

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• UNION — The Union Rural Fire Protection District's budget committee meeting begins at 7 p.m. today in the fire hall. Contact Kim George at 541-910-3114 for more in.

• LA GRANDE — A public meeting of the Union County Fair Board will be held Thursday, May 21, at 6 p.m. in the Courtright Building at the Union County Fairgrounds. Due to current social distancing requirements, there will be a limit of 25 people allowed at the meeting. For more information, email Heather Rajkovich at rhrjkovich6212@outlook.com.

• LA GRANDE — The May 27 La Grande School District Board's work session has been canceled because there are no topics to discuss.

Briefs

Advice offered on safe practices during Phase 1 reopening

UNION COUNTY — While Phase 1 of reopening is now underway, the community is urged to follow social distancing guidelines to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Among the advice being offered, Grande Ronde Hospital released a video on its Facebook page highlighting how to continue to stay safe with the Phase 1 reopening plan.

Also, Union County Commissioner Matt Scarfo addressed the county's vulnerable population in a video on the NE Oregon Joint Information Center's Facebook page.

In the video, he states that it will be up to each individual to evaluate their personal risk factors and risk tolerance. People who are older, or have underlying health conditions should consider continuing to stay home.

Both videos are available for viewing at www.facebook.com/NEOJointInformationCenter.

City announces reopenings, cancellation

LA GRANDE — The City of La Grande Parks & Recreation Department announced the following changes became effective Monday, May 18:

- Morgan Lake is open for day use and camping. Restrooms will be sanitized once per day.
- All in-town park restrooms are open and will be sanitized by Parks staff twice per day.

Soap and/or sanitizer will be provided in all park restrooms. Restrooms may be closed again if soap and/or sanitizer is lost or damaged.

- The skate park at Pioneer Park is open with social distancing requirements.
- The Pee Wee Soccer league has been canceled. Parents are instructed to check their emails for instruction.

Correction

Ron Bruce is the owner of Bud Jackson's Eatery and Taps, La Grande. The Observer misidentified the owner in the May 16 edition article, "Union County reopens for business."

The Observer regrets the error.

Jack M. Cochran

Formerly of La Grande • 1936-2020

Jack Melvin Cochran, 84, formerly of La Grande, died May 13 at Hospice House in Kennewick, Washington. Smart Cremation is handling the cremation.



Jack was born Jan. 3, 1936, in Klamath Falls, to Cliff and Helen Cochran.

They moved to La Grande in 1938.

During junior high and high school, Jack played every sport possible. He

won the Barrett trophy for most outstanding senior athlete in 1954, and his name is on the Wall of Fame at La Grande High School. He played minor league baseball for the La Grande Raiders his sophomore through senior years. After high school, he went on to play baseball at Yakima Community College, then transferred to Southern Oregon to play basketball

On Aug. 19th 1956, Jack married his high school sweetheart, Janet Marie Coats. They were married for more than 63 years. Jack was a loving husband, father

OBITUARIES

and grandfather.

Jack retired in 1990 from William's Company after 32 years as "Superintendent Jack." He and Janet have lived on the Sunwillow Golf Course in Pasco, Washington, for 20 years, where he loved playing golf every day with his friends.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Janet of Pasco; son, Jim of Kennewick; daughter and son-in-law, Jayne and Jeff Patterson of La Grande; two grandchildren; sister, Carole Sawyer of Lake Oswego; and two nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death

by his parents, Cliff and Helen Cochran.

David E. Graham

Union

David E. Graham, 55, of Union, died May 16 at his residence. Arrangements are being handled by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Thomas Renton

La Grande

Thomas Renton, 74, of La Grande, died May 18 at his residence. Arrangements are being handled by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.



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

Union group receives grant for community hall project

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Friends of The Historic Union Community Hall announced on Sunday it received a \$5,000 technical assistance grant from The Ford Family Foundation to help establish the former Union United Methodist Church into a community and arts center.

The newly formed nonprofit in Union working to establish the former church into a community and arts center. Cherie Kausler with organization said the fund could arrive this week.

"We're pretty excited," she said.

The former Union United Methodist Church, with its outstanding stained glass windows and unique wood-adorned chapel, has been a center for the community for more than 100 years. In addition to church services, the building has been made available to the public for events, classes, weddings and more until its closure in 2019.

Saving the landmark building on Union's Main Street from deterioration will be a monumental



Observer file photo

The United Methodist Church in Union awaits new life as the nonprofit Friends of the Historic Union Community Hall received a \$5,000 grant to study the feasibility of converting the church into a new community center.

task, according to the press release from the Friends of The Historic Union Community Hall.

The local nonprofit formed after a signature drive in Union resulted in a significant number of community members demonstrating support for the creation of a community and arts center.

Kausler said the technical assistance grant will cover the cost of a feasibility study about the purchase and sustainability of converting the old church

into a community center.

The organization also reported it is in search of stories and photos about the former Union United Methodist Church. If you have any, email image and stories to HistoricUnionCommunityHall@gmail.com.

For more information about The Friends of The Historic Union Community Hall or to support please see <https://historicunioncommunityhall.blogspot.com/> or email HistoricUnionCommunityHall@gmail.com.

Josephy pioneers virtual art exhibit

By Ellen Morris Bishop
EO Media Group

JOSEPH — The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture will present the upcoming virtual exhibit and catalog, "Three Journeys: Mike Koloski, Leslie LeViner and Mary Edwards."

