

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

ODF increases land-use restrictions

SALEM — Because of extreme fire conditions and lack of available firefighting resources, Oregon Department of Forestry managers increased the current Regulated Closure restrictions intended to reduce human-caused fires. These restrictions continue the ban on campfires and other types of open burning and additionally ban off-road vehicle travel and chainsaw use on lands protected by ODF's Northeast Oregon District. These restrictions took effect at 12:01 a.m. today.

IMESD Board meets Wednesday

PENDLETON — The Board of Directors of the InterMountain Education Service District will have a regular board meeting

Aug. 15. The meeting begins at 11:15 a.m. at the IMESD, 2001 SW Nye Ave., Pendleton.

LHS announces back-to-school information

LA GRANDE — High school students who are new to the La Grande School District and have not pre-registered may register and meet with a school counselor Aug. 16-17. Students may drop in from 8 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. or 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Friday.

Students who have pre-registered, including incoming freshmen, may come on the following days to pick up class schedules, have school pictures taken, get a student ID and pay fees.

• seniors and juniors: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 20.

• sophomores and freshmen: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Aug. 21.

Pre-registered students should have received a student information form by mail. The forms need to be returned with a parent signature to receive the class schedule.

The first day of school for freshmen and new students begins at 9:20 a.m. Aug. 27. All students attend school beginning Aug. 28, from 8:20 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. For more information, call the LHS Counseling Office at 541-663-3310.

Chip sealing planned for Highway 237

UNION COUNTY — ODOT will conduct chip sealing beginning Aug. 16 on Oregon Highway 237 between Union and

North Powder. This work is expected to take about three days. Chip sealing through North Powder is expected to occur Aug. 21. ODOT reminds travelers to be prepared for equipment, flaggers and traffic pattern changes. Traffic fines are double the amount in all work zones.

CASA of Eastern Oregon hosts kids carnival Aug. 18

LA GRANDE — The second annual CASA Carnival at the Riverside Park Pavilion is set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 18. Activities include old-fashioned carnival games in addition to the Elgin Lions' Duck Train, a nerf course from Clank Tronix, face painting by Lil' Cakes and bouncy houses from Perfect Parties. Admission is \$5 per child (age 2-18).

This event is sponsored by the La Grande RE/MAX Real Estate Team and Pennington Construction, and supports CASA of Eastern Oregon. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) speak up for children brought into state care for abuse and neglect. For more information, email unioncasaoffice@gmail.com or call 541-910-8621.

Classical music concert showcases Schubert

ENTERPRISE — Wallowa Valley Music Alliance invites the community to a classical music concert at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 18 at the Enterprise Odd Fellows Hall. The evening of classical music by Franz Schubert will featuring musicians Lisa Robertson (violin), Edward Dixon (cello) and James

Cook (piano). Admission is by donation.

Nonprofits invited to set up at La Grande block party

LA GRANDE — The 23rd annual Celebrate La Grande End of Summer Block Party is set for the evening of Sept. 6 at Max Square, corner of Fourth and Adams. This event offers free hot dogs, soda, ice cream, music, dancing, fire truck rides and family entertainment. Nonprofit organizations that would like to display their wares and explain their function to the citizens of La Grande may contact Haley Hines at 541-786-5285 or haleyhines@eoni.com. Anyone willing to volunteers to help set up and tear down the event may call or text Dana Wright at 541-786-1041.

Officer fired over racist posts entitled to back pay, according to arbitrator

Associated Press

WEST LINN — An arbitrator ruled that the city of West Linn was justified in firing a police officer accused of making racially biased comments on social media but must pay lost wages because supervisors did nothing to address the problem until it was reported by the media.

The arbitrator, attorney Eric Lindauer, concluded that Tom Newberry's posts were common knowledge among several high-ranking officers before he was placed on leave in July 2016. The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

But the arbitrator also found that some of Newberry's superiors "liked" or replied to some of the posts. "Therefore, the depart-

ment must bear some economic responsibility for its failure to follow its own policies," the arbiter's opinion said.

