

# LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

## Observer delivery likely delayed

Our carriers will do the best they can with getting today's Observer delivered. However, we want them to be safe and there is a good chance — especially in the outlying towns — the paper will be delayed. For those papers that are not delivered today, the carriers will go out tomorrow morning. In the meantime, we have made our e-edition of the paper available to everyone so you are still able to read today's paper. Go to the homepage and go down to "Newsstand" to see the entirety of our newspaper. Thank you for your patience.

## Wellness event aims to de-stress EOU students

LA GRANDE — Students in Kelly Rice-McNeil's Program Planning course this

term organized the fourth annual Stress-Less event, which takes place Feb. 28 in Quinn Coliseum.

Strategically scheduled for two weeks before finals, the event entices students with free food, prizes, video games, rock climbing, massage, music, essential oils and even puppies, pigs and goats to pet.

On-campus resources are also on display, including tutoring, TRIO, the Outdoor Adventure Program and many others. Sodexo sponsors the event's complimentary spread of snacks. Stress-Less runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on campus. For more information, visit [eou.edu/csievent/4th-annual-stress-less-event](http://eou.edu/csievent/4th-annual-stress-less-event).

## Oregon Mock Trial regional competition will be on Saturday

LA GRANDE — On

March 2, high school students across the state will meet in seven regions for the annual Oregon Mock Trial regional competition. The two Eastern Oregon teams, La Grande High School and Baker High School, will compete at the Union County Courthouse in La Grande under the tutelage of regional coordinator Kelsie J. Davis McDaniel.

Regional winners will proceed to the state competition on March 15-16 at the Hatfield Federal Courthouse in Portland.

Mock Trial is an action-packed, hands-on way for students to learn about the court system. This engaging learning tool helps them understand the law, practice critical thinking and gain greater confidence with public speaking by assuming the roles of attorneys and witnesses in a fictional criminal or

civil trial. Competitions are open to the public.

## Interested in a health care career?

LA GRANDE — The next installment in the EOU Health Speaker Series will focus on the physician assistant at 5 p.m. March 5 in the Huber Auditorium on campus in La Grande. The evening will feature Curt Stilp, the director of Oregon AHEC and an assistant professor for the OHSU PA Program, and Bonnie Dittmann, a PA at La Grande Family Medicine. The speaker series is free and open to the public. Students interested in a career in the health field are especially encouraged to come.

## Reserve your seat for hockey excursion

LA GRANDE — The City of La Grande Parks & Recreation Department is now

offering excursions to regional sporting events. The first will take place March 9, with a trip to the Tri Cities Americans hockey game.

Enjoy the game without the stress of arranging the logistics. Spots on the bus are limited and registration must be completed by March 4. The excursion is open to all ages. Children 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$20 for age 17 and younger.

To register or for more information, contact McKayla Nitz at 541-962-1352 or [mnitz@cityoflagrande.org](mailto:mnitz@cityoflagrande.org) or go to [www.la-grandeparks.org](http://www.la-grandeparks.org).

## Discussion and workshop center on grant writing

ISLAND CITY — The Oregon Cultural Trust will present its "Conversations with Partners and Funders" from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

March 5 at Island City City Hall, 10605 Island Ave.

Representatives from the Cultural Trust's Statewide Partners will discuss grant opportunities for the upcoming fiscal year (2020) with interested individuals and organizations.

Registration is not required. There will also be a grant writing and grant application prep workshop at the same location, presented by the Oregon Cultural Trust, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The UCCC provides matching grants directly to artists and organizations involved in cultural and heritage activities and projects.

Applications from groups are encouraged and efforts are made to fund as many as possible. For information about grant awards or the UCCC in general, contact UCCC chair Michael Sell at [msell@eou.edu](mailto:msell@eou.edu).

# OBITUARIES

## Daniel McGourty

Formerly of Wallowa  
1983-2019

Lieutenant Daniel "Fey" McGourty, 35, formerly of Wallowa, died Feb. 12 at his home in Atlantic Beach, Florida, after a three-year

battle with Ewing's sarcoma. A military memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. March 8 at the Atlantic Beach Country Club, Atlantic Beach, Florida. Later in the evening, a celebration of his life will follow at 6 p.m. at the Atlantic Beach Brewing Company.

Daniel was born Sept. 5, 1983, in Nampa, Idaho, to Ron and Celene Gay. He grew up in Wallowa and graduated from Wallowa High School.

In 2003, Daniel enlisted in the U.S. Navy and became an aircrewman, rescue swimmer. After being accepted to an officer commissioning program, he graduated from Old Dominion University in 2010 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Additionally, Dan received

his Wings of Gold in 2012 after completing flight school and became an E2 Hawkeye pilot.

Daniel married Alexandra Ulrich, whom he met while deployed in Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in 2007. The Navy took the couple all over the world, from Guam to the East Coast and to the West Coast, until they settled back in Atlantic Beach, Florida. Along the way, they added three children: Randall Emma McGourty (9), Molli Brown McGourty (7) and Gage Martell McGourty (1).

