

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

Yoga Camp for kids offered next week

LA GRANDE — Yoga Dawn studio is holding a Yoga Camp for children Aug. 6-9. The day camp will run from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 105 Depot St., La Grande, and feature mindful games, yoga, breathing exercises, relaxation, music, art and journaling. Presented by the Yoga and Mindfulness In-School Program, the camp is open to age 5 and older. Cost is \$60 for the four-day camp. To register, call 503-705-4379. For more information, find Yoga Dawn on Facebook or go to www.lagrandeyoga.com/YMS.

OTEC to replace aging underground wire

LA GRANDE — Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative will be performing planned maintenance on its system beginning Aug. 6 in the La Grande area. The work will affect residents on Aries and Leo lanes, along with the Country West Apartments at 2000 Gekeler Lane. OTEC crews will be replacing aging underground wire, which

should take approximately three weeks to complete. OTEC will notify all affected members of any power outages and the expected duration at least 24 hours in advance. Members with concerns can contact La Grande District Superintendent Matt Haggerty at 541-963-3155.

UC Cattlemen will not meet in August

ISLAND CITY — The Union County Cattlemen will not meet Aug. 6. The next scheduled meeting will be in September at the Ag Service Center in Island City. The meeting will be open to the public.

'Medicare 101' workshops offered in local counties

ENTERPRISE, LA GRANDE — Experts from Oregon's Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance program will be leading free "Medicare 101" workshops Aug. 6, beginning at 10 a.m. at Wallowa Memorial Hospital, 601 Medical Parkway, Enterprise, and again at 6 p.m. at Grande

Ronde Hospital, 900 Sunset Dr., La Grande.

The workshops will cover the basics of Medicare benefits, how to enroll and how much Medicare costs and the types of financial help available. Anyone is welcome to attend, particularly people interested in enrolling in Medicare, health care professionals who work with Medicare recipients and nonprofit staff members who serve retirees or people with disabilities. Call 503-947-7302 or email shiba.oregon@oregon.gov to attend. Walk-ins will be welcomed as space allows.

ODOT'S Minam curve road construction begins soon

MINAM — According to an ODOT press release, crews working for Tidewater Contractors and its subcontractors will begin work on the two-year Minam Curve and Bank Stabilization Project around Aug. 6. The Minam curve correction portion of the project is a 1,500-foot-long highway realignment that will eliminate

a hairpin curve that has been a historical accident location. The realignment will move the roadway into the hill by as much as 300 feet from the existing alignment. The slope stabilization portion of the project will repair a road shoulder failure near milepost 32.

Travelers can expect crews, trucks/equipment in the area with flaggers and pilot cars controlling traffic. Blasting to cut through the rock face for the new alignment is expected to begin late August or early September and continue at intervals through the summer and fall. Motorists are advised to plan extra time when moving through this area. For more information contact ODOT Public Information Officer Tom Strandberg at 541-963-1330 or thomas.m.strandberg@odot.state.or.us.

Northeast Oregon Public Transit plans public meetings

LA GRANDE, ELGIN — Northeast Oregon Public Transit will be holding a series of public meeting to

gather input on how the payroll tax funds earmarked for public transportation enhancements should be spent in Union County. Each meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

- Aug. 7, La Grande Public Transit Hub, 2204 E. Penn Ave.
- Aug. 8, Elgin Public Library, 1699 Division St.
- Aug. 21, Union City Hall, 342 S. Main St.
- Aug. 22, Summerville City Hall, 301 Main St.
- Aug. 23, Imbler High School, Sixth and Esther Ave.
- Sept. 5, Cove High School, 803 Main St.

For more information, contact Angie Peters, Public Transit Manager, at 541-963-2877.

Translator District Board meets Tuesday

LA GRANDE — The Board of Directors of the Blue Mountain Translator District will hold a regular meeting and supplemental budget hearing at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 7 in the Union County Commissioners Meeting Room, 1106 K Ave., La Grande. The full board

packet is available online at www.bmtd.org/public-notice.

LG School Board meeting preceded by work session

LA GRANDE — The Board of Directors of the La Grande School District will meet for a work session at 5:30 p.m. prior to the regular board meeting at 7 p.m. Aug. 7. Both meetings will be held in the District Office Conference Room at Willow School, 1305 N. Willow.

Riverside Concert Series announces final performances

LA GRANDE — The City of La Grande's Riverside Concert Series will continue through Aug. 21. The evenings of free music by local talent are held on Tuesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Riverside Park, North Spruce Street. The August musicians will be The Naked Ellipses on Aug. 7, Israel Bloodgood on Aug. 14 and Shabayla Ononaiye on Aug. 21. For more information, contact McKayla Nitz at 541-962-1352 or mnitz@cityoflagrande.org.

City of La Grande firefighters support Muscular Dystrophy Association with annual Fill the Boot drive

Observer staff

The La Grande Fire Department is showing its support for the Muscular Dystrophy Association as its members kick off the annual Fill the Boot fundraising campaign.

According to a press release from the MDA, the event is a 60-year tradition, dedicated firefighters will hit the streets with boots in hand asking pedestrians and motorists to make a donation to MDA from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the five-way intersection of Island Ave; Washington Ave; "N" Ave and 10th Street.

