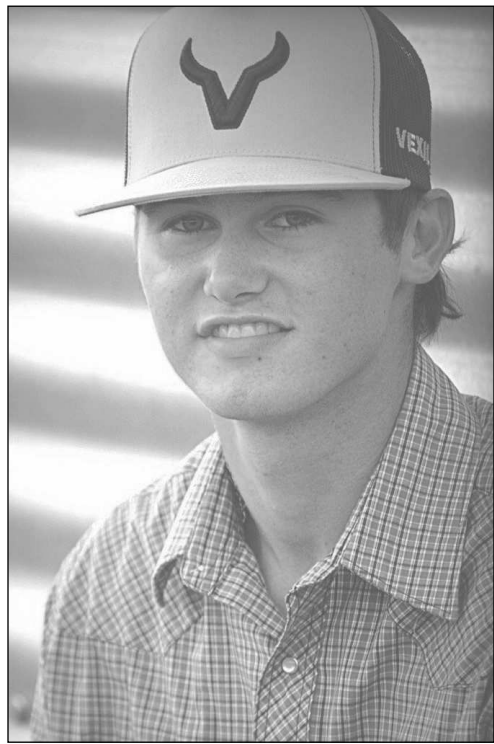


## Cove graduate selected for trade school scholarship



Courtesy Photo

### ■ OTEC announces inaugural winner of trade school scholarship

#### Observer Staff

The Oregon Trail Electric Co-op announced that Bryson Stitzel, a 2018 Cove High School graduate, was chosen as the inaugural winner of a \$2,500 trade school scholarship from the cooperative. He plans to use the scholarship to study welding at Baker Technical Institute.

"I never really thought I was going to be the one," he said, according to the OTEC press release. "I thought there would be somebody who would have a better application. I'm very

appreciative of the scholarship, very thankful for it."

Stitzel said his interest in welding started during his sophomore year at Cove when he took a metals course. That interest grew into a plan of attending a trade school.

Stitzel, who is the son of Travis and Kelsey Stitzel, said he'd like to put his training to work here in the area.

"I would like to go work for somebody for a couple years and then, hopefully, start my own business," he said.

The press release stated that trade school scholarship winners are selected by the cooperative's board of directors from a pool of candidates from OTEC's four service counties: Grant, Union, Harney and Baker. Scholarship funds come

*"I would like to go work for somebody for a couple years and then hopefully start my own business."*

**Bryson Stitzel, Cove High School Graduate**

from unclaimed capital credits and do not affect electric rates.

"The cooperative's seven principles include a commitment to education, and we strive to do that by being involved in our school systems," said OTEC Manager of Communications and Public Relations Andrew Cutler in the release. "This scholarship, and the others OTEC provides, are another way we can add to that effort."

Stitzel's scholarship caps a busy year of scholarships

for OTEC. According to the release, earlier this year, the cooperative awarded 26 college scholarships to high school seniors and returning college students, along with two lineman scholarships. Since the launch of the cooperative's scholarship program in 2000, OTEC has awarded 430 scholarships to local youth with a total overall investment of more than \$1.3 million. This was the first year the cooperative has awarded trade school scholarships and it is a program OTEC leaders hope to see flourish.

"Being a nonprofit electric cooperative, we understand that change and improvements begin locally," said OTEC Director of Member and Program Services Sandra Ghormley.

## HONORS

## Cove holds 19th annual Cherry Fair

### EOU announced recipients of Inspirational Teacher Awards

According to a press release, every year, first-year honor students at Eastern Oregon University nominate educators from across to receive 2018 Inspirational Teacher Awards. EOU presents the Inspirational Teacher Awards in recognition of outstanding high school teachers who encourage and represent the importance of higher education to their students.

Freshmen who maintained dean's list standing during fall term 2017 nominated a high school teacher who influenced them on the road to higher education and academic excellence. Locally, Cari Eckstein, a 2017 graduate of Elgin High School, recommended Dawn Guentert, a member of the science staff. Katie Kitchell, a 2017 graduate of Lighthouse Academy, recommended April Neumann and Robin Parker; Neumann is a member of the math and science staff and Parker is a member of the English staff.



Photo submitted by Sheryl Hardman

Yvonne Oliver served as the Grand Marshal of Saturday's Cove Cherry Fair. Originally a way for Cove to advertise its cherry and fruit production, the Cherry Fair was revived nearly 20 years ago as a day-long celebration. This year's event began with a sourdough pancake breakfast and a fun run/walk. A hot-air balloon in the grass field at the Ascension School Camp and Conference Center offered free lifts, followed by the parade that ushered Grand Marshal Oliver to the main stage. Throughout the day, fair-goers took part in contests including cherry-pit spitting, polite pie eating and hands-free pie eating. Other old-fashioned activities were available along with more than 40 vendors featuring artisans, artists, crafters, growers and chefs. Live music on the main stage continued throughout the day, and the fair concluded with an evening dance hosted by the Cove Drive-In.