Courtney Flynn, a West Linn spokeswoman, said the city is appealing the ruling. She declined to comment on how much money the city was ordered to pay.

Newberry earned an annual salary of \$82,480 when he was fired, Flynn said.

At 17 months, that could work out to Newberry being owed nearly \$116,850 in salary alone.

The supervisors who failed to act on the posts have all left the department, the newspaper said.

Newberry, 65, spent 16 years as a Portland police officer and was hired by West Linn police in November 2008.

City Manager Eileen Stein wrote in Newberry's termination notice that his "conduct was inexcusable for a public safety officer whose most important job functions are serving the public's interest and maintaining the public's trust," the opinion said.

The Clackamas County Peace Officers' Association filed a grievance on Newberry's behalf in March 2017, saying he was fired without cause and should be reinstated.

The union contended that Newberry's posts were misinterpreted and protected by the First Amendment. The grievance argued that the city failed to prove the posts were "either racially biased or advocated violence."

Asked by internal investigators to explain himself,

Newberry said the posts were "misinterpreted" or "misconstrued" by people biased against police officers, Lindauer wrote in the opinion.

Lindauer ultimately disagreed with the arguments made by Newberry and the union. Newberry's posts were "unnecessarily vulgar," "disrespectful" and "significantly undermined the public trust in the police department," Lindauer wrote.

"A fair review of Newberry's postings would lead a reasonable person to conclude that the person making the posts demonstrated a racist ideology," Lindauer wrote. The opinion also said Newberry "showed no regret and was unapologetic and offensive throughout."

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Angela Susan Abbott, 27, unknown address, was arrested on charges of first-degree burglary, fourth-degree assault (domestic) and strangulation.

Arrested: Alicia Nicole Villarreal, 22, La Grande, was arrested on charges of driving under the influence of intoxicants and a restraining order violation.

Arrested: Jason Lee Workman, 39, unknown address, was arrested by the Pendleton Police Department on a Union County warrant on a charge of failure to appear in court on an original charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Arrested: Tyler John Sheridan, 27, La Grande, was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, heroin and on a parole and probation detainer.

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Arrested: Taylor Alan Wilson, 26, unknown address, was arrested on charges of driving while suspended and driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Arrested: Michelle Diane Grende, 38, unknown address, was arrested on a Umatilla County misdemeanor warrant charging

failure to appear in court on a charge of fourth-degree assault and second-degree distribution of a controlled substance.

Arrested: Taylor Nichole Wilson, 28, Prineville, was arrested on a charge of second-degree criminal mischief.

Arrested: Kayla Marie Ruth Johnson, 31, unknown address, was arrested while lodged in the Union County Jail on a Union County warrant on a charge of second-degree escape.

Arrested: Kayla Leanne Gust, 31, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County warrant charging order to show cause. The charge was connected to an original charge of endangering the welfare of a minor, two counts.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident on Island Avenue late Friday afternoon. The accident was reported at 5:44 p.m.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident on Interstate 84 six miles east of La Grande Sunday night. The accident was reported 10:30 p.m.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The La Grande Fire Department responded to seven calls for medical on Friday, five calls for medical on Saturday and 13 calls for medical on Sunday.

OBITUARIES

Jack A. Cassity Jr.

La Grande

Jack A. Cassity Jr., 68, of La Grande, died Aug. 11 at his home. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Earle Schofield

La Grande

Earle Schofield, 100, of La Grande, died Aug. 11. An obituary is forthcoming. Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral & Cremation Center.

Ernest 'Duane' Smallwood

La Grande

1954-2018

Ernest "Duane" Smallwood, 64, of La Grande, died Aug. 9 at his residence.

A viewing will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Aug. 14 at Loveland Funeral

Chapel. A funeral service will begin at 2 p.m. Aug. 15, also at Loveland Funeral Chapel. Golf or casual attire is preferred by the family.

