

COMMUNITY

Briefs

Island City Cemetery cleanup begins June 1
 ISLAND CITY — To facilitate maintenance activities, the Island City Cemetery will conduct a cleanup the week of June 1-5. Decorations placed on graves for Memorial Day that are not picked up before June 1 will be disposed of.

View webinar on local Phase 1 reopening
 LA GRANDE — The Union County Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday hosted a webinar regarding Phase 1 reopening to provide support and answer questions for businesses and communities of Union and Wallowa counties. Key speakers were available to provide updates and answer questions regarding Phase 1. The webinar is available for viewing at www.facebook.com/TravelUnionCounty/videos/642004343017852/.

Senior center now offering weekend meals
 LA GRANDE — The Union County Senior Center, 1504 Albany St., La Grande, has not reopened for on-site meals but continues to offer takeout lunch. The meals are available to all. Pickup is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on weekdays. To arrange delivery, call 541-963-7532 before 10 a.m. The cost for lunch is a \$3 suggested donation for those age 60 and older; all others pay \$5 per meal. For your convenience, the weekly menu is posted in the community section under the "News" tab at www.lagrandeobserver.com. The senior center also is now offering weekend dinners (will feed a family of four). On Friday, call the above number before 10 a.m. to place your order, then pick up the meal between 12:15-1:15 p.m. Meals for larger families may be arranged.

Anto Jally

La Grande • 1949-2020

Anto Jally, 70, of La Grande, died May 21 at his residence. A private viewing and funeral will be held.



Anto was born Aug. 29, 1949, in Jaluit, Marshall Islands, to Boob and Lesmon Jally.

He resided in the Marshall Islands and then moved to La Grande. He married Bona Bellu.

Anto was employed as a taxi driver and also worked for the Oregon Trail Mountain Spring Water Bottling Company.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Bona; children and their spouses, Henty Boob and Femika, Lesmon Lauror and Pinkal, Lan Bob and Jamios, Andrew Bob and Yoneko, Bob Bob, Wina Jonie and Kitton, and Otina Libok-

meto and Andre, all of La Grande, and Mona Atlong and Tomak of Arkansas; 22 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Boob and Lesmon Jally; sister, Armi Pejana; and brother, Gepty Jally.

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

Victor Abbott

Summerville • 1936-2020

Victor Abbott, 83, of Summerville, died May 10 in his favorite hunting place in the mountains

between Unity and Sumpter. Arrangements by Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center in La Grande.

Victor was born May 18, 1936, in Huntington, to

OBITUARIES

Robert Wade and Muriel Ruth (Greenslade) Abbott. In 1946, the railroad moved his family from Huntington to La Grande, where he graduated from high school in 1954.

After graduating, Victor joined the U.S. Navy and served with the Seabees as a heavy equipment operator. He received an honorable discharge in 1962, then went to work for the railroad. Later he worked as a logger and drove log truck, eventually purchasing his own truck.

On Sept. 6, 1984, Victor married Barbara Swope. In 1988 they made their home in Summerville.

Victor was a devoted member of the New Song Community Church in La Grande. He loved hunting, fishing, camping and spending time in the outdoors. He also enjoyed leather and woodworking. Victor was a loving husband

and father and very much enjoyed his church.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Barbara Abbott; children and their spouses, Tracy and Beth Abbott of Nampa, Idaho, Tim and Kris Abbott of Fresno, California, Randy Abbott of Boise, Idaho, and Shari and Bill Schaffer of La Grande; stepdaughters, Bonnie Campagna of Louisiana and Bette Daline of Arizona; siblings and spouses, Wade Abbott of Port Orchard, Washington, Kay and Harold Rogers of La Grande, Nancy Sargent of Telocaset, and Jim and Mary Abbott of Deer Park, Washington; 18 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Muriel Abbott.

Memorial contributions may be made to New Song Community Church, 3008 Cove Ave., La Grande



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

97850. Online condolences may be left at www.danielsknopp.com.

Leah A. Lippert

La Grande

Leah A. Lippert, 75, of La Grande, died May 26 at a local care facility. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY

10:49 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1200 block of Hall Street on a report of a fight. When police arrived, no one wanted to pursue charges.

11:04 a.m. — A caller reported a mudslide on U.S. Forest Service Road 51 near La Grande. Dispatch relayed the information to the Forest Service.

12:43 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of juveniles setting off fireworks near Grande Ronde Hospital, 900 Sunset Drive. An officer responded but did not find them.

