

Local man dies in avalanche in Elkhorns

EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — A local man died Saturday after an avalanche hit him and his snowmobile high in the Elkhorn Mountains.

Richard Delbert Stephens, 33, was trapped in a snow slide, Baker

County Sheriff's Travis Ash said. Ash said Stephens and three others were riding snowmobiles in the upper parts of the Rock Creek drainage when the avalanche happened, trapping Stephens.

None of the other three riders, who were friends or relatives of Stephens,

was hurt, Ash said.

Baker County Dispatch received a call about the fatality at 6:04 p.m. Ash, who was attending the Baker County Chamber of Commerce Awards banquet, said he immediately mobilized a search and rescue team.

Weather takes down power in Grande Ronde Valley

Observer staff

LA GRANDE — The winter weather knocked out power Sunday in portions of the Grande Ronde Valley.

The Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op's online map of power outages Monday

morning showed the problem affects anywhere from 101-500 customers in Elgin and upwards of 100 members north of the town, Elgin callers Sunday evening reported down lines near the 73500 block of Gordon Creek Road and

in the area of the 73100 block of Palmer Junction Road, according to information from the Union County Sheriff's Office.

The utility cooperative in a news release Sunday night reported multiple power outages affected the

area, and crews are heading out to work to restore power.

"We apologize for this inconvenience and appreciate your patience," the news release stated.

To report the loss of power or the cause of any outage call 1-866-430-4265.

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

Teach for a cause — instructors wanted

LA GRANDE — Art Center East, La Grande, offers weekly classes to Shelter From the Storm clients through a grant-funded program, but the center needs teaching artists to begin next week.

The center seeks instructors to teach a two-hour evening class one time, or on a regular basis (for example, once per month). Dates are flexible and can fit your schedule. All artistic and wellness topics are welcome. Classes must be stand-alone, make-and-take style using supplies available in the ACE studio. Only Shelter From the Storm can attend the classes.

Compensation is \$5 per student per hour with a class minimum of three students (so you will make a minimum of \$15 per hour, \$30 per class — more depending on attendance).

Interested potential instructors should contact ACE as soon as possible by emailing info@artcentereast.org with "Shelter Teaching Artist" as the subject line.

Informational meeting addresses Buffalo Flats Stream Restoration Project

UNION — An informational meeting on the Buffalo Flats Stream Restoration Project is Jan. 30, 6-8 p.m. in the S.E. Miller gym at Union Elementary School, 166 W. Dearborn St.

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District announced it is leading a planning effort to investigate the physical and biological conditions of Catherine Creek and Little Creek upstream of Union. This effort will develop strategies to improve fish and wildlife habitat conditions while looking for opportunities to address flooding concerns of the local community and provide benefits for agricultural operators.

The district recognizes the complexity of the natural river system and the potential for impacts on the local community, according to the announcement, and will carefully consider the ramifications of design alternatives in this process. The purpose of this meeting

is to provide the local community with information about the conservation planning effort, address specific concerns and solicit public input that can guide project development.

Scholarship available to Union County senior girl heading to EOU

LA GRANDE — Applications are now being accepted for the 2020-2021 Union County PEO Tri-Chapter Scholarship.

This \$3,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating senior girl from Union County who will attend Eastern Oregon University, La Grande. Applications are available from counselors at Union County high schools. Applicants are evaluated for academic achievement, community service, financial need and commitment to higher education.

Three local chapters of PEO, a philanthropic organization dedicated to the education of women, fund the scholarship. The application deadline is March 31.

CALENDAR

- LA GRANDE — Members of the La Grande High School Class of 1954 gather for lunch the third Wednesday of the month. This month's gathering begins at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 15 at Cock 'n' Bull Villa Roma in Pat's Alley 1414 Adams Ave., La Grande.

- LA GRANDE — The Cook Memorial Library Commission will meet in regular session Thursday at 2:30 p.m. in the Library Archives Room. Contact Kip Roberson, library director, at 541-962-1339 or kroberson@CookMemorialLibrary.org for more information. The library is at 2006 Fourth St., La Grande.

Bingo raises funds for Alzheimer's Awareness Foundation

LA GRANDE — An evening of bingo, snacks and prizes will benefit the Alzheimer's Awareness Foundation. The event begins Friday at 6 p.m. at Grande Ronde Retirement Residence, 1809 Gekeler Lane, La Grande. The cost is \$10 per player for 10 games. Call 541-963-4700 to reserve your spot.