Known as Duane, he was born April 25, 1954, in Dallas, Texas, to Ernest J. and Allie (Samples) Smallwood. He resided in Dallas and Josephine, Texas, and in La Grande. Duane attended Garland, Texas, schools. He married Mary-Evelyn Miller, but the marriage

ended in divorce. He later married Cerise Lee Gibson.

Duane worked for Century Inspection, Inc., of Dallas, Texas, for 28 years and retired in 2012. Prior to his Inspection employment, he was a plumber in Dallas. Duane enjoyed playing golf, fishing, buying cars, four-wheeling, football and pool. He especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

A star baseball player in high school, Duane was very competitive in sports. His family says he was always ready to play golf. In 2012, he and his partner, J.B. Hedges, won the La Grande Country Club 2-man Best Ball Tournament. In the last three years, he and Cerise went to Kapalua, Maui, to be at the Tournament of Champions, where Duane scored many photos and autographs from professional players.

Survivors include his wife, Cerise; children and their spouses, Billy Joe

and Brandie Smallwood of Caddo Mills, Texas, Clinton and Candace Smallwood of Garland, Texas, and Lacy and J.B. Hedges of La Grande; sisters and their spouses, Patricia and Jim Wiskur, Glenda and Gene Dodd, and June Summers, all of Texas; brother and sister-in-law, Joe and Helen Smallwood of Mineola, Texas; 6 grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Rev. E.J. and Allie Smallwood; sisters, Dorothy Hardin, Betty Smallwood and Ernestine Hough; and brothers, Harold Smallwood and Billy Ray Smallwood.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

Fern Torres

Elgin

Fern Torres, 92, of Elgin, died Aug. 12 at a local care facility. An obituary is forth-

coming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

James E. Summers

Elgin

James E. Summers, 72, of Elgin, died Aug. 12 at his home. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Local funerals and visitations

The Observer publishes obituaries that conform to its obituary policy at no cost. Obituaries must be under 450 words and are edited for newspaper style. Paid advertising space is also available for those who want additional information included. For more information, call The Observer at 541-963-3161.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY THERAPY
OUR TEAM WORKING WITH YOU.

@mvtherapy
(541) 962 0830

Eds Propane RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL Eds
Come in today to see how we can serve you.
Ed Staub & Sons
Energy, Community, Service.
10502 West 1st Street
La Grande, OR 97850
(541) 963-8711 www.edstaub.com

"Helping you get to a healthier place"
Office Hours 9am-5pm
2212 Island Ave.
Suite 400
La Grande
541-663-0300
ANYTIME FITNESS

What's Cooking?
by Sandy Sorrels of
TEN DEPOT STREET
For music on Tuesday *J D Kindle* from Pendleton is playing in the bar. Kindle has played many times at Ten Depot, both solo and with his band, *James Dean Kindle* and the *Eastern Oregon Playboys*. Kindle specializes in country, with forays into rock n roll and has had tremendous success playing venues from dive bars to medium security prisons.
Then Thursday, August 15, Matt Bell and Joy Peterson are playing for us again as *The Wasted Lives*. *The Wasted Lives* mix honky tonk and hillbilly from the 30's and 40's with a New Orleans flair. Matt and Joy, who met while working as relief workers on Hurricane Katrina (Matt coming from Wallowa County), have been living in New Orleans ever since, making music. They like to spread their New Orleans special style, filled with love of life and dance, to the rest of the country. It's great to have them in La Grande again on their summer break. It's always a party with Matt and Joy!
And on tap this week we have *Estate Winesap Cider* from the Blue Mountain Cider Company in Milton-Freewater. This single varietal has a dry refreshing finish with a hint of tart apple taste. We also have *Barley Brown's 20th Anniversary Palat Jack* on tap.
And we have peach desserts all this week using local peaches from Union and Pumpkin Ridge as well as fresh Peach Daiquiris in the bar. Tonight our *Daily Dessert* is *Cinnamon Pound Cake* with *Fresh Peaches* and *whipped cream*.

BLUE PLATE SPECIAL \$10.95
Northwest Salmon Cakes, buttered noodles, green salad, bread
(served Monday through Friday)