

Oregon Cultural Trust tax credit deadline is Tuesday

By Dick Mason
The Observer

LA GRANDE — People who made donations to cultural nonprofits in Oregon in 2019 have an opportunity to double the amount at no cost to their bank account if they act by Tuesday.

Here's why: the Oregon Cultural Trust's tax credit program, which the Legislature approved in 2002.

Anyone who donates to one of the more than 1,500 Cultural Trust partners in Oregon and also donates the same amount to the Oregon Cultural Trust will receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. This means that if you donate \$100 to a qualified cultural nonprofit and contribute \$100 to the Oregon Cultural Trust in the same calendar year, you can take \$100 off your tax bill in addition to the tax deduction you receive from your original donation to a cultural nonprofit.

Individuals can get a tax credit up to \$500, couples up to \$1,000, and Class C corporations up to \$2,500, according to the Oregon Cultural Trust's website.

The Cultural Trust disperses those contributions across Oregon to keep cultural

organizations thriving. In fiscal year 2020, nonprofits that support the arts, heritage and the humanities will receive more than \$2.7 million in funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Organizations in Union, Wallowa and Baker counties that received funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust in 2019 included the Liberty Theatre Foundation, La Grande, with \$17,428; Art Center East, La Grande, with \$9,116; Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, Joseph, with \$29,471; Crossroads Creative and Performing Arts Center, Baker City, with \$13,701; and Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre Inc., Baker City, with \$16,374.

The Oregon Legislature in 2001 created the Oregon Cultural Trust. No other state provides a 100% tax credit for cultural giving.

The Cultural Trust reported receiving \$4.9 million in 2017 from Oregonians, a record amount, and 60% of that went to arts and culture organizations. The remaining 40% helped grow the trust's permanent fund.

Additional information on the tax credit is available at www.culturaltrust.org/resources/faq.

Local police to crack down on distracted driving

Observer Staff

LA GRANDE — Local law enforcement, Jan. 6 will increase patrols to deter distracted driving.

Lt. Gary Bell of the La Grande Police Department in a news release stated the effort will be the first of quarterly events in La Grande and Union County in 2020 to educate distracted drivers and enforce distracted-driving laws.

Distracted driving has become one of the most common reasons for vehicle crashes in the United States. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, between 2012-17, nearly 20,000 people died in crashes involving a distracted driver, with 3,166 fatalities in crashes involving distracted drivers in 2017. That was almost 10% of all fatal crashes that year.

An analysis by the AAA Foundation of 2009-12 data found while more than 80% of drivers believed it was completely

unacceptable for a motorist to text behind the wheel, more than a third of those same drivers admitted to reading text messages while driving a passenger vehicle.

The enforcement work is a partnership involving the Oregon Department of Transportation, La Grande Police Department, Union County Sheriff's Office and the Oregon State Police.

"People know texting or using their phone without a hands-free device and driving is dangerous and illegal," according to Bell's statement, "but it is often done anyway, and it puts others at risk. On Jan. 6, you will see increased law enforcement efforts, as officers, deputies and troopers will be stopping and ticketing those who are caught texting or using their devices illegally while driving. We are not trying to rack up citations — we are trying to save lives."

LOCAL BRIEFING

ACE makes progress toward ADA accessibility

LA GRANDE — Art Center East, which is raising funds to install a lift and make its facility more accessible for all, announced it is less than \$3,000 away from its first fundraising goal of \$10,000 for the project. Donations made before the end of December can be claimed on 2019 taxes. A large number of community donors will help ACE's grant applications stand out. ACE welcomes contributions of any size in its effort to win grants for ADA access in 2020. To donate online, go to www.gofundme.com/give-the-arts-a-lift. Donations may

also be made in person at the center, over the phone or at any Community Bank branch. For more information, stop by ACE at 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande, or call 541-624-2800.

UC Democrats will meet again in February

LA GRANDE — The next monthly meeting of the Union County Democrats will be Feb. 5, 2020, beginning at 6 p.m. at Umpqua Bank, 1215 Adams Ave., La Grande. The January meeting has been canceled due to the holidays.