Take the Vibrant You 2020 health challenge

LA GRANDE — Nature's Pantry and Mountain Valley Fitness and Health invite

community members to take the Vibrant You 2020 New Year's Health Challenge. The free four-week challenge begins Sunday and concludes Feb. 15. Registration is required, but there is no cost to participate. For more information and to sign up call Nature's Pantry at 541-963-7955 or stop by the store, 1907 Fourth St., La Grande, by Tuesday.

A challenge launch meeting will be Tuesday at 6 p.m. for those wishing to take advantage of the program. The challenge will include guidance from health professionals, discounts at Nature's Pantry and Mountain Valley Fitness, social media accountability, prizes, a mid-way checkpoint meeting Jan. 30, and an awards meeting Feb. 18. All meetings will be streamed online.

Saturday's Meet My Coach Day is mandatory

LA GRANDE — The city of La Grande Youth Basketball League's mandatory Meet My Coach Day will take place Saturday at the Riviera Activity Center, corner of Second Street and Y Avenue, La Grande. Players in first, second and third grade will meet their coaches at 9 a.m., and players in

fourth, fifth and sixth grade should arrive at 9:30 a.m.

Literacy Center offers free tutoring to all ages

LA GRANDE — Cook Memorial Library's Literacy Center is now open from 2-4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The center is available to all ages, offering opportunities to improve reading and comprehension, math and other basic skills through written material, games and computers. Services include homework help, English as a Second Language, tutoring and GED (high school equivalency) preparation as well as free materials on parenting, kindergarten readiness and finding and keeping employment.

Walk-ins are welcome. Tutoring also may be arranged by calling 541-962-1339. All Literacy Center services are free. More details in English and Spanish are available at the library's website: www.cookmemoriallibrary.org.

Blanket drive aims to keep community warm

LA GRANDE — The Center for Human Development is conducting a blanket drive through Feb. 28 to help all community members stay warm this winter. Blankets and monetary contributions

may be dropped off between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday at the center, 2301 Cove Ave., La Grande. For more information, call 541-962-8800.

Trainings target opioid addiction and treatment

LA GRANDE — Two La Grande-based health organizations are working together to help health works address opioid addiction.

The Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center and the Northeast Oregon Network have partnered to sponsor "Opioid Addiction & Treatment: A Training for Traditional Health Workers" this winter and spring in Eastern Oregon. The sessions are geared toward community health workers and other traditional health workers so they can engage with primary care and other practitioners as effective members of the treatment team.

The two-day workshops will provide an overview of the science and social impacts of opioid addiction on individuals and families. The two most immediate trainings will be Jan. 30-31 in Pendleton and Feb. 27-28 in Ontario. To register or for more details, go to www.neonoregon.org/upcoming-trainings.

OBITUARIES

Justice J. Clark

La Grande
1978 - 2020

Justice John Clark, 41, of La Grande, died Jan. 2 at his residence. A celebration of his life will be held at 4 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Presbyterian Friendship



Center. The family prefers casual dress.

Justice was born Feb. 6, 1978, in La Grande, to Jerry and Durinda (Lee) Clark. He graduated from La Grande High School. Justice was married to Gina Alexander for 19 years.

Justice was employed with Meadow Gold and Miller's Home Center. He enjoyed four-wheeling, RC cars, playing Ping-Pong, cooking and spending time with his friends and family.

Surviving relatives include his son, Lincoln Clark of La Grande; sister and brother-in-law, Jade and Joaquin Grant; brother, Jeremy Clark of La Grande; and several aunts and uncles.

Dylan Greene

La Grande

Dylan Douglas Greene, 27, of La Grande, died Jan. 9 at Grande Ronde Hospital. At his request, there will not be a service.

Surviving relatives include his mother, Joy Sanders of Lincoln City; father, Mark Greene of Prineville; brother, Devan Greene of Lincoln City; sister, Destiny Greene of La Grande; and grandfather, Harlan Scott of Elgin.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jerry and Durinda.

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

Marjorie Jarvis

La Grande

Marjorie Jarvis, 101, of La Grande, died Jan. 9 at her home. An obituary is forthcoming. Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopf Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

Kevin L. Williams

La Grande

Kevin L. Williams, 47, of La Grande, died Jan. 9 at St. Luke's Boise Medical Center, Idaho. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS

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FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY

Jan. 18 Virginia Linkenhoker:

2 p.m. memorial service, La Grande United Methodist Church; reception follows in the Fellowship Hall.

