

Barbara Raines — 95th birthday



Courtesy photo

Barbara Raines, of Wallowa, will be celebrating her 95th birthday on Nov. 20 with her family. Cards may be mailed to P.O. Box 152, Wallowa 97885.

Retta Hoxie — 102nd birthday



Courtesy photo

Retta (Zachow) Hoxie, of La Grande, was born Nov. 7, 1917, in Cleveland, North Dakota, and has lived in the Grande Ronde Valley since 1952. Her family helped her celebrate her 102nd birthday, which she proclaimed to be the "best birthday ever." Her daughter and son-in-law, Ruth and Lonnie Lester, also live in La Grande. She has five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandson and several step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

Elgin Lions honor vets



Courtesy photo

The Elgin Lions honored the veterans among them during a club meeting. Shown here are Darrin Ward, Kayla Ward, Steve Oliver, Lynn Knopp, Bill Hall, John Broughton, Mike Garver, Jim Hallgarth, Bob Wiles, Jack Meilke and Jim Way.

Sheriff deputy graduates from police academy

Observer staff

SALEM — Deputy sheriff Eric Rynearson of the Union County Sheriff's Office graduated with the Basic Corrections Local #BCL039 class on Nov. 8 at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem. Rynearson successfully completed the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training 16-week Basic Police Class, which covers dozens of training areas including survival skills, firearms and emergency vehicle operations.

The DPSST 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 trains and certifies city, tribal, county and state law enforcement officers, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, fire service personnel, telecommunicators, emergency medical dispatchers and private security providers.

LHS senior named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist

Observer staff

Lillian Victoria Parker-Halstead, a senior at La Grande High School, was among the approximately 16,000 students announced to be semifinalists in the 65th annual National Merit Scholarship Program, which honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered next spring.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance

to the finalist level of the competition. More than 90% of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and about half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 400 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

More than 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a finalist, the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the

semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

Students chosen to advance to the finalist level will be notified in February. The 2020 National Merit Scholarship winners from this group will be awarded \$2,500 scholarships and/or considered for sponsored scholarships and university-based financing.

Braden Flory of La Grande interns with congressman

Observer staff

Braden Flory of La Grande was selected to intern with the office of Rep. Chris Stewart in Utah during the fall 2019 semester as part of the University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics Local Internship program.

The Hinckley Institute was founded in 1965. Its mission is to promote civic engagement at all levels and to provide transformative experiences that inspire

students to be more thoughtful and involved in the world around them. Since then, the institute has placed more than 8,000 students in local, global, national and legislative internships.

"We pride ourselves on the fact that no matter what type of student you are, from a first-semester freshman to an experienced graduate student, we have a substantive internship to suit your skill set," said Jason Perry, Hinckley

Institute director.

The University of Utah, located in Salt Lake City in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains, is the flagship institution of higher learning in Utah. Founded in 1850, it serves more than 31,000 students from across the U.S. and the world and offers more than 72 major subjects at the undergraduate level and more than 90 major fields of study at the graduate level, including law and medicine.

HONORS

COVE CHARTER SCHOOL

The following students in seventh through 12th grades at Cove Charter School earned the academic honor of making this year's first-quarter honor roll.

7th grade: Skeen Dittmann, Cabella Gregory, Micha Jayne, Jesse Ledbetter, Colter Loman, Josephine Patton, Gillian Rivard, Hannah Robbins, Tanner Rovey, Seth Umpleby.

Honorable mention: Cadence Castillo, Corban Marsh, Lucy Matthews, Baylee Stitzel.

8th grade: Cade Bolton, Wyatt Burgess, Autumn Dobbs, Ally Gettman, Rowan Hasinger, Trevor Johnson, Olivia Mack, Kade McLean, Avalon Perkins, Elijah Williams.

Honorable mention: Riley Copeland, Ashton Furrer, Tee Ledbetter, Laurel Marler, Trystin Underhill.

9th grade: Olivia Bentz, Daniel Crist, Terrell Davis, Taylor Fox, Patrick Frisch, Jaden Furrer, Bo Ledbetter, Jacob Lindsey, Collin Rovey, Caleb Wiggins.

Honorable mention: Markus Taggert.

10th grade: Rachel Baird, Maggie Frisch, Trinity Gettman, Madeline Johnson, Isaac

Lee, Kailee Mansveld, Brenda Sain.

