artists in rural schools that do not otherwise have a dedicated arts curriculum. The U.S. flag was presented to ACE's co-directors, Darcy Dolge and Mika Morton, at the start of the town hall meeting.

"We are honored that Senator Merkley chose Art Center East among the many hardworking organizations in our community," Darcy Dolge said. "At the town hall meeting, he spoke about his admiration for the many ways we give to our community. He seemed impressed by what we have accomplished. It's nice to be recognized by someone with a broad perspective of what is happening around



Courtesy Photo

Art Center East's co-directors, Darcy Dolge (left) and Mika Morton (right), receive the U.S. flag from Sen. Jeff Merkley at a town hall meeting held at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande on July 7.

"I am deeply honored to have received this kind of public recognition for the work we do to expand access to the arts in rural communities in Eastern Oregon," Morton added. "Arts and culture are critical elements to the quality of life in any community, and we will continue to work hard to ensure our rural communities have access to meaningful arts experiences."

The U.S. flag will be mounted in a frame and displayed at Art Center East, 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande. ACE is open 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. For information about programming and offerings, visit www.artcentereast.org.

Founded in 1977 as Eastern Oregon Regional Arts Council, Art Center East is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts services organization providing in-school arts learning opportunities for rural schools in its 10-county Eastern Oregon service area. At its historic Carnegie Library location in the heart of La Grande, Art Center East offers art classes in numerous artistic mediums, free monthly

art exhibits featuring local and regional artists, and cultural events focused on education and community building.

Art Center East also organizes the Community Ensemble music program, which hosts private music lessons for children and adults, the Community Symphonic Band, the Community African Drumming group, the Union County Children's Choir, and the Grande Ronde Community Choir. The Community Ensemble program is a partnership between Art Center East and Eastern Oregon University.

Color the Blues Walk raises funds for families living with autism



Autism Society of Oregon's photos



The Color the Blues for Autism Walk was sponsored and put on by the Autism Society of Oregon on June 23 in La Grande. According to JulieKay Dudley, the region's Autism Society of Oregon representative, the money raised by the walk will stay in Eastern Oregon to benefit families living with autism.

Dudley heads up a monthly support group in La Grande for families with special needs. Formerly a group supporting families experiencing autism, the group is now open to parents and caregivers of all special needs children and adults.

For more information, contact Dudley at 541-562-6137 or JulieKayD@AutismSocietyOregon.org.

Send us your Community item

Deadline: Noon Thursday

Forms: The Observer front desk has wedding, engagement, anniversary and birth forms.

Wedding: Item must run within six months of the ceremony.

Anniversary: 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 50th or more.

Birthday: Know of a Union or Wallowa county resident turning 75 or older? Let us know the date, time and place of the celebration and send a recent, good-quality photo.

Where Are They Now? Know someone who has moved away and what he or she is doing? Word limit: 200. Include a good-quality photo.

Community scrapbook: The Observer can't get to every event in Union and Wallowa counties. But we can make space available for those groups that take photos of their events and gatherings.

Reach us:
 • Mail: 1406 Fifth St., La Grande, OR 97850
 • Email: news@lagrandeobserver.com
 • Fax: 541-963-7804

Questions? Call 541-963-3161.



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