

COMMUNITY

Briefs

Art Center East will offer online classes

LA GRANDE — With the support of Eastern Oregon University's information technology department, the Art Center East board is putting together the first schedule of online classes. Teaching artists with creative ideas for moving the arts online should email Nancy Knowles at president@artcentereast.org, and board members will assist artists with envisioning how the technology might work. If you would like to contribute to the effort to help ACE weather the COVID-19 crisis, you may donate to the center, become a member, buy a gift card online (https://squareup.com/gift/B0G5FTKXE9J8F/order) for future classes or shopping, or make a purchase now (the Gift Gallery is open by appointment; go to https://nknowles.youcanbook.me/). In the near future, ACE will have an online store available for shopping the Gift Gallery at home. For more information, go to www.artcentereast.org or call 541-624-2800.

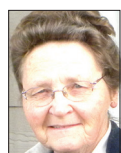
Beautification Awards Program now taking nominations

LA GRANDE — The city of La Grande Community Landscape and Forestry Commission recognizes efforts to maintain and improve the beauty of La Grande's environment through outstanding landscape maintenance and design. Seasonal awards are given to residential and commercial properties that have been carefully landscaped and attract the viewer. These landscapes must be seen from public access. For more information or to submit a nomination, email trees@cityoflagrande.org or call 541-663-1952. The nomination deadline for the spring awards is May 25.

Elen I. (Hartman) Johnson

La Grande • 1934-2020

Elen Irene Johnson, 85, of La Grande, died April 7 at La Grande Post-Acute Rehab. A private family service is planned for May 2 in La Grande. Burial will be in Litchfield, Nebraska.



Elen was born June 10, 1934, in Kiowa, Colorado, to "Tec" and Thelma (Bellamy) Hartman. Elen and her twin sister, Helen, joined an older brother, Bill, in the family. She attended first grade at Hilltop School and then several years at Ashgrove School before the family moved to Denver, where

Elen graduated from high school.

At the age of 12, Elen chose to serve the Lord and endeavored to live her life with a love and appreciation for God.

After graduating from high school, Elen worked at the Denver Telephone Company for six years.

On July 28, 1956, she married Gordon Johnson at her parents' home in Denver. They moved to Farnam, Nebraska, and then to Callaway, Nebraska. These years were spent farming and ranching, before they moved to Greeley, Colorado.

In 1972, the family moved to Island City. Gordon and Elen farmed

OBITUARIES

for 15 years until they retired and moved into La Grande.

Elen enjoyed staying busy with work and hobbies, including sewing, crocheting, cooking and many yard and garden projects. Later in life she loved to help her children, grandchildren and others with anything and everything. She was always willing to lend a helping hand.

Surviving relatives include her children and their spouses, Lorinda and Don Blakely of La Grande, Dana and Sid Snow of Litchfield, Nebraska, Lyle Johnson of La Grande, Dale and Robin Johnson of La Grande, and Jenell and Mike Howland of Cottage

Grove; 14 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and many other foster and step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren who called her grandma; brother, Bill Hartman of Aurora, Colorado; sister, Helen Snow of Litchfield, Nebraska; brother-in-law, Raymond Johnson; and nieces and nephews.

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

Eva W. Bennett

La Grande

Eva W. Bennett, 95, of La Grande, died April 26 at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.



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

Gage Little

Elgin

Gage Little, 21, of Elgin, died April 26. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Elgin Lions make and donate face masks



Submitted by Gerald Hopkins

ELGIN — Members of the Elgin Lions Club have been busy doing their part to slow the spread of the coronavirus by making face masks to give to the public. President Kathy Oliver has already made more than 75 masks that have been distributed to Elgin businesses, friends and other Lions members.

ATV crash leaves 1 dead

LA GRANDE — Union County Sheriff's Office reported a side-by-side all-terrain vehicle crash Sunday that resulted in one death.

The wreck occurred at about 1:20 p.m. on Pumpkin Ridge Road, according to the press release from the sheriff's office, and involved one driver and passenger in the vehicle.

The driver, Gage D. Little, 21, died at the

scene, the sheriff's office reported.

The passenger was injured and received an ambulance to Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande.

The sheriff's office did not release the identity of the passenger.

The sheriff's office also reported the crash remains under investigation and the Union County District Attorney's Office is handling inquiries.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

THURSDAY

11:21 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2200 block of Gekeler Lane on a report of a juvenile causing a disturbance. Police left after giving a citation for minor in possession of marijuana.

11:27 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of an attempted break-in at Forestry Sciences Laboratory, 1401 Gekeler Lane. Police agreed to provide extra patrols.

5:07 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of vandalism on the 10400 block of Walton Road, Island City.

FRIDAY

2:32 a.m. — A caller complained about a loud party on the 1500 block of Adele Terrace, Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and resolved the complaint.

10:22 a.m. — Union County Sheriff's Office arrested David Michael Denham, 27, of La Grande, for first-degree theft, third-degree burglary, criminal conspiracy and trespassing.

11:02 a.m. — A caller reported animal neglect on the 300 block of West Arch Street, Union.

11:16 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office arrested Nathan Russell Osterloh, 34, an inmate in the Union County Jail, La Grande, on a warrant for first- and second-degree burglary, first-degree theft, criminal conspiracy and trespassing.

