



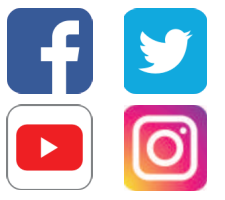
SPORTS

# LHS boys win district title

## R&C Family Store celebrates new ownership, 2A

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Good day to our valued subscriber Nellie Hibbert of La Grande

## Budget hearings complete

By Amanda Weisbrod  
The Observer

The Urban Renewal Agency and the City of La Grande budget committees held hearings Monday and Tuesday evenings to decide funding priorities for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Notably, the City of La Grande Budget Committee earmarked \$325,000 for a new roof at Cook Memorial Library and made a last-minute decision to dedicate funds from the general reserve to help Arts Center East make its building, which is owned by the city, more ADA accessible.

The URA Budget Committee, meanwhile, renewed and updated the Call for Projects program, and agreed to continue the practice of under levying, which will boost the city's general fund.

After much debate, the city's budget committee decided to allocate up to \$50,000 in matching funds to ACE for adding accessibility features to its building.  
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## 'This is not your grandfather's weed'

Perils of youth marijuana use discussed

By Dick Mason  
The Observer

The point is one Ed Shemelya, a former state police officer in Kentucky, makes without reservation.

"Marijuana is the misunderstood drug in America," said Shemelya Tuesday night during a presentation on marijuana, "Cannabis and Kids: What Do You Need to Know?"

Shemelya, initiative coordinator for the National Marijuana Initiative, an organization whose mission strives to dispel misconceptions about marijuana and raise awareness of issues surrounding the  
See **Marijuana** / Page 5A



Dick Mason/The Observer

This photo of Pio PioTolekt, a Nez Perce Indian, is among those displayed at the Union County Museum, which is opening May 12 for its 50th anniversary.

## New Nez Perce photo exhibit featured at Union County Museum

By Dick Mason  
The Observer

Union County Museum volunteers got a bonus while moving a more than 100-year-old linotype machine out from a wall earlier this year.

Hidden history was discovered behind the heavy machine, a large envelope from the Idaho Historical Society filled with 24 black and white photos of members of the Nez Perce Tribe. Many of the images capture the Nez Perce in exquisite ceremonial dress, featuring decorative necklaces, beadwork, headdresses and moccasins. The photos are not dated but there are clues

indicating they were taken in the late 1800s.

Sharon Hohstadt, a volunteer for the Union County Museum, knew right away that the photos needed to be displayed.

"They were too good to resist," Hohstadt said.

The value of the photos is such that she did not want them to be at risk, so Hohstadt had prints of the photos made. Nine of the duplicates are now part of a new exhibit at the museum, which opens Sunday for its 50th season.

The Nez Perce display includes a photo of Pio Pio Tolekt, described by an Idaho Historical Society caption  
See **Nez Perce** / Page 5A

## Spend Mother's Day exploring history at Elgin's new museum

One-day opening aligns with Eagle Cap Excursion Train event

By Amanda Weisbrod  
The Observer

Moms, their families and wanderers alike can check out the progress on Elgin's newest attraction this Mother's Day.

The Elgin Museum is opening its doors to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday in hopes of catching visitors who are in town for the Eagle Cap Excursion Train's Mother's Day Brunch ride, which offers scenery of the surrounding area and a meal prepared by Chuck Wagon Sisters Catering of Joseph. The museum will provide lemonade and cookies to anyone who stops by, and roses will be passed out to the first 24 moms who arrive.

Everett Grandeen, vice president of the Elgin Museum and Historical

Society, said the museum board decided to show its displays before its official grand opening date of June 15 in order to give people a place to relax before or after the excursion train event.

"We have more stuff to put out and more stuff that's coming in, but we wanted to be open because the train is running that day and people will be wandering around town," he said. "We thought we'd better take advantage of that for Mother's Day."

The new museum, located in the old city hall building, features historical artifacts ranging from the turn of the century to present-day, including uniforms from the Elgin Fire Department, Police Department, Elgin High School  
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Courtesy photos

TOP: The Elgin Museum's new location is at the old Elgin City Hall building between the Elgin Opera House and the Train Depot. BOTTOM: One of the museum's displays includes ribbons and chaps from the Stampeders.

## Elgin School board candidate wants state leaders to be aware of fiscal issues facing rural schools

By Dick Mason  
The Observer

Legislators need a greater understanding of the financial struggles small rural school districts are confronting.

This is the ardent belief of Rod Spikes, a candidate for Position 4 on the Elgin School Board.

"We need to make the state more aware of (small rural school districts') financial situation," Spikes said.

The candidate said if elected he would work with other board mem-

bers to determine the best way to accomplish this.

Spikes is one of two people running for Position 4, which is open to those living within the Elgin city limits. His opponent is Kevin Smolkowski, who is presently a member of the Elgin School Board. Smolkowski holds Position 2, which is for those living within the Elgin School District but outside the city limits. Smolkowski cannot run for re-election to his seat because he is in the pro-

cess of moving within Elgin's city limits. A story about Smolkowski's candidacy appeared in The Observer on May 6.

The Position 4 incumbent is Shelley Burgess, who did not file for re-election. Burgess has served as a member of the school board for at least 12 years.

Spikes, 64, is a lifelong Elgin resident who has strong ties to its school district. His wife, Evelyn, taught English at Elgin High School for 26 years, before retiring about 16

years ago. They have two sons, both Elgin High School graduates.

"I know how important our school district is for our young people and the community," the candidate said.

Spikes is no stranger to public service, for he previously served as a member of the Elgin School District Budget Committee for four years, was mayor of Elgin for two years in the early 1990s, and was a volunteer firefighter for the Elgin Fire Department for 20 years.

He said being with the Elgin Fire Department is one of the most fulfilling things he has ever done.

"(The Elgin Fire Department) is just a great organization, and people appreciate firemen. It is nice to be part of an organization that is appreciated," Spikes said.

Before retiring, Spikes worked for Boise Cascade for 44 years in a variety of capacities. He said he enjoys living in Elgin because of the opportunities  
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### WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section  
Tonight 42 LOW Patchy clouds  
Thursday 71/39 Sunlit and nice

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FRIDAY LA GRANDE MARKETPLACE OPENS MAY 15

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