

## LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

### UCSO deputies graduate from basic training

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training graduated the Basic Corrections Class #BCL033 on Sept. 14 at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem. Among those who successfully completed basic training were Deputy Morris Capers and Deputy Daniel Johnson of the Union County Sheriff's Office.

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training operates the Oregon Public Safety Academy, which spans more than 235 acres in Salem.

The Academy is nationally recognized for its innovative training programs and active stakeholder involvement. The department implements standards established by the Board for the training and certification of more than 40,000 city, tribal, county and state law enforcement officers, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, fire service personnel, telecommunications, emergency medical dispatchers and private security providers.

### LHS seniors recognized for scholastic talent

LA GRANDE — Braden Bell and Garren Dutto, seniors at La Grande High

School, have been named Commended Students in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program.

A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented by Brett Baxter, LHS principal, to the scholastically talented seniors.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2019 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2019 competition by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

"The young men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope this recognition will help

broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

### Local residents graduate from Pacific University

FOREST GROVE — Three students from Union County graduated in the spring of 2018 from Pacific University. Hannah Hulse, of Cove, graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in business administration. Kristen Nebeker, of La Grande, earned a master's degree in special education. Mariah Phifer, of Union, was awarded a master's degree in elementary and early childhood education.

Founded in 1849, Pacific University is a nationally recognized university offering undergraduate, graduate and professional programs in the arts and sciences, business, education, optometry, and health professions from campuses in Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Eugene and Woodburn.

### FFA and Les Schwab organize food drive

The Eastern Oregon FFA District has paired up with the local Les Schwab Tire Centers to launch a statewide hunger initiative to raise food to help #Drive-AwayHunger and meet the growing need in our communities. The statewide

FFA service initiative will take place during the entire month of October and will include activities and collections. Food donations may be dropped off at any Les Schwab Tire Store or local FFA Chapter. Paper bags to facilitate donation were distributed to Observer subscribers earlier this month. All donations received will be given to the local food pantries.

The Eastern Oregon FFA District includes the Baker, North Powder, Pine Eagle, Union, Cove, La Grande, Imbler, Elgin, Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph FFA chapters.

### City hosts fall photo contest

LA GRANDE — La Grande's urban forestry program is hosting an autumn photo contest with the winner receiving a free tree. Take a picture of your favorite tree showing off its fall colors and send it digitally to trees@cityoflagrande.org by Oct. 30. For more information about La Grande's urban forestry program go to www.lagrandeparks.org or call 541-663-1952.

### Improvements made at La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club

LA GRANDE — Thanks to a generous grant from the NRA Foundation, the La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club has completed a

retaining wall at the 300-yard range on Highway 244 near Hilgard. This wall will prevent sloughing of the fill under the firing line and protect the walkway leading to the club house.

The 300-yard range was added to the Grande Ronde River Range complex in the late 1980s and has been an attraction for casual shooters, training and competitive events. There have been several national bench rest matches held at this range. For club information visit www.lgrpc.com.

### Wallowa Community Connection offers public transportation

ENTERPRISE — Public transportation has been offered in Wallowa County for more than 20 years in one form or another. Community Connection now offers the "Shopping Bus" on Tuesdays and Thursdays; "Meal Site Bus" on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; "Wallowa Link" on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between Wallowa County and La Grande; and, during the summer, the "Summer Shuttle" runs on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Thanks to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds, public transportation services in the county be expanding in July 2019. Contact David

Ross at david@ccno.org or 541-426-3840 for more information.

### Red Cross seeks blood drive hosts

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. To help meet the constant demand for lifesaving blood donations and prevent blood shortages this winter, the American Red Cross is urging individuals and organizations to be winter heroes by hosting a blood drive.

During the winter, there is often a decrease in the number of blood drives, which can contribute to blood shortages. The Red Cross needs about 6,500 additional groups across the country to host blood drives in December, January and February to ensure blood will be there for patients who rely on blood products.

A Red Cross representative works with the host, providing planning assistance, tools to recruit blood donors, equipment and supplies and the trained staff needed to screen donors and collect donations. Blood drive hosts provide a large, open location, identify volunteers to support donor recruitment, and recruit and schedule blood donors. To learn more about hosting a blood drive and to sign up, visit www.RedCrossBlood.org/HostADrive.

## Retired Educators group hosts Elgin Opera House guests



Contributed photo

Terry Hale, director of the Elgin Opera House, and two young performers were recent guests at a meeting of the Union County Retired Educators. Hale and actors Olivia Sturm, of Union, and Grant Deem, of Cove, shown here, discussed their involvement in the production of "Mary Poppins." The children then sang three songs from the play, which ran at the Opera House until Oct. 20. The production featured around 50 individuals from Baker, Union, Umatilla and Wallowa counties. The Opera House guests also spoke about the Opera House's youth summer training program for performance arts. Last year, the small but dedicated group competed with larger organizations for the first time and brought home a Most Inspirational award. Members are preparing to travel to Sacramento, California, in February to compete again.