Feb. 8 Justice Clark:

4 p.m. celebration of life, Presbyterian Friendship Center, La Grande; casual dress preferred.

Bernard "Bernie" Sherwood, 78

March 24, 1941 - December 23, 2019



LA GRANDE resident Bernard "Bernie" Sherwood, 78, died December 23, 2019 in La Grande, Oregon. Bernie was born on March 24, 1941 in Miami, Florida to Bernard and Lois Stoner Sherwood.

He attended grade school in Redwood City, California and Cove, Oregon. In 1955 his family moved to Fairbanks, Alaska and he graduated from Lathrop High School in Fairbanks in 1959. His claim to early fame was a stunning rendition of Elvis Presley in the 1957 Arctic Capers Talent Show at Lathrop High School. In 1962 he married his high school sweetheart, Carol Ann Kahler, now of Washington City, Utah. He was working for Pan American Airlines in Fairbanks when he and his family were transferred to California in 1969. Bernie loved cars and tinkering and loved his jobs in the Aviation Industry. He worked for Pan American Airlines, Evergreen Airlines, and Polar Airlines. Upon retirement he returned to Cove, Oregon. Bernie was a loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and a good friend to many. He will be missed.

Bernie is survived by his four wonderful children: Jina Sherwood, of Medford, Oregon; Laurie Sherwood Johnson (Mark), of Gilbert Arizona; Douglas Sherwood (Brian) of Henderson, Nevada; and Amber Sherwood Johnson (Jonathan) of Gig Harbor, Washington; and his grandchildren: Ryan Sherwood (Jina); Kacie, Conner, Ryan, and Sammy (Mark and Laurie); Arin, Aubrey, James, Julia and Aidan (Amber and Jon). Great grandchildren: Oakley and Sawyer Zink (Kacie).

He also leaves behind his sisters, Susan Sherwood Wilken (Gary) of Fairbanks, Alaska and Robin Sherwood Smith of Fort Collins, Colorado and nieces and nephews Matthew Wilken, Allison Wilken Curry, Karen Wilken and Bobby Wilken all of Fairbanks, Alaska and Leah Smith Kennedy of Fort Collins and Greg Smith of Bend, Oregon.

Also surviving Bernie is a brother, Tommy Rowen, from Kingman, Arizona. They recently found each other and were joyfully reunited. Brothers from the same mother!

Bernie was preceded in death by his mother, Lois Stoner Sherwood in 1943; his father Bernard LeRoy Sherwood Sr. in 2003 and his stepmother June Shaffer Sherwood in 1993.

A private family and friends gathering was held in La Grande, Oregon at the Loveland Funeral Chapel. He was laid to rest in the Cove Cemetery, in Cove, Oregon on Friday, January 3, 2020.

SATURDAY

An Elgin resident at 7:15 a.m. reported a prowler on the 300 block of North 17th Ave. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and arrested Dustin John Mathis, 28, on a felony warrant for violating probation in a case involving charges of burglary, theft and felon in possession of a firearm.

The Union County Sheriff's Office at about 8 a.m. responded to the 10700 block of Emily Drive, Island City, on a report of a domestic disturbance. Deputies arrested a man on a Multnomah County warrant for hit-and-run.

A caller at 11:21 a.m. at Walmart, 11619 Island City Ave., Island City, reported a small child was asking for money. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and counseled

two people about the matter.

La Grande police at 11:26 a.m. received a report of possible child abuse.

A Union resident on the 300 block of West Chestnut Street called at 12:06 p.m. and requested a sheriff's deputy to deal with an ongoing issue with a neighbor. The deputy talked to the person and explained options.

La Grande police received a report at 4:48 p.m. about obstructions at Sixth Street and N Avenue.

SUNDAY

The Union County Sheriff's Office at 8:14 a.m. received a report of a possible missing person and contacted the search and rescue team,

A Union County sheriff's deputy at about 12:10 p.m. responded to a home on the

67100 block of End Road, Summerville, for a burglary alarm. The homeowner was not aware of setting off the alarm.

La Grande police at about 12:40 p.m. responded to a request to help find a missing juvenile runaway. Police took the youth into custody.

An Elgin caller at 4:12 p.m. reported a careless snowmobile driver. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded but did not find any snowmobilers.

The sheriff's office at 5:24 p.m. received a complaint about a vehicle pulling a sled with juveniles on the 500 block of North 15th Avenue. A deputy checked the area but did not find anyone.

And La Grande firefighters responded to 10 calls for medical assistance on Sunday, seven on Saturday and 11 on Friday.



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