PILOT

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Force Rescue Coordination Center.

Civil Air Patrol radar data was compiled and a forensic examination of its radar track was conducted. The radar track appeared to terminate at or near Elk Willow Springs. Life Flight flew into the early morning hours of Wednesday, Sept. 11, and attempted to locate the crash site using night vision equipment, according to the UCSO news release.

A ground search was started on Wednesday by UCSO's Search and Rescue unit. Two and a half hours later, the Oregon Air National Guard, using a Chinook helicopter, initiated a search in the general area.

At 2 p.m. Sept. 11, the Civil Air Patrol arrived to search the air using a fixed-wing aircraft. At 2:19 p.m., the Civil Air Patrol crew spotted plane wreckage. Moments later the Chinook helicopter was overhead and its crew verified the plane wreckage.

The Chinook helicopter hovered and maintained its position over the wreckage and sent GPS coordinates to ground search units, which arrived at the wreckage site at 2:26 p.m. The U.S. Forest Service was then contacted and five people from it created an access route to the wreckage site.

The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration will be investigating the crash.

The type of plane Koeppen was flying has not been released, but according to a preliminary FAA report, a 1968 PA-32-300 fixed-wing single-engine Piper aircraft was registered in his name.

Radar data indicates that Koeppen's plane crashed after making a rapid descent from an altitude of 6,600 feet.

Courtesy photo

Christy and Derrick Erickson of La Grande lost their 4-month-old baby, Jordy, on Wednesday after a car accident on Highway 82 in Wallowa County.

AID

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godmother, knowing that she is unable to have children of her own.

"They wanted to offer me the honor of loving a child," she said. "I promised them I would do anything for him."

She was out of state when Christy went into labor, but hopped on a plane immediately and made it in time for his birth. She said it is difficult losing him so soon, but nothing compared to what his parents are experiencing.

People can donate to the family through the GoFundMe online at bit.ly/2lTzFIq or donate to an account set up in the Erickson family's name at any Community Bank.

Candace Salim, another family friend, is organizing a dinner to collect donations for the family on Wednesday at the American Legion building at 301 Fir St. in La Grande. Salim said she is asking people to donate spaghetti, salads and desserts for the dinner. There will be photos of Jordy and a journal where people can write notes of condolence for the family.

Doors will open at 4 p.m. for people to drop off food, and the dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. Anyone interested in helping with food for the dinner can call 541-910-3991.

TEENS

Continued from Page 1A

negative effects they have on sleep, anxiety and social development. Part of his presentation focused on how screens have brought down teen's abilities for empathy and compassion. He encouraged parents to lead by example and listen to their teenagers' frustrations and feelings, rather than dismissing them.

Additionally, he reminded parents that there isn't one specific path to success and that teens can reach their dreams in different ways.

"The weight of (being) teenagers is that they're told there is a narrow path to success and happiness," Bellace said. "We can be change makers in that."

Richard Wistocki

As a detective for the Naperville Police Department in Illinois, Wistocki was head of the cyber crime division for more than 20 years. Starting in 1997, Wistocki said, he began seeing how dangerous a place the internet and social media could be, especially for young people. In 2004, he discovered his calling and headed one of the first programs that dealt with internet crimes against children. Wistocki said today more than 5,000 detectives investigate predators online.

During his "Parent's Guide" presentation at LHS, Wistocki discussed how social media is used as a tool to hurt children and teens and provided information on ways parents can protect them. The crimes that Wistocki focused on included cyberbullying, sexploitation, sex trafficking and child pornography.

As he developed the NPD's program, Wistocki, said, he concluded there were three key things that needed to be done to stop cyber crimes against young people. The first was teaching kids how not to be victims. Second was teaching parents how to watch kids on their devices. The last was teaching cops how to catch these predators. Since retiring from the police force Wistocki has been teaching those three things all around the country.

"It happens everywhere," Wistocki said, referring to internet crimes against children. "If there is a school, it is happening."

Throughout his presentation, Wistocki stressed the responsibility of parents in monitoring their children's online experiences. He stated that, for children, there is no such thing as privacy, and they aren't equipped to handle what goes on in social media. He told parents to begin monitoring as early as possible, before there are any problems.

"We need to be parents, not friends with our kids," Wistocki said.

He said that just because technology exists, it doesn't mean our kids should be using it. However, if they do use social media, parents shouldn't threaten them with harsh punishment if something does go wrong. He called this idea "the Golden Ticket," ensuring that your children know they won't be punished for making a mistake. If you allow your children to come to you when something goes wrong, without fear of consequences, Wistocki said, then they will be more likely to ask for help before things go too far.

However, if a child does make poor choices online, Wistocki told parents it is important to increase their efforts to protect their children by redefining the boundaries and stepping up their access to their children's text messages, contacts, camera rolls and apps as well as installing location monitoring.

"It's not that I don't trust you," Wistocki said he used to tell his kids. "It's that I don't trust anyone else with you."

During his speech, Wistocki highlighted some of the tools that are being used to catch internet predators, and the ways in which those very predators are getting around them. He did this in the hopes that parents will recognize the signs if their kids are at risk of being exploited.