Business' food drive a success

LA GRANDE — Nature's Pantry's recent donation

drive to help curb local food insecurity was a success, the La Grande business announced. The business matched each dollar donated by community members through Dec. 20 and was able to donate more than \$1,000 in turkeys and food to families in need this Christmas.

Help kids cope with divorce, separation

LA GRANDE — Learn how divorce or separation impacts your children and what you can do to help them at a workshop offered 6-8:30 p.m. Jan. 7, 2020, in the Misener Conference Room, 1001 Fourth St., La Grande. For more information call Teala at 541-962-9500, ext. 42.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY

A caller in Cove at 9:32 a.m. reported possible animal abuse.

The Union County Sheriff's office at about 1:25 p.m. served a La Grande resident with a restraining order.

Cove city staff at 2:31 p.m. asked to speak to a Union County sheriff's deputy about people littering. A deputy contacted the suspect and advised the person to remove the garbage.

Fire and police in La Grande at about 2:45 p.m. responded to a fire on the 200 block of Deal Canyon Road.

SATURDAY

La Grande at about 5:20 a.m. stopped a vehicle on the 2100 block of Adams Avenue. The vehicle was reported stolen out of Idaho, and police arrested

the driver, Michael Charles Zizzi, 27, for unauthorized use of a vehicle and misdemeanors of methamphetamine possession and possession of a federally controlled substance.

La Grande police at 9:05 a.m. took a report for a burglary at B & K Auto Salvage, 64190 Highway 203, La Grande.

The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a burglary of a storage unit on the 800 block of South Main Street, Union.

The Union County Sheriff's Office arrested Michael Owen Delepierre, 46, of Union, for violating parole, second-degree burglary and third-degree theft.

An Elgin caller at 6:39 p.m. reported an attempted burglary on the 200 block of North 17th Avenue.

A La Grande police officer at 11:19 p.m. spotted two possible car prowlers on Minam Court. The officer cited two 18-year-old boys, one from Imbler and one from island City, for misdemeanors of minors in possession of alcohol and marijuana.

SUNDAY

A deer was reported stuck in a fence at about 8:50 a.m. at Water and Second streets, Cove. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded.

A La Grande caller at 4:07 p.m. reported possible illegal fireworks in the area of the 200 block of 16th Street.

And firefighters responded to 12 calls for medical assistance on Sunday, 10 on Saturday and four on Friday.

Charles 'Ehrman' Bates

La Grande
1925-2019

Charles "Ehrman" Bates, 94, of La Grande, died Dec. 17 at Grande Ronde



Hospital. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Jan. 4, 2020, at the La Grande First Baptist Church. A private burial was held at Grandview Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

Known as Ehrman, he was born Nov. 27, 1925, in La Grande, to Thomas and Laura Emma (Elmer) Bates. He graduated from Union High School. In 1949, Ehrman married Lorraine Panches.

Ehrman served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After his honorable discharge, he returned to La Grande and farmed the rest of his life. He was a member of the First Baptist Church and the Blue Mountain Grange. Ehrman enjoyed collecting coins and stamps and was an avid reader, woodworker and fisherman. He collected train sets and clocks and enjoyed antique shopping with his wife.

Survivors include his sister, Anna Brown of La Grande; numerous nieces and nephews; sisters-in-law, Lorraine Bates of Condon and Jacque Panches of La Grande; and special family friend, Sandy Franks.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Lorraine, and brothers, Elmer,

Edward and Ernest.

Memorial contributions may be made to Camp Elkanah in care of the First Baptist Church, 1702 Sixth St., La Grande 97850.

Evelyn I. McPetridge

La Grande
1944-2019

Evelyn Irene McPetridge, 75, of La Grande, died Dec. 15. A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Jan. 4, 2020, at St. Katherine's Catholic Church in Enterprise, with burial following. Arrangements are entrusted to Bollman Funeral Home.

Evelyn was born April 19, 1944, in Enterprise, to Wayne and Irene McPetridge.

Evelyn never knew a stranger. She enjoyed meeting people and always had lots to say to go along with her happy smile. She loved to tease, do jigsaw puzzles and beat family members in any card game. Evelyn loved life and lived it to the fullest, despite her disabilities. She was always the first one awake on Christmas morning.