In lieu of flowers, Dan requested that people donate on his behalf to find a cure for Ewing's sarcoma, the devastating disease that took his life. Donations can be made at [www.curesarcoma.org/daniel-mcgourty](http://www.curesarcoma.org/daniel-mcgourty).

## Floyd 'Dale' Bechtel

Formerly of Elgin  
1927-2019

Floyd "Dale" Bechtel, 91, of Tri-Cities, Washington, and formerly of Elgin, died Feb. 14 at a care facility.

Known as Dale, he was born June 19, 1927, in

Elgin, to Ora and Sadie (Thompson) Bechtel. He graduated from Elgin High School. On Dec. 31, 1947, he married Virginia Dunn.

Dale resided in Elgin and in Connell and Pasco, Washington. He was the manager of Connell Grain Growers. After retirement, he spent summers at Ilwaco fishing and winters in Yuma, Arizona.

Dale enjoyed trap shooting, golfing, bowling, fishing and hunting. He shot his first elk at age 9. He received numerous trophies from trap shooting. He also enjoyed watching basketball and football. Dale was a member of the La Grande Gun Club, Connell Chamber of Commerce and the Washington Wheat Growers Association. He was awarded Man of the Year by the Connell Chamber.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia of Pasco, Washington; children, Marlena Bechtel-Rysdam and spouse, Arie, of Elgin, Dala Jo Bechtel of Elgin, and Rhonda Murray and spouse, Paul, of Connell, Washington; sister, Joyce Halsey of Pasco; brother

and sister-in-law, Joe and Phyllis Bechtel of Elgin; five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; and 13 nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ora and Sadie, and sister, Verneta McClure.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com).

## Rosalie M. (Nelson) Williams

La Grande  
1947-2019

Rosalie Marie Williams, 72, of La Grande, died Feb. 21 at St. Luke's Hospital in Boise, Idaho.

Rosalie was born Feb. 14, 1947, in La Grande, to Benjamin and Carrie (Orr) Nelson.

She attended Riveria Elementary School and graduated from La Grande High School. She married Leo G. Williams, and they later divorced.

Rosalie was a devoted mother to her children. She enjoyed spending time with family, and she loved her grandchildren.

Survivors include her

children, Leonette Shelley and husband, James, and Kevin Williams, all of La Grande; sister, Bonnie Bluhm of La Grande; six grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren; and nine nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Benjamin and Carrie; sister, Evelyn Long; and brother, Benjamin F. Nelson.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com).

## 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.

## UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Accident: At least one person was injured in a motor vehicle accident at Pierce Road and Highway 237 on Monday. The accident was reported at 12:15 p.m.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a motor vehicle accident Monday in Island City at Island Avenue and E Street. The accident was reported at 1:06 p.m.

Accident: No injuries were reported Monday in a traffic accident at Mullholland Road and Walton Road. The accident was reported at 3:30 p.m.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident at Walton Road and Island Avenue on Monday. The accident was reported at 5:02 p.m.

Arrested: Daniel Jason Blood, 35, Baker City, was arrested on charges of first-degree forgery, identity theft, negotiating a bad check, first-degree theft, third-degree theft and posses-

sion of a controlled substance, meth.

## LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Accident: No injuries were reported in a traffic accident at Fourth Street and N Avenue on Monday. The accident was reported at 1:52 p.m.

Accident: Nobody was hurt in a motor vehicle accident at McAlister Road and Highway 203 on Monday. The accident was reported at 3:19 p.m.

Accident: Nobody was hurt in a traffic accident at Island Avenue and Portland Street on Monday. The accident was reported at 7:16 p.m. It involved a driver who hit a parked car.

Arrested: Kaden Peter Bockelman, 19, unknown address, was arrested on charges of attempting to elude, reckless driving and possession of a controlled substance, meth.

Arrested: Adam Alexander Green, 20, unknown address, was arrested by Des Moines,

## Public Safety Report

The Public Safety Report is compiled from police blotter information supplied by local law enforcement agencies and fire department reports. Individuals named as arrested and/or charged with crimes in this report are presumed innocent until proved guilty in a court of law.

Washington law enforcement officers on a Union County warrant charging a probation violation connected to original charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and giving false information to a police officer.

Accident: Nobody was hurt in a traffic accident Tuesday on Washington Avenue and Fourth Street. The accident was reported at 11:53 a.m.

Accident: No injuries were reported in a traffic accident at Adams Avenue and Chestnut Street on Tuesday. The accident was reported at 1:07 p.m.

Arrested: Damon Alan

Preuss, 26, unknown address, was arrested on a Umatilla County warrant charging failure to appear in court on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident Monday at Fourth Street and E Avenue.

## LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

La Grande Fire Department responded to seven calls for medical on Monday and nine calls for medical and one fire alarm on Tuesday.

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