## Retired Educators awarded for dedication



Contributed photo

The Oregon Retired Educators Association presented Appreciation Awards of dedication and volunteerism to members of the Union County Retired Educators. President Doyle Slater (left) presented the awards to (from left to right) Gerald Hopkins, Phyllis Arnst, Fred Arnst and Lonnie Myers.

## HISTORY

Continued from Page 2A

land, traveled north and was accompanied by hail the size of golf balls.

The weather event was one of more than 60 significant tornadoes reported in Oregon since 1887, according to Taylor and Hatton.

### Q: Who founded the old Wallowa County community of Promise?

A: John C. Phillips and W. Mann, both homesteaders, settled in Promise around 1891, according to the book "Oregon Geographic Names" by Lewis McAr-

thur. The area, 25 miles north of Wallowa, was first known as Promised Land and Land of Promise, for that is how Mann referred to it. Mann did so apparently because it fit in with the upbeat names of the nearby communities of Paradise and Garden of Eden, according to a piece by Mim Lagoe in the book "About Wallowa County: Places, People, Names." The U.S. Postal Service gave the community the name of Promise when a post office was established there in 1896. The post office closed in 1944.

Few people live in the

Promise area today, but in 1900 it had a population of 181, according to Lagoe.

Promise was an agricultural community known for its apple orchards, which produced many varieties of apples including Astricans, Permians, Red Junes, Wealthys, Wolf River and Rambos, according to an article by Marilyn Hulse in "About Wallowa County." The produce was taken by wagon to rail lines in Elgin and La Grande from where they were transported to Portland. Some of the produce was also taken to a large logging camp at Maxville in Wallowa County.

## 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.

### UNION COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

541-562-5531  
Drop off at Union Baptist Church, 1531 S. Main; call before to make arrangements  
non-perishable foods  
milk and eggs  
cleaning items (including detergent and dish soap)  
personal hygiene items  
paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)

### UNION COUNTY SENIOR CENTER/COMMUNITY CONNECTION

541-963-7532  
Drop off at Community Connection, 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande  
volunteer drivers for Meals on Wheels (especially needed)  
monetary donations for Meals on Wheels sustainers  
monetary donations for meals  
volunteers to serve meals Monday through Friday

new or used CLEAN and in good shape wheelchairs, bath chairs/benches, walkers, canes, crutches, toilet chairs (any medical equipment that's not too big; cannot be made of wood)  
disposable toiletries (razors, toothbrushes, combs, deodorant, etc.)  
tarps and wool military-type blankets for shelter  
winter hats, gloves and scarves  
non-perishable food items (pop-tops)

### UNION COUNTY WARMING STATION

To arrange pickup or for more information, contact Cami at 541-910-0374 or Bridget at 541-805-9355  
socks  
twin-size sheets  
pillowcases  
blankets  
pillows  
sleeping bags  
hand/feet warmers  
feminine hygiene products  
facial tissues  
paper towels  
laundry soap  
disinfectant cleaning supplies  
hand sanitizer  
coffee supplies: coffee, sugar, creamer cups, tea, hot cocoa  
non-perishable snacks: crackers, cookies, nuts, dried fruit, pastries

bottled water  
breakfast foods  
microwavable foods  
toilet paper  
coats  
snow suits/pants  
hats, scarves and gloves  
backpacks  
tents  
tarps  
body and hair hygiene supplies

### VFW POST 2990

541-805-1916  
Drop off at Wells Fargo Bank, 1320 Adams Ave., La Grande  
monetary donations for veterans in need or distress

### WALLOWA VALLEY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Call 541-263-1660 to arrange drop-off or pickup.  
Mail monetary donations to WVLF, P.O. Box 453, Enterprise 97828  
lumber (new or reclaimed)  
paint  
old windows/Plexiglass  
other building supplies  
volunteers to help with various projects

### ABUNDANT LIFETRANSITIONAL SERVICES

702 F Ave., La Grande  
abundantlifetransitional@gmail.com  
monetary donations  
referrals to underpaid, sub-standard income, unemployed or homeless persons



Nicole Cathey

Reed & Associates for excellent service **LOCALLY!**



An Independent Insurance Agency

Medicare, Auto, Home insurance and Annuities



Kevin Reed

10106 N. 'C' • Island City

541-975-1364

Toll Free 1-866-282-1925

www.reed-insurance.net