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Good day to our valued subscriber Jaquie Punches of La Grande

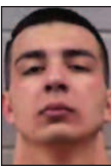
## Two suspects sought after assault, gunshots at apartment complex

By Cherise Kaechele  
The Observer

The La Grande Police Department continues to look for two suspects after an assault at the Thunderbird Apartments Monday night.



Martinez



Walling

Multiple gunshots were fired at the Thunderbird Apartments on 20th Street, according to witnesses at the scene, said La Grande Police Lt. Gary Bell. Initial reports from the victims, brothers who live at the apartment complex, said they had superficial wounds sustained from gunshots, Bell said. However, once medical evaluations were performed, it was determined the wounds were sustained from blunt force trauma. The victims, a 17-year-old and 18-year-old, were taken by a private party to Grande Ronde Hospital and were treated and released.

See **Shooting** / Page 5A

## Greenway project Phase II may be flickering

■ IC City Council expresses tepid support for bridge option, considers returning grant

By Dick Mason  
The Observer

The pulse of the Grande Ronde River Greenway Project is fading.

This was apparent Monday night as Island City's city council informally narrowed its Grande Ronde River Greenway options to one. The council, meeting in a work session, eliminated two of the three options it was considering regarding the use of a \$1.1 million grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation for Phase II of the Grande Ronde River Greenway Project. The grant, awarded in 2016, is for a trail that would run from an area east of Riverside Park to a pond in eastern Island City north of Highway 82.

City councilors appeared to rule out, via consensus, Options A and B and gave a tepid endorsement to

See **Greenway** / Page 5A



By Cherise Kaechele  
The Observer

It's a question likely asked by many in La Grande: "What is that thing on the hillside?"

A local group decided to make a visual representation of what the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line tower will look like. But imagine something twice as big.

Peter Barry is the landowner where the 100-foot foil has been set on the hillside going up to Morgan Lake, which is visible in portions of La Grande.

The mysterious strip of silver glinting in the light has been a topic of conversation, he told The Observer, which is exactly what he and other members of the Stop B2H coalition wanted.

"This is a very small representation," Barry said of the line. "We're trying to remind people there's an impending disaster in our community. This is supposed to represent one tower. But there will be about 15 to

See **B2H** / Page 5A

Cherise Kaechele/The Observer

Peter Barry and other members of the Stop B2H coalition wanted to get the community's attention with the impending Boardman to Hemingway Transmission line project. The members decided to put a 100-foot foil on Barry's land that represents what a blight a transmission tower would be to the community — and the foil is only half the size of what the tower would be.

## Former student councilor vies for Elgin City Council position

■ Ryan Martin, 19, hopes to represent city's youth

By Audrey Love  
The Observer

City council meetings tend to draw a more "mature" demographic. City



Martin

councilman hopeful Ryan Martin, however, wants to see a shift in that dynamic, and he hopes his presence on the council will lead the way.

"People my age don't get out in our city much and make a change, so I want (them) to actually have a word in what goes on for once. I want to be the face of the youth in Elgin," the

19-year-old said.

Originally from Boise, Idaho, Martin moved to Elgin five years ago, graduating from Elgin High School in the spring. For his senior project, he didn't want to pursue the typical "job shadowing" route and instead opted to join the Elgin City Council as its student councilor.

"I found it interesting to get into local government," Martin said. "It was great to be able to see what we want to do. I talked to my classmates about what was going on at the city council meetings and what they thought about (issues) and we had little

discussions."

Martin sat on the council the entirety of his senior year, vacating the position in June following his graduation. Student councilors are appointed all the rights and privileges of a city councilor, aside from an official vote. When the council calls for a vote, student councilors are able to offer an advisory vote. Though the council is interested in hearing how they vote on particular issues, their input doesn't officially count toward the council's final decisions.

However, student councilors

See **Martin** / Page 5A

## Three-day search for missing woman ends

By Katy Nesbitt  
For The Observer

More than 1,000 volunteer hours were expended this past weekend in the search of a Eugene woman lost in the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

According to Mike Hansen of Wallowa County Search and Rescue, Glenda Smith, 67, was found Sunday after an intensive search that began the morning of Sept. 21.

Smith was staying with three childhood friends at Red's Horse Ranch, a former guest ranch owned by the U.S. Forest Service, when she and one of her companions went for a walk up the Moss Springs

Trail on Thursday. According to Hansen, Smith's companion returned to Red's, while Smith continued on her own.

"She went up the Little Minam River Trail and got off trail to look at a rock outcropping and ended up getting turned around," Hansen said.

Smith thought she was walking down the main stem of the Minam River when she was actually on its tributary Hansen said.

Where Smith got turned around is heavily forested with a thick brush understory. Hansen said the horse teams and foot teams searched the trails in every

See **Missing** / Page 10A

## Candidate hopes budget experience will help in city councilor position

By Dick Mason  
The Observer

Brian McDowell believes his professional background would serve him well as a city councilor.



McDowell

The candidate for Position 6 on the Union City Council works for Business Oregon, a state program designed to help businesses in Oregon and boost the infrastructure of cities.

McDowell, a veteran, previously worked for Wells Fargo for nine years and the J.P. Morgan financial company for four years.

McDowell said as a city councilor he could help the city with its budget process because of his background in banking and finance.

The city council candidate moved to Union 1-1/2 years ago from Portland and said he loves his new

home.

"Union has a great quality of life. Everybody I've met is fantastic," said McDowell, who is challenging incumbent Walt Brookshire.

He said as a city councilor he would work hard to bring new business to Union and focus on the details in the process, which he said can be critical.

"Relatively little things can determine whether a business goes to Elgin or Union," he said.

McDowell said often it is not only the financial package a city offers a company that makes the difference but also often overlooked items such as land use rules and application processes. A city that helps a business hurdle obstacles like a hearing or a 20-step application may win it over.

"A lot of times it is just procedural," he said. "It is process and

See **McDowell** / Page 5A

## Candidate sees himself as voice of downtown, businesses

By Dick Mason  
The Observer

Union businesses need a voice on the city council, according to incumbent councilor Walt Brookshire, a voice he wants to continue providing.



Brookshire

Brookshire, the owner of Union Drug Company and Soda Fountain, is running to retain his position on the city council.

He believes he brings an important perspective to the council.

"Nobody else (on the council) is running a day-to-day business downtown," Brookshire said. "I want to be sure that businesses and their interests are represented on the council."

He noted he speaks to about 100 people a day while operating his drug store.

"A lot of people express their concerns to me," Brookshire said.

He was appointed to Position 6 on the council in March 2017 to fill a vacancy. Brookshire is being challenged in this fall's election by Brian McDowell.

Brookshire said he wants to continue helping Union attract new businesses. A big part of this, he said, is making sure the city is in a position to quickly provide information to businesses interested in coming to Union, such as information on properties available including square footage, available utilities and more.

"We need to have a property portfolio," Brookshire said, noting the council is currently taking steps to create this.

Brookshire's Union roots run deep. He moved there with his

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### WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section



**Tonight**  
38 LOW  
Mostly clear



**Thursday**  
80/40  
Partly sunny

### CONTACT US

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### HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Call The Observer newsroom at 541-963-3161 or send an email to news@lagrandeobserver.com. More contact info on Page 4A.



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