Honorable mention: Donald Harris, Madison Harvey, Skyler Perkins, Carlee Porter.

11th grade: Hannah Alldredge, Elise Farrell, Emma Lund-Ottesen, Kierra Moore, Zak Nguonny, William Pettit, Chance Rivard, Wil Slagle, Haiden Wiggins.

Honorable mention: Tristin Brown, Israel O'Reilly, Alex Williamson-Turnbull.

12th grade: Nekoda Carlson, Elliana Hines-Dunlap, Riley Overton, Stuart Patton, Tristin Walker, Karla Weber, Kelly Winebrenner.

Honorable mention: Brenna Harvey, Austin Kendall, Kaleb Ralph.

UNION HIGH SCHOOL

The following students at Union High School in seventh through 12th grades earned the academic honor of being included on this year's first-quarter honor roll.

7th grade: Amos Lewis, 4.26; Oliver Bliesner, 4.17; Morgan Johnson, 4.13; Paisley Miller, 4.00; Larkin Sanders, 3.91; Janey Cordero, 3.89; Mikael Pence, 3.76; Aiden Later, 3.61; Tyler House, 3.51.

8th grade: Marielle Graffunder, 4.30; Kaci Baxter, 4.17; Lindsey Butler, 3.97; Jayda Blackburn, 3.93; Elijah Gliddon, 3.84; Samantha Mathews, 3.61.

9th grade: Samuel Baxter, 4.08; Mary Baxter, 3.98; Jakob Graffunder, 3.91; Nicholas Baxter, 3.90; Emily McCants, 3.61; Caleb Later, 3.58.

10th grade: Audrey Hill, 4.44; Audrey Wells, 4.40; Callie Glenn, 4.36; Kaylin Nowak, 4.09; Virginia Kuhl, 3.84; Emma Ricker, 3.79; Jenna Sypher, 3.56; Natasha Thiesfeld, 3.55.

11th grade: Riley Later, 4.36; Grady Fite, 4.13; Keegan Glenn, 4.13; Jordan Defries, 4.12; Adam Lewis, 4.11; Kylie Marriott, 4.03; Kaylee Lantis, 4.04; DeLaney Smith, 3.99; Sydney Antoine, 3.98; Kaitlin Martens, 3.90; Carter Blackburn, 3.79; Jace Phillips, 3.73; Brooklyn Lathrop, 3.66; Saskia Ackerman, 3.57.

12th grade: Zachary Johnston, 4.48; Kylie Bruce, 4.44; Ashlyn Baxter, 4.38; Brianna Kohr, 4.30; Jaimee Baxter, 4.18; Aubrey Sellick, 4.13; Hunter Coon, 4.12; Autumn Daggett, 4.08; Hannah Bello, 4.05; Taylor Daggett, 3.93; Levi Hammond, 3.88; Cameron Dillman, 3.85; Rory Hill, 3.83; Jacie Kromwall, 3.74; Jaxon Blackburn, 3.65; Alexandra Tapia, 3.60.

Come in today and let our staff help make your Thanksgiving **HAPPY & FESTIVE!**

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Saturday 9am - 6pm • Sunday 9am - 3pm
\$5.00, Children under 12 free

Baker County Event Center (The Old Armory), Baker City, OR 97814
Reservations: Ray (541.519.7482) or e-mail: traderrays@eoni.com
Children under 18 shall be accompanied by an adult.
All Federal, State and Local laws shall be enforced.

Grande Ronde Hospital proudly welcomes: Zach Spoehr-Labutta, MD

Joining the Grande Ronde Hospital and Clinics team as a Pediatrician

Zach Spoehr-Labutta, MD (Dr. Zach), joins the GRH Children's Clinic from Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he completed his residency. He completed his Doctor of Medicine at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, DC. Dr. Zach is passionate about helping children and teens achieve their best health. He enjoys helping families come up with unique solutions that meet their needs, while also partnering with schools, community organizations, and government to ensure health on a population level. Topics that he is particularly interested in are vaccination, injury and accident prevention, and building resilience for families affected by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). When not caring for patients, Dr. Zach enjoys hiking, kayaking, skiing, and landscaping, as well as playing video games and spending time with his family.



Zach Spoehr-Labutta, MD

GRH Women's & Children's Clinic

710 Sunset Drive, Suite E, La Grande
541.663.3150 • grh.org/pediatrics/

Learn more about Dr. Zach in our online Provider Directory at www.grh.org today!

