

BIRTHS

GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL

BALES: To Krista Rose Bales and Christopher John Bales, of La Grande, a son, Isaac John Bales, 8 pounds, March 12 at 8:56 a.m. Grandparents are John and Angie Shurtleff and John and Tanna Bales.

COMPTON: To Ranelle Elise Compton and Kit Nathan Compton, of La Grande, a daughter, Juniper Asher Compton, 7 pounds 8 ounces, March 17 at 8:16 a.m.

CROY: To Hannah Joelle Croy and Kevin Matthew Mitts, of La Grande, a daughter, Miah Tracy Mitts Croy, 6 pounds 2 ounces, March 18 at 7:48 p.m.

MARTIN: To Sandra Lucille Martin and Dillon Mathew Martin, of La Grande, a son, Dash Angel Martin, 6 pounds 13 ounces, March 15 at 2:57 p.m. Grandparents are Robert and Cindy Kohler, Kevin Kunzler, and Renee and Raul Rios.

VANCE: To Janice Marie Vance and Jesse James Vance, of La Grande, a daughter, Serenity Ann Myrna Vance, 7 pounds, March 21 at 8:26 p.m.

Elgin Lions make big deposit at food bank



Contributed photo

Before the “stay home, save lives” mandate, the Elgin Lions set up a collection drive at Food Town Grocery and, in a five-hour period, collected more than 275 pounds of food and personal hygiene products for the Elgin Food Bank. Left to right are Darlene Garver, Gerald Hopkins, Mary Hopkins, Barbara Hawes and Daryl Hawes.

Column: Local youth council urges peers to avoid alcohol

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. Organized by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence since 1987, this public health movement is designed to draw attention to the causes and effects of alcoholism. The Union County Safe Communities Coalition is pleased to support this initiative in our continued efforts to build a safe, healthy and drug-free community.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, alcohol is the most commonly used drug among youth in Oregon. Data show individuals ages 12-20 drink 11% of all alcohol in the United States. However, Union County youth are above this norm.

The 2019 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey indicated approximately 88% of Union County respondents in the eighth grade reported they had not consumed alcohol in the last 30 days, and 68% of junior respondents indicated the same. While progress is underway it is clear much work remains to turn the tide of underage drinking.

The UCSCC Youth Council aims to help close



Photo contributed by the Union County Safe Communities Coalition. Members of the Union County Safe Communities Coalition Youth Council at a recent meeting.

this gap. This dynamic volunteer group consists of more than a dozen teenagers from schools in Union County who work to curb youth substance use. Youth council members would like their fellow teens to know why they actively choose to say “no” to alcohol when faced with peer pressure. Take a look at several of their responses below:

Imbler junior

In my opinion, alcohol can ruin a person’s life. For me, it could ruin my social

life as well as the obvious physical disadvantages. I find myself often reflecting on what I am involved in, the promises I have made to those organizations, and also the dedication I have to my family and friends to stay alcohol-free. Whether it be FFA, NHS, ASB or sports, I am a leader. A leader has morals, guidelines and a positive aura that makes people want to be like them or follow in their footsteps. Leaders make this world what it is, and that is why I stay

alcohol free.

Elgin junior

As an athlete, Christian and FFA member who holds a chapter and district office, alcohol conflicts with my morals and responsibilities. I’ve chosen to stay away from alcohol so I can focus on what’s important to me, like staying in better shape during sports and maintaining my grades. When I reflect on the leadership roles that I hold, alcohol would diminish my reputation. Being alcohol free has allowed me to follow my passions and stay focused without restrictions.

Cove eighth-grader

I think consuming alcohol at my age is a bad idea because it would affect my future and the organizations I’m involved in now. It would also be completely devastating to my family and friends if I were to be consuming alcohol. Therefore, I will stay alcohol free and will encourage my friends to do so as well. I want to have a good education and get good grades, and I know that consuming alcohol would make that very hard, so that’s why I

stay away from alcohol.

La Grande sophomore

Drinking alcohol, in my opinion, could mess up anyone’s future. In some situations, alcohol could be a gateway drug to much more dangerous substances like marijuana and other bad drugs. I’d rather not risk my future because I have big plans. I also want to focus on school and not let my grades fall.

The members of the UCSCC Youth Council believe each teen is invaluable and asks their peers to refuse to let alcohol interfere with their journey to make a positive mark in the world. The council also shares the following resources:

- Parents, teachers and other trusted adults are great first lines of contact for teens who are struggling with substance use.
- Center for Human Development, La Grande,

provides counseling and substance abuse treatment services. Call the center at 541-962-8800.

