

News in Brief

From staff reports

'Paint night' benefits LHS football champs' ring fund

LA GRANDE — Paint Nights with Keyla is hosting a fundraiser Monday with proceeds going toward purchasing state championship rings for the La Grande High School football team.

Participants will create a blue forest painting on pallet boards. Cost is \$40 for all painting supplies and instruction. Snacks are welcome. The evening begins at 6 p.m. at Tap That Growlers, 1214 Adams Ave., La Grande. For more information, call 541-786-1586 or search for "Paint Nights with Keyla" on Facebook.

Saturday gathering celebrates typewriters

LA GRANDE — JaxDog Cafe and Books is hosting a "Type-In" Saturday for those who are curious about typewriters and for those who remember and miss them.

Between 3-5 p.m., come by 1305 Adams Ave., La Grande, to type letters or other personal writing, help write a round robin story or ask Amelia Ettinger, JaxDog poet for the day, to compose a poem just for you.

Sharon Porter leads this event, which is free to the public. Typewriters will be provided or feel free to bring your own.

Blue Mountain Land Trust ask public to take survey for conservation plan

WALLA WALLA — The Blue Mountain Land Trust seeks public input on its 2020-24 Conservation Plan that will guide its conservation efforts in Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, and Walla Walla counties in Washington, and in Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union and Wheeler counties in Oregon.

The Blue Mountain Land Trust in a news release asked the public to take an online survey to assist updating the plan. The survey is online at [survey.sogosurvey.com/r/3eVTK8](https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/3eVTK8) and closes Friday, Feb. 7. The purpose of the conservation plan is to guide the Land Trust's priorities for the next five years and to identify strategies for advancing those priorities. The Land Trust will finalize the plan in March.

"The plan provides direction to the Land Trust's board and staff to ensure that we spend our resources in ways that produce the greatest possible conservation gains in our region," according to the news release.

The Blue Mountain Land Trust is a not-for-profit organization that protects and enhances farm and ranches, wildlife habitat and waterways in the Blue Mountain region. For more information, visit [www.bmlt.org](http://www.bmlt.org), email [bmlt@bmlt.org](mailto:bmlt@bmlt.org) or call 541-620-5754.

Oregon's average gas price dips below \$3/ gallon

PORTLAND — AAA Oregon reported the average price for a gallon of regular gas in Oregon fell to \$2.99 for the week, the first time the Oregon average has dipped below \$3 a gallon since March of last year.

"Growing gasoline stocks and low seasonal demand are putting downward pressure on pump prices," the travel organization reported. "For the week, the national average for regular loses three cents to \$2.54 a gallon."

Gas in Portland stood at an average of almost \$3.10 a gallon, according to AAA Oregon, gas in Bend averaged \$2.89 a gallon and in Pendleton it was \$2.84 a gallon. According to the website [gasbuddy.com](http://gasbuddy.com), gas in La Grande averaged about \$2.88 a gallon.

Free legal help coming for Oregon journalists

PORTLAND — Oregon's journalists soon will have a lawyer in their corner.

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press announced Tuesday its "Local Legal Initiative" launch in Oregon. The initiative will place lawyers in five states — Colorado, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Tennessee — to provide pro bono legal support to help local media defend against legal threats and lawsuits, assist with public records and court access efforts and provide pre-publication review and other legal services.

The news release stated the expansion to provide the direct legal services follows a \$10 million investment from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation last year as part of the foundation's pledge to double its commitment to strengthening local journalism.

"We are eager to expand our legal services to help more local journalists pursue stories that inform and strengthen their communities," said Bruce Brown, executive director of the Reporters Committee. "We are looking forward to working closely with our partners in each of these states to support thriving local journalism."

The Society of Professional Journalists, Oregon Territory, reported it worked with Oregon Public Broadcasting and the University of Oregon School of Law to submit an application on behalf of a coalition of more than a dozen news organizations across the state. The EO Media Group, owner of The Observer, East Oregonian, Baker City Herald and others newspapers, was part of the coalition. Ginger McCall, Oregon's former public records advocate, also wrote in support. And the University of Oregon's School of Law has committed to providing externships for law students to partner with the RCFP attorney, expanding the initiative's potential reach.