"We are thrilled to be working with The City of La Grande Fire Department Local #0924 for another year of Fill the Boot to help provide the funds needed to find treatments and cures for muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases that severely limit strength and mobility," Tori Ripple, development specialist, said in the release. "The dedication of these fire fighters to MDA's mission is unwavering, spending countless hours both with Fill the Boot and MDA Summer Camp to

care for the kids and adults in our local community. We know that their devotion to our families will make this year's drive a success."

Funds raised through Fill the Boot events in 2018 empower families who inspire everyday Americans to help kids and adults with Muscular dystrophy and related muscle-debilitating diseases live longer and grow stronger, displaying how we all can truly live unlimited no matter what limits we may face.

Contributions also help fund groundbreaking research and life-enhancing programs such as state-of-the-art support groups and Care Centers, including the MDA Care Center at St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute in Spokane. They also help send local kids to "the best week of the year" at MDA summer camp — all at no cost to their families.

In addition to Fill the Boot drives, firefighter contributions from year-round local events help support MDA's efforts to raise awareness and provide professional and public education about neuromus-



Observer File Photo

Two La Grande Fire Department employees approach a car with the boot asking for donations in 2017. In 2017, the La Grande Fire Department raised \$2,490.86 during the event.

cular diseases.

MDA and IAFF Partnership

As MDA's largest national partner, the International Association of Fire Fighters fuels MDA's mission to find research breakthroughs across diseases; care for kids and adults from day one; and provide families with services and support.

IAFF support for MDA began in 1954 when the organization committed by

proclamation to support MDA until a cure is found, and the organization's unwavering commitment to MDA has remained strong to this day. The IAFF raised \$100,000 for MDA in 1955, and \$1 million in 1970, and fire fighters continue to raise the bar in their fundraising efforts. In 2017, more than 100,000 firefighters participated in Fill the Boot events across the country and raised \$24 million. To date the IAFF has raised \$630 million for MDA.

— OBITUARIES —

Jerald O. Winterton

Formerly of Union County

Jerald Owen Winterton, 82, of New Plymouth, Idaho, and formerly of Union County, died July 10. Arrangements are under the direction of Cremation Society of Idaho.

Lila M. "Peggy" Clayville

La Grande

Lila M. "Peggy" Clayville, 93, of La Grande, died Aug. 1 at home. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Michael Dean Andrews

May 3, 1977 - July 23, 2018



Michael Dean Andrews, 41, of Silverton, Oregon passed on Monday, July 23, 2018.

Michael was born May 3, 1977 in Escondido, California to Jerry and Ruth Andrews. He graduated from Union-Baker Education Service District High School in 1999 and later earned a degree as a Medical Assistant from Apollo College. The light of his life, his son Brendyn Andrews, was born in 2005 and married Sarah Urbanski in 2006. Michael had a passion for helping others and did so personally and through his work. He held several jobs fulfilling this passion, from becoming a volunteer firefighter for Polk County, and working with people with Developmental and Intellectual disabilities. He began working at Silverton Hospital and joined the Legacy family in 2016. He was loved by co-workers and patients alike.

Michael enjoyed baseball, fishing, gardening, pin up girl collectibles, making and painting model airplanes and all things Oregon Ducks Football. Michael brought a smile to everyone's face he met.

He is survived by his son Brendyn Andrews and Brendyn's mother, Sarah Andrews, his parents Jerry and Ruth Andrews, his Grandmother Donna Fuhrman, his sister Donna Grogan and her husband Travis, and several Aunts, Uncles, cousins, other extended family and close friends.

He is preceded in death by his Grandfather Lowell Fuhrman.

A memorial for Michael will be held at Michael's Aunt Joanne's house on August 11th at 308 S Warren St., Monmouth, Oregon at 2 p.m. We will share stories and memories of Michael. Please bring a main dish, side or dessert.

In lieu of flowers or gifts consider donating to <https://linesforlife.org> or www.gofundme.com/michael-andrews-funeral-expenses

La Grande fire chief sworn in to new position

Cherise Kaechele/The Observer

La Grande Fire Chief Les Thomas was officially sworn in to his new position at Wednesday's La Grande City Council meeting. Thomas was hired to the position in June. Angelika Brooks, city recorder, performed the ceremony.

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— PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT —

LA GRANDE POLICE

Arrested: Sheldon Scott Willis, 43, unknown address, was arrested by the Port of Seattle Police Department on two Union County warrants. One warrant charged two counts of criminal mistreatment, two counts of fourth-degree assault and two counts of harassment. A second warrant charged unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, first-degree possession of a forged instrument, possession of methamphetamine, driving while suspended and possession of marijuana.

Arrested: Kayla L. Gust, 31, unknown address, was arrested while lodged in the Union County Jail on charges of falsifying test results and supplying contraband.

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident late Thursday afternoon on Highway 204 in the Elgin area. The accident was reported at 5:18 p.m.

Arrested: Matthew Peter Stiles, 33, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of third-degree theft.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident on Highway 203 in the La Grande area Wednesday afternoon. The accident was reported at 3:38 p.m.

Accident: At least one person was injured in a traffic accident on Interstate 84 six miles west of La Grande late Wednesday night. The accident was reported at 11:26 p.m.