•Youth Line: A teen-to-teen crisis and help line. Contact them with anything that may be bothering you. Teens are available to help daily from 4-10 p.m. (off-hour calls answered by Lines for Life). Call 877-968-8491, text teen2teen to 839863, or chat online at www.oregonyouthline.org.

•Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Hotline: 1-800-662-4357.

About the Author
Union County Safe Communities Coalition works to increase community awareness of youth substance abuse and promote prevention in Union County. To learn more about the Youth Council’s work in our community, visit ucsafecommunities.org or follow the Union County Safe Communities Coalition on Facebook.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY

8:51 a.m. — A North Powder caller reported possible animal neglect on the 100 block of C Street.

1:06 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1500 block of Adams Avenue on a report of a person causing a disturbance. Police arrested a 36-year-old woman for second-degree disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor.

1:18 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about a stalker and took a report.

2:30 p.m. — A caller on the 700 block of Miller Drive, La Grande, reported a dog attack. An animal enforcement officer contacted the caller and gave a warning to the dog’s owner.

5:39 p.m. — A La Grande caller reported gunshots in the area

of Terrace and Adams avenues. Police determined the shots came from an address outside the city limits.

8:26 p.m. — La Grande police responded to a report of a possible gun law violation on the 2000 block of Gekeler Lane. An officer counseled the subject of the complaint.

9:02 p.m. — The La Grande Fire Department responded to a fire in a garage on the 2200 block of Jakob Avenue. Clothing caught fire and spread through the garage. One occupant suffered injuries trying to extinguish the flames. The cause remains under investigation.

10:49 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office received a complaint about vandalism on the 100 block of South Main Street, Union. A deputy took a

report.

TUESDAY

1:52 a.m. — A La Grande resident reported telephonic harassment. An officer contacted the caller and will follow up.

8:12 a.m. — A La Grande caller on the 700 block of O Avenue asked police for options for dealing with a stray cat.

8:44 a.m. — La Grande police responded to a call about identity theft and took a report.

1:54 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1100 block of Lake Avenue on a distress signal from a vehicle. That person was fine.

3:55 p.m. — Emergency services responded to the 66900 block of Miller Lane, Union, for a crash with injuries. Union County sheriff’s deputies took a report.

4:17 p.m. — An Island City caller on the 10200 block of White Birch Lane reported an aggressive dog.

5:18 p.m. — A caller on Summerville Road reported an ongoing situation with an aggressive dog on the loose.

5:51 p.m. — A caller on the 2200 block of Island City, La Grande, reported an aggressive dog on the loose. An officer was not able to find the dog.

9:18 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office received a report of people in a vehicle shining a spotlight in the area of the 73200 block of Gordon Creek Road, Elgin.

9:56 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office responded to the 700 block of North 10th Avenue, Elgin, for a loud party. A deputy resolved the problem.

OBITUARIES

Douglas K. Spiegel

La Grande • 1933-2020

Douglas Kay Spiegel, 87, of La Grande, died March 31 at a local care facility. Interment will take place at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland.

Known as Doug, he was born March 10, 1933, in Kewanee, Illinois, to Forrest and Dorothy (Douglas) Spiegel. After graduating from high

school, Doug and a friend saved up money to buy bicycles to ride to Mexico, where they spent a few weeks before returning home. He attended Black Mountain College for a semester, then worked for several months before he was drafted.

While serving in Hawaii during the Korean War, Doug met his future wife, Hazel Sachie Kishi-

mori. In Doug, Sachie found a compassionate heart and someone she could truly talk with. He was a real listener and will be missed. They married in Hawaii in 1955.

Doug earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa under the GI bill. A lifelong jazz enthusiast, he hosted his own show at KUOH, the student radio station. Doug later earned a doctorate degree from the University of North Carolina in psychology with a specialization in psychometrics.

Doug taught at the University of South Dakota for many years, where he rode the same bike to work almost every day. He published key contributions in his areas of research and was particularly productive working with colleagues at Texas Christian University.

After his career in academia, he worked in applied human factors research at the U.S. Army



Upcoming local services are pending due to efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Research Institute at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas.

Doug enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping, passing on his love of the outdoors and the Great Plains to his daughters. The family spent many summer vacations camping throughout the West and exploring National Forests and National Parks.

Throughout their lives together, Doug and Sachie enjoyed traveling, playing bridge with friends and

savoring many delicious meals together. In retirement, they moved to La Grande to be closer to family.

Surviving relatives include his wife of 64 years, Sachie; daughters and sons-in-law, Sara and Chuck of Bellingham, Washington, Lia and Dave of La Grande and Amy and Mike of Lincoln, Nebraska; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and nine nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Forrest and Dorothy, and sister, Sally Ann Seven.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneral-chapel.com.

Esther L. Hurst

Summerville

Esther L. Hurst, 82, of Summerville, died April 7 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

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