The Reporters Committee reported it received more than 45 submissions from across 30 states, regions and territories as part of a proposal process in 2019 after the announcement of the Knight Foundation's investment.

"The enthusiasm and responses we received from across the country make clear that there is a significant need for pro bono legal assistance for local journalists nationwide," said Katie Townsend, legal director for the Reporters Committee. "At a time when important local reporting is routinely stymied, we stand ready to help journalists and news organizations overcome the legal roadblocks they too often face."

Stephen J. Adler, chair of the Reporters Committee, said the organization believe the initiative "will make an important difference in driving high-impact enterprise and investigative reporting."

Wyden, Brown, Eshoo urge FTC to investigate firm handling Americans' financial data

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon joined with two fellow Democrat lawmakers Friday to demand the Federal Trade Commission investigate a company possibly violating the law by recklessly selling Americans' personal data. Wyden, Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio and U.S. Rep. Anna G. Eshoo of California sent a letter to FTC Chairman Joseph J. Simons stating the consumer data Envestnet collects and sells contains sensitive data from consumers' credit and debit card transactions that can reveal information about their health, sexuality, religion and other personal details.

"And the more often that consumers' personal information is bought and sold, the greater the risk that it could be the subject of a data breach, like the recent breaches at Equifax and Capital One," the lawmakers stated in the letter.

"Consumers generally have no idea of the risks to their privacy that Envestnet is imposing on them," the trio continued in the letter. "Envestnet does not inform consumers that it is collecting and selling their personal financial data. Instead, Envestnet only asks its partners, such as banks, to disclose this information to consumers in their terms and conditions or privacy policy. That is not sufficient protection for users."

Wyden in October 2019 introduced the Mind Your Own Business Act to require "radical transparency" about how corporations share, sell and use consumer data and to hold accountable corporations for treating Americans' personal information recklessly. Wyden also last fall urged the FTC to open an investigation into Amazon's failure to secure servers rented to Capitol One, a security flaw that may have allowed a hacker to steal the personal information of 100 million Americans in July 2019.

Hermiston warming station struggles to find volunteers

By Jade McDowell  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Some people slept out in the cold Sunday night after the Hermiston Warming Station did not have enough volunteers to open.

It was the second time that happened since the season started at the end of November.

"People get quite upset, but I have to explain to them that nobody gets paid," board chair Teesie Hill said.

"We're all volunteers."

Hill said the warming station trained a little over 100 volunteers at the start of the season, but 40 of those volunteers haven't signed up for any shifts so far this season. The emergency shelter needs as many as nine volunteers each night to cover all the shifts.

She said in response, they're giving volunteers the option to break the 7 p.m. to midnight shift in half, working only 7-9:30 p.m. or

9:30 to midnight. She hopes that will encourage more people to sign up.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, pass a background check and complete a training. Hill said she is working to schedule some more training sessions, which will be posted on the Hermiston Warming Station Facebook page.

Hill said last year the warming station saw unusually high numbers of guests, at about 18 per night. This

year numbers have been lower, averaging around six.

"Very few of our regulars returned this year," she said. "It's a new crowd this year."

Hill said she knows some of the "regulars" from last season were able to find employment or start receiving housing assistance. Others moved away, had family take them in again or are currently serving jail terms.

While the shelter has struggled to fill shifts this

year, they are offering increased accommodations for guests. Hill said they received a grant to purchase a washer and dryer so volunteers did not have to take bedding to the laundromat. In addition to washing the warming station's items, they also plan to allow guests to bring some clothing for washing on Thursdays and Sundays.

They also have started offering the guests breakfast bars in the morning and portable soup-to-go contain-

ers, such as Cup of Noodles, in the evenings. Hill said the most helpful thing people can donate to the warming station right now is the microwavable, single-serving soups.

A volunteer is available from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday and from 12:30-2:30 p.m. on Sundays for people to drop of donations at the Hermiston Warming Station, 1075 Highway 395. For questions about donations, call 541-303-3256.

OBITUARIES

Millicent M. Dooley

La Grande

Millicent M. Dooley, 88, of La Grande, died Jan. 20 at her residence. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Bertha L. (Parker) Thompson

La Grande

1950-2020

Bertha Louise Thompson, 69, of La Grande, died Jan. 18 at Grande Ronde Hospital. A celebration of her life will be held at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 25 at the La Grande First Baptist Church.