The exhibit will begin Friday, June 12 and end July 28, with a virtual Zoom celebration on June 19 at 5 p.m.

While putting this exhibit together, with COVID-19 stay-home order and the effects it has had on businesses, Edwards said the Josephy Center could offer prints in an online auction to support the Wallowa

County Business Fund.

Each artist has selected a specific piece for the online auction and will be featured on the Josephy Center website: www.josephy.org. Bidding began Monday and ends on June 19 at 6 p.m.

Leslie LeViner is offering "Spring Below Mount Joseph" (original size is 12 inches by 12 inches), Mike Koloski is featuring "Rock Art" and Edwards selected a panorama print. "The Hurricane" (original size 14 inches by 34 inches). Starting bid is \$25 and can be raised in \$5 increments.

In addition to the silent auction, Mike Koloski is offering archival reproduc-

tions of his painting "Lostine River — The View from Pole Bridge" to donors who contribute their stimulus checks of \$1,200 to the business fund. The size will be 14.75 inches by 19 inches and does not include mat and framing.

To be eligible to receive a print, donate at Wallowa Resources website, www.wallowaresources.org, and type "Josephy Print" in the gift notes box. You also can mail checks to 401 N.E. First St., Suite A, Enterprise, OR 97828. Make the check out to Wallowa Resources, and write "WCBF, Josephy Print" under the memo line.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY

11:59 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office arrested David Michael Denham, 27, no fixed address, for second-degree theft and trespassing, both misdemeanors, and for second-degree burglary and first-degree theft, both felonies.

1:09 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office arrested Skylar Hunter Bullard, 18, of La Grande, for misdemeanors of fourth-degree assault, strangulation and first-degree trespassing.

12:56 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a motorcycle theft on the 1400 block of N Avenue.

4:44 p.m. — A caller reported a person was acting disorderly at Greenwood Street and Monroe Avenue. Police counseled the subject.

8:50 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1600 block of Albany Street for someone causing a disturbance. Police warned one person for disorderly conduct.

9:09 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to the 700 block of North 10th Avenue, Elgin, for a disturbance and warned two people.

11:18 p.m. — A caller complained about a loud party on the first block of Second Street, La Grande. An officer responded, and the party-goers agreed to keep it down.

11:23 p.m. — La Grande police responded to a call about a rape. Police took a report.

SATURDAY

8:16 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office arrested Mark Alan Paxton, 49, of La Grande, for first-degree theft and second-degree burglary, both felonies, and second-degree theft.

4:12 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy handled a

call about two males fighting on South Eighth Avenue, Elgin.

6:58 p.m. — A North Powder resident on the 69400 block of Telocaset Lane reported a dog chased her calves.

9:06 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about a loud party on the 1600 block of Jefferson Street. An officer responded and talked to the subjects about the noise level.

11:59 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2500 block of Adams Avenue on a report of vandalism to a vehicle. Police cited a 45-year-old man for criminal mischief and trespassing.

SUNDAY

5:53 a.m. — La Grande emergency services responded to Standley Lane and Hunter Road for a vehicle crash that may have injured at least one person.

9:35 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1900 block of Third Street on a harassment complaint regarding someone with mental illness.

6:40 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a possible prowler on the 1300 block of O Avenue. Police planned to provide extra patrols.

6:50 p.m. — A caller reported an intoxicated pedestrian on the 1000 block of 12th Street, La Grande. An officer checked but did not find the person.

7:21 p.m. — Another call to La Grande police reported an intoxicated pedestrian, this time at Washington Avenue and 12th Street. Again, police checked the scene to no avail.

8:35 p.m. — Law enforcement responded to the 1800 block of G Avenue, La Grande, for a disturbance, and police warned one person for disorderly conduct.

Enterprise library to resume some services

EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — The Enterprise Public Library, closed since the COVID-19 outbreak hit Oregon, will begin reopening in a modified fashion Monday.

The library will be staffed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday-Thursday. Patrons can contact the library for porch or parking lot pick-up of new materials.

Some other library services returning to Wallowa County:

The holds function has been turned on for Enterprise. You can browse the online card catalog and place items on hold, catalog.sage.edu.

Interlibrary loan also will resume Monday, though it may take longer to fill holds because some libraries are

not staffed or only partially open.

Staff will gather and package those items and contact the patron for pick up, placing items on the front porch at selected times or bringing them to patrons in the parking lot.

Those without internet access or who don't feel comfortable using SageCat can call the library at 541-426-3906. You also can email enterpl@eoni.com, or message the library via Facebook.

All returns must be put in the book drop. Staff is not allowed to take returns from patrons at this time.

If Wallowa County remains at the current healthy status, this plan will be in place from Monday through June 8.

JoAnn Rae (Needham) Croteau

November 24, 1961 - May 2, 2020



JoAnn Rae (Needham) Croteau passed away May 2, 2020. She was born to Raymond and Berneva Needham in La Grande, OR on November 24, 1961. On June 13, 1987 she married Ken Croteau of Portland and enjoyed 32 years of marriage to the love of her life. She raised her family in Newberg, OR. JoAnn was a dedicated mother, loving wife and daughter whose kindness and calm demeanor made those surrounding her always feel at ease. JoAnn was an educator, teaching elementary school to the children of Helix, OR and St. Paul, OR over the course of her career. JoAnn was an accomplished gardener and incredible cook who had a talent for bringing her family together with food. Those left to cherish her memories include her mother Berneva, husband Ken, and children Raymond, Lauren and Anthony Croteau. Services will be held at a later date.

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