5:50 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1300 block of N Avenue on a report

of criminal mistreatment. 8:21 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office responded to the 10800 block of Walton Road, Island City, on a report of a fight. Deputies resolved the situation.

SATURDAY

4:19 a.m. — La Grande police received a noise complaint on the 1800 block of 26th Street. An officer responded and talked to the people involved.

5:24 p.m. — La Grande police and fire responded to the Moon Motel, 2116 Adams Ave., for a fire in a garage. Other agencies also responded. Crews contained the fire to the garage and there were no injuries.

SUNDAY

Oregon State Police arrested Michael Duane Lee, 32, of Union, for driving under the influence of intoxicants, hit-and-run involving a person, third-degree assault and violating probation.

8:22 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of a burglary on the 300 block of Fourth Street. An officer responded and took a report.

3:24 p.m. — Local law enforcement received a report of someone tampering with an ankle alarm.

3:47 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a burglary on the 300 block of G Street, North Powder.

4:55 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2200 block of Greenwood Street and took a report for vandalism.

BANNERS

Continued from Page 1A

installed the banners Friday on the poles. The displays are 2 feet by 4 feet with color photos of each member of the graduating class, which likely will not have a traditional graduation because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Phillips and Rimondo volunteered their time to put up the banners, which are each 15 feet above the ground.

"Hopefully these kids will be proud of them, that is all that matters," Phillips said. "This is all about the kids. They are the ones being shortchanged."

The project was the brainchild of several Union High School parents who read on Facebook about another school outside the region putting up banners, said Kari Coon. She and other parents sprang into action.

"When we saw that, we thought, 'We have to make this happen,'" Coon said.

The parents found a Pendleton company, Creative Signs, Screen Printing and Embroidery, to produce the banners. The parents then sent a message to Union High's seniors asking them to email their senior portraits for the project. Coon said they had no trouble getting the seniors to send in the photos.

Producing and installing each banner cost \$100, including the brackets, which the city of Union sprung for. The city will use the devices for other displays after the student banners come down in about two months, Phillips said.

Money for the production of the banners came from Union High's senior fund. Members of the class of 2020 have been raising money for the fund since the students were in seventh grade.

Mendy Clark, the Union School District's deputy clerk, said the banners are



Staff photo by Dick Mason

Paul Phillips of the Union Public Works Department on Friday installs banners of graduating Union High School seniors Jacie Kromwall and Brianna Kohr.

a wonderful way to salute a class that is exceptionally tight-knit.

"It is very close," Clark said.

She added the class is backed by parents who are "super supportive."

Clark also said the banners give everyone a chance to honor UHS's seniors, including those who would not have attended the school's commencement.

Rhondie Johansen, a first-grade teacher at Union Elementary, said she likes the way the banners brighten Main Street and added they reveal how much the people of Union care about their school district.

"We are blessed to have a community that is very supportive of our school,"

said Johansen, whose daughter, Brianna Kohr, is a member of the UHS class of 2020.

Johansen said she would like the banners to become part of a senior class tradition in the future.

Kohr said her class of 2020 is fortunate to have such strong support from its parents.

"We are very thankful

to have them representing us when times are tough," Kohr said.

Hunter Coon said he has been impressed with the response of Union residents, noting that many people have been stopping and taking photos of them.

"It is a great way to get the community involved (with the high school)," he said.

VOTE
LAURIE DRAPER
OTEC
Board of Directors
Position 3
Harney County



Raised in Grant County and a Harney County Resident for 37+ years, my entire working career has been in customer service (US Bank, small business owner, and ODFW). I hope to continue that service for the member-owners of Oregon Trail Electric. Now retired, I have the time and energy to work with the OTEC Board and offer a fresh perspective to continue to provide reasonable, reliable power for you.

I ask for your vote.

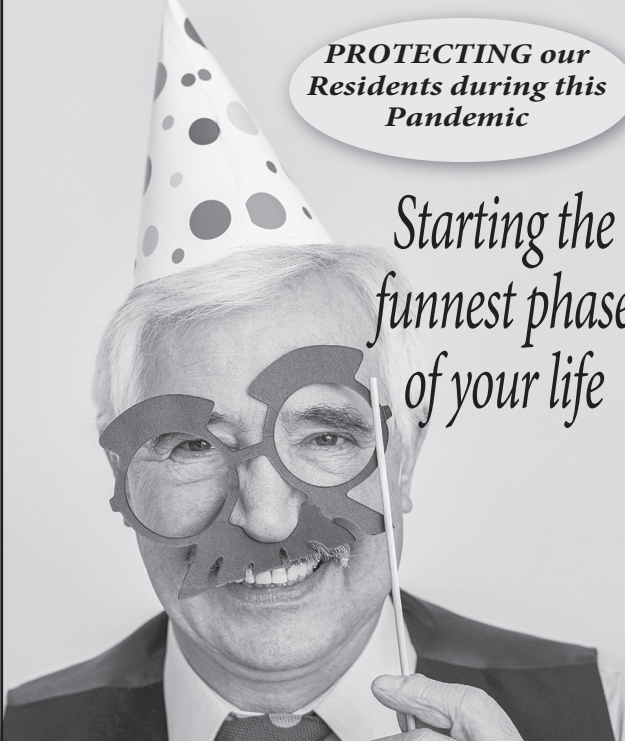
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