Bertha was born Jan. 31, 1950, in Sweet Home, to Walter and Anna (Dear-dorff) Parker. She graduated



from Crane High School and what is now Eastern Oregon University. She also lived in Iwakuni, Japan; San Diego, California; and John Day and La Grande. She married Robert Thompson and they later divorced.

Bertha was employed at Red Cross Drug Store. She enjoyed reading, writing and crocheting and belonged to the Happy Hookers crocheting club. She was a member of the La Grande First Baptist Church.

Surviving relatives include her son, Aaron Thompson of La Grande; sister, Shirley Stewart of Homer, Alaska; brothers, Walt Parker of Council, Idaho, and R.J. Parker of Republic, Washington; and three grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents,

Walter and Anna Parker; brother, Paul Parker; and sister, Peggy Valenzuela.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.lovelandfuneral-chapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneral-chapel.com).

Thomas S. Hartley

La Grande

Thomas Stephen Hartley, 79, of La Grande, died Jan. 21 at a local care facility. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Mary L. Marshall

Union

Mary Louise Marshall, 89, of Union, died Jan. 18 at Grande Ronde Hospital. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

SATURDAY

Two vehicles crashed at about 1 p.m. on the west-bound side of Interstate 84 near milepost 273, sending occupants to Grande Ronde Hospital for treatment.

According to Oregon State Police, a 32-year-old man from Meridian, Idaho, was driving a Mazda 6 and tried to pass a Ford Escape at a speed exceeding the 50 mph zone. The Mazda collided with the rear of the Ford.

Ambulances transported passengers from the two vehicles to the hospital in La Grande, two trucks removed the two cars and state police cited the Mazda driver, Kaleb C. Winkelman, 32, for careless driving.

**MONDAY**

La Grande police at 7:43 a.m. received a complaint about an ongoing trespassing on the 1000 block of Frontier Court. A caller at 10:28 a.m. reported seeing a possible wanted suspect on the 1500 block of Monroe Avenue, La Grande.

The Union County Sheriff's Office at 5:28 p.m. received a report of a vehicle hitting a deer at Antles Lane and Highway 237, Cove.

The Union County Sheriff's Office at about 6:50 p.m. served a restraining order on the 200 block of South 12th Street, Elgin.

**TUESDAY**

Nobody was injured in a car fire Tuesday in La Grande. The fire was reported between 6 and 7 p.m. and did substantial damage to a car parked in a residential area. The La Grande Rural Fire Department responded to the fire.

And firefighters responded to nine calls for medical assistance on Tuesday and 11 on Monday.

**NOW HIRING:**  
Shift Supervisor  
Production Workers  
Millwrights  
Electricians

**At Boise Cascade, we know our employees are our most valuable assets! So we offer competitive pay and great health and financial benefits to join our production team!**

**INTEGRITY  
SAFETY  
RESPECT  
EXCELLENCE**  
That's how We Do business.

**Building communities while building careers.**  
**Apply at**  
**[bc.com/careers](http://bc.com/careers)**  
90 S 21st Ave, Elgin, OR 97827  
(541) 437-2611

Boise Cascade is an equal opportunity employer and encourages women, minorities, and veterans to apply.



**Boise Cascade®**



**UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS**  
*Sponsored by*

**Feb. 8**  
**Justice Clark:**  
4 p.m. celebration of life, Presbyterian Friendship Center, La Grande; casual dress preferred.

**FAMILY OWNED**

**NORTHWEST FURNITURE & MATTRESS**

**215 Elm Street La Grande (541) 963-5440**

[northwestfurnitureandmattress.com](http://northwestfurnitureandmattress.com) Like Us On Facebook

[www.CountrysideSheds.com](http://www.CountrysideSheds.com)

**For New Years Start Growing Season early in your Greenhouse**

**STORAGE BUILDINGS**  
(541) 663-0246  
*Locally owned and operated for over 25 years*

**Your Shed Deal is waiting don't let it slip away**

**RENT to OWN**  
starting at  
**\$68 Month**

**10505 N. McAlister Road**  
(Corner of Hwy 82 & N. McAlister Rd.)

**Countryside SHEDS LLC**  
CCB #149931  
"More Than Just a Shed"