Surviving relatives include her brothers and sisters-in-law, Larry and Davise, Michael and Mary, and David and Janet; sisters and brothers-in-law, Sharon and Oscar Ramos and Kay and Tom Forest; sister-in-law, Marlie; and 23 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wayne and Irene; brother, Darrell; and sisters, Mary Anna and Teresa.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to New Day Enterprises in La Grande.

Marilyn R. (Richardson) Roberts

Union
1948-2019

Marilyn Rae Roberts, 71, of Union, died Dec. 18 at her residence. A memorial service will be held at a later time.

Marilyn was born Sept. 10, 1948, in Walla Walla, Washington, to Noah and Mary (McClannahan) Richardson. She graduated from Umapine High School, where she was a cheerleader and was on the volleyball team. She married Ron Gerber and they later divorced. Later, she married Beau Roberts.

Marilyn was employed with United Van Lines and was also an apartment manager. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, baking, bowling, going to yard sales and decorating her home. In Marilyn's younger years, she was a rodeo princess. She earned the Yard of the Month award and was a member of the Ladies Club in Fruitland, Idaho. According to her children, Marilyn's greatest achievement was being the best mother ever.

Surviving relatives include her husband, Beau; children, Mary Hamby and husband, Chris, of Adams, Ronda Aldrich of Nampa, Idaho, and John Wesley Rumbelow of La Grande; sisters and brothers-in-law, Susann and Ted Brown of Stockbridge, Georgia, Carolyn and Mike Goutcher of Stockbridge, Georgia, and Debra and Mark Hudspeth of White Hall, Montana; brother, Steven Richardson of Walla Walla, Washington; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and another on the way; and

many nieces and nephews and aunts and uncles.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Noah and Mary.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

Carol Garnett

Formerly of Elgin

Carol Garnett, 84, formerly of Elgin, died Dec. 25, her favorite day of the year, at a care facility in Hermiston. An obituary is forthcoming. Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

Delpha Hamann

La Grande

Delpha Hamann, 89, of La Grande, died Dec. 10 at a care facility in Pendleton. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Jan. 4, 2020, at the La Grande First Presbyterian Church. Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

Mary A. (Kligel) Crowell

La Grande
1939-2019

Mary Alice Crowell, 80, of La Grande, died Dec. 21 at her home. A funeral will be held at 9 a.m.

Jan. 3, 2020, at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in La Grande. Burial

will follow at 1 p.m. at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton.

Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

Mary was born June 18,

1939, in Pendleton, to Carl and Marion (Vent) Kligel. On Nov. 22, 1958, she married Barry Crowell in Pendleton. They later lived in Tri-Cities then moved to La Grande in 1971. Mary worked in accounting and in 2008 opened her own business, Mar's Adventures PC. She was still running her office at age 80 and took great pride and joy in going to work every day.

Mary was diagnosed with diabetes at the age of 6 and was very involved with diabetes organizations. She enjoyed sewing and ceramics and loved spending time with her grandchildren and attending their events.

Surviving relatives include her husband,

Barry Crowell of La Grande; children and their spouses, Steve and Jeanne Crowell of Cove and Carlene and Mark Lester of La Grande; siblings and their spouses, Connie and Sherry Kligel of Mesa, Arizona, Robert and Mary Kligel of Newberg, Tom Kligel of Pendleton, Judy and Ernie Parker of Pendleton, and Danny and Maggie Kligel of Central Point; and five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; children, Nicholas and Timmy; and brother, James Kligel.

Memorial contributions may be made to any diabetes organization.



Got Resolutions?

As we gear up for a brand-new year, make Grande Ronde Retirement Residence your new home.. From health and fitness features to family entertainment, we deliver all you need to make 2020 your best year yet!

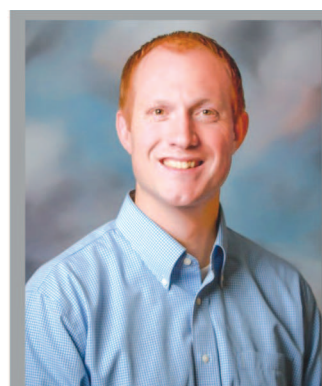
Look for our Help and ideas, inspiration and support to help you set and keep your goals all year!





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