### 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.

**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

## WISH LIST

Local nonprofit human service organizations often need donations of specific items or volunteers. Wish List items are updated every month. Anyone who would like to volunteer or make donations should contact the agency directly.

### ABUNDANT LIFE TRANSITIONAL SERVICES

Contact: abundantlifetransitional@gmail.com  
 Drop-off: 702 F Ave., La Grande

Wishes: monetary donations; rent-free locations in various neighborhoods in Union County

### ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER OF EASTERN OREGON

Contact: 541-963-0807  
 Drop-off: 3212 Highway 30, La Grande  
 Wishes: dog collars, Purina kitten food, indoor

cat food, litter, bleach, paper towels, blankets, high-efficiency laundry soap, Clorox wipes, cat scratching posts, HP-61 printer cartridges, monetary donations for power and water bills

### BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES

Contact: 541-426-9411  
 Drop-off: 207 NE Park St., Enterprise  
 Wishes: new beginning reader books for ages 3-7, copy paper, pencils, binders, file folders

### FRIENDS OF THE UNION CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Contact: 541-562-5807  
 Drop-off: 102 N. Main St., Union; or Knitkabob, 156 S. Main St., Union  
 Wishes: individually wrapped candies, fruit snacks, facial tissues, copy paper, 33-gallon trash bags, paper towels, children's jigsaw and board puzzles,

books and yard sale items (no clothes, please)

### GRANDE RONDE VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY & ReSTORE

Contact: 541-963-2414  
 Drop-off: 2304 E. R Ave., La Grande  
 Wishes: used appliances and furniture, secondhand items in good shape, misc. building supplies (wood, nails, etc.), volunteers, plastic bags, cleaning supplies, used cars and pickups, financial donations and volunteers for building

### MT. EMILY SAFE CENTER

Contact: 541-963-0602  
 Drop-off: 2107 Third St., La Grande  
 Wishes: paper towels, toilet paper, copy paper, hand soap, baby wipes, journals/diaries

### NEIGHBORS TOGETHER

Contact: 541-963-9126  
 Drop-off: First Presbyterian Church, 1308 Washington Ave., La Grande; or Zion Lutheran Church, 902 Fourth St., La Grande  
 Wishes: non-perishable food items (including plastic wrapped coffee and teas), children's books, notepads, pens/pencils; volunteers for Wood Lot

### NEXT STEP PREGNANCY INFORMATION CENTER

Contact: 541-963-6918  
 Drop-off: 902 D Ave., La Grande  
 Wishes: diapers (all sizes), diaper wipes, gently used or new maternity clothes, up to 24-month-old-sized baby clothes, HP-61 & HP063 printer cartridges, copy paper, low-increment gift cards for gas or food, monetary donations

### OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC

CHURCH DONATIONS UNLIMITED  
 Contact: 541-963-2282  
 Drop-off: Call to make arrangements (La Grande)  
 Wishes: bedding, dishes, pots & pans, microwaves, small appliances, kids' clothes, men's warm coats, warm shirts for men and women, lamps

### SALVATION ARMY, CASCADE DIVISION

Contact: 541-963-4829  
 Drop off: 1114 Y Ave., La Grande  
 Wishes: toiletries (soap, feminine supplies, etc.), cleaning supplies, non-perishable food items (canned fruit, vegetables and tuna, powdered milk, etc.), facial tissues, paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, diapers (assorted sizes), diaper wipes, laundry soap, liquid dish soap

### SHELTER FROM THE STORM

Contact: 541-963-7226  
 Drop-off: 10901 Island Ave., Island City  
 Wishes: laundry detergent and softener sheets, full-size shampoo and conditioner, paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissue, toothbrushes, full-size toothpaste, deodorant, diapers (all sizes, especially size 4 and 5), baby wipes, female hygiene products (especially tampons), small and medium unisex adult pajama pants, a adult coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, non-perishable food items, gift cards from local merchants

### UNION COUNTY SENIOR CENTER/COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Contact: 541-963-7532  
 Drop-off: 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande  
 Wishes: Meals on Wheels volunteers, monetary donations for senior meals, volunteers to serve meals Monday through Friday

Nicole Cathey

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