"Predators go where the kids are," Wistocki said.

The retired detective went over how the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has a backdoor to all social media and gaming websites that are based in the United States, but warned that apps like Kik, Skype and Whatsapp are based in other countries and therefore don't have that same monitoring.

Wistocki said that keeping phones out of kids' rooms at night, knowing the lingo they are using when messaging and being connected as a team are ways parents can keep their kids safe online. He gave advice about situations in which having a phone can be dangerous, such a sleepovers, where a photo that started out as a prank is shared online and could end up in the wrong hands.

He advised parents to ensure their kids are able to verify who they are talking to, requiring them to know five key things about their "friend." He said a child should know this person's first name, last name, phone number, address and where they go to school. If your child doesn't know these things, he said, there is a good chance the person your kid is talking to isn't who they say they are.

Wistocki said everything a child does can be found on his or her phone. He showed parents some of the ways to find photos and videos their kids might be hiding on their phones and computers, like through vault apps and password protected libraries. He reminded parents to tell their children that when the police investigate internet crimes, no one is anonymous, that information on a phone can be subpoenaed.

REES

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those examining the Constitution will discover that our nation's founders were looking for a way to have security in a cost-effective manner: a military that could be operated prudently with the help of local militias, today's National Guard units.

"We should use a sound business model. The same one that is in the constitution," Rees said.

States are allowed to maintain National Guard units that train to standards prescribed by Congress and are subject to call-ups by the president, Rees said, because of the Constitution's Militia Clause.

"There is more in the Constitution on the militia than on all other services combined," he said.

The retired general dealt firsthand for many years with the argument over how much the regular army and the National Guard and other military reserve components should receive in funding. He said he never ceases to marvel at the foresight of those involved in constitutional debates 230 years ago.

"(They) came up with the answers we need for a fiscally challenged USA in the 21st century," he said.

Rees grew up in Helix and graduated from Griswold High School in 1962 and the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1966. He served in Vietnam in the late 1960s and upon leaving the active Army jointed the Oregon Army National Guard. Rees served as Oregon's adjutant general four times during his career. His first stint began in 1989 when he was appointed by Oregon's governor. His final stint began in 2009 when he was appointed by Gov. Ted Kulungoski and served four years.

The retired military leader is credited with playing an influential role in getting new National Guard armories built throughout Oregon, including La Grande, where the current armory was built about 15 years ago, said Lou Gerber, a retired National Guardsman who helped organize Reunion Weekend.

Rees, who was involved in the construction of about 30 National Guard buildings including armories in Oregon, said one of the most important lessons he learned from that experience is that the government will respond when people speak up about a need.

He also said he learned that large projects such as construction buildings will be successful when government entities and communities form partnerships.

This marked the fifth annual Reunion Weekend for the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment. Rees spoke after the reunion's Sunday banquet at the Blue Mountain Conference Center, which was attended by about 50 people.

ROBERSON

Continued from Page 1A

thought he wanted to work in the behind-the-scenes technical side of the library, but he quickly realized he wanted to be in a public facing role. His previous jobs at smaller libraries allowed him to do that and as Cook Memorial Library's director he will have the opportunity to continue in a public role.

"In a small rural community where you have a strong sense of community, the library holds a central role," Roberson said. "I've always enjoyed that aspect. (At first) I wanted to work for big libraries but I realized it wasn't as enjoyable."

Roberson had been at his previous position in Seattle for five years when he decided to apply for the position at La Grande's library. He will be taking over for former director Terri Washburn, who left in July.

He said he is looking forward to living in La Grande.

"It reminds me of a small New England town," Roberson said.

As the library director, Roberson will have a very hands-on role, meeting and greeting patrons, working the front desk, developing the library's collection and working with other staff members on program development, in addition to the daily tasks of scheduling for staff. He plans to help the library develop a strategic plan, which it currently does not have.

"In a small rural community where you have a strong sense of community, the library holds a central role.."

— Kip Roberson, new director at Cook Memorial Library

Before he can begin helping the library, Roberson said, he wants to get a sense of what is actually needed at this time by consulting his staff, La Grande City Manager Robert Strope and, most of all, the visitors of the library on what they would like to see.

Strope, along with a search committee, chose Roberson because of his qualifications and history, Strope said.

"When you take a look at the full package of what he brings, with his education and experience in smaller towns, he was the best choice," Strope said.

Roberson said what he loves most about his career is that "the library can be whatever you want it to be. That place of refuge, where you find your favorite book. It has the potential to be whatever you need."

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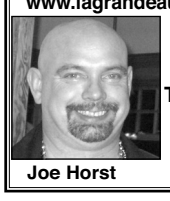
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Aaron is married with six children, two girls and four boys. They enjoy spending time outdoors together playing a variety of sports, hunting, fishing, and backpacking. He enjoys woodworking and remodeling, using his wife's creative vision to bring old pieces back to life.

Aaron Cooper, PA-C

Please join us in welcoming Aaron and his family to the Grande Ronde Valley!

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