6:49 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a request to send a deputy to a La Grande location for a possible sex crime.

7:20 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office responded to the 59000 block of Five Point Creek Road, La Grande, on a report of a suspicious person. A deputy arrested William Robert Sharp, 35, of La Grande, on accusations of driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and hit-and-run.

11:11 p.m. — La Grande police responded to Jakob Avenue on a complaint about a loud party. The people there agreed to turn down the music.

TUESDAY

12:12 a.m. — The Flying J Travel Plaza, 63276 Highway 203, La Grande, reported receiving counterfeit money. A Union County sheriff's deputy will follow up.

7:45 a.m. — A La Grande

resident asked to speak to an officer about fraud. An officer explained options.

10:33 a.m. — A caller reported possible wolf depredation on the 68900 block of Hindman Road, Elgin.

12:48 p.m. — A caller reported possible cougar depredation on the 70500 block of Follett Road, Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and took a report.

3:29 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a burglary at a residence on the 64000 block of Woodell Lane, La Grande.

11:27 p.m. — La Grande police responded to V Avenue and Spruce Street on a complaint about juveniles making noise. An officer located a hit-and-run and planned to follow up.



Photo by Ben Lonergan/EO Media Group

Cook Memorial Library is moving toward reopening and plans to have takeout-style checkout and book drops back in action Monday.

Library moves to reopen some features

By Sabrina Thompson

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Cook Memorial Library is taking gradual steps to reopen to the public with takeout-style book checkout and book drops opening June 1.

The La Grande public library is in Phase 2 of its reopening and on June 8 will enter Phase 3.

Under Phase 2, staff return to the library but the building remains closed to the public. The library announced it will reopen the book drops Monday.

When the library enters Phase 3, patrons will be able check out books, either online or by calling ahead, and pickup will be curbside. The library will continue to hold off on making users pay overdue fines.

Also during Phase 2, the library will limit the hours staff work and continue to hold classes and programs digitally. The staff is working on plans for accepting books and

getting them back onto the shelves while maintaining proper sanitization. The library must maintain a 30-day supply of nitrile gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes with additional supplies on order. Temperature checks and proper social distancing rules also are in effect.

Phase 3 will limit access to the building to employees only. The number of staff and their hours will return to pre-pandemic levels. However, many of the nondigital services will remain closed, including the coffee cart and volunteer services. The library, though, will expand its hot spot lending program and will allow computer use by appointment.

"The pandemic laid bare the digital divide that exists within our community with many calls for computer/internet access," library director Kip Roberson said. "The library has made the decision to expand its hot spot lending

program (10 additional hot spots are on order) and will explore the possibility of bundling a hot spot with a device for checkout; a community partnership may be required to identify those who would benefit most from such a service."

The plan details Phases 4-6, with each being led by the rate of infection in the community and the risk to the public. Phase 4 is a grab-and-go model with the doors open but limited access. Phase 5 opens the building more with social distancing measures relaxed.

Roberson described Phase 6 as the library under its "new normal." This final phase means the library is fully open to the public as it was before the pandemic. Protocols for disinfecting and sanitization are to be followed.

These last three phases do not have a timeline, and according to the plan, the library can go back to any previous phase if needed to protect public health.

Former La Grande resident honored by college

The Observer

SALEM — A native of La Grande received the Julie Aberdroth Professor of the Year Award from the Willamette University Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.



Ettinger

Lucas Ettinger is an assistant professor of exercise and health science at the private university in Salem, grew up in La Grande and is a 2002 graduate of La Grande High.

Willamette University presents the award each year to honor teachers whose dedication to Willamette student-athletes goes beyond the classroom, according to the university's press release.

Ettinger and previous recipients of the award have demonstrated devotion to the pursuit of excellence by student-athletes at Willamette in academics and athletics. Gene Perle-Jones, committee member and member of the university's men's tennis team, nominated Ettinger.

"He is a great professor because he has energy, he clearly loves what he does, and wants to share that passion with his students," Perle-Jones said. "He is understanding, keeps class interesting with activities and jokes, and wants his students to succeed."

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HONORS
 Union County students awarded scholarships

Observer staff

LA GRANDE — La Grande senior Lara Insko was awarded a unique scholarship that few could reach — a scholarship from the Portland Skyliners Tall Club, an affiliate of Tall Clubs International.

The scholarship takes into account students' grades and activities — Insko carries a 4.0 GPA and was heavily involved in athletics, clubs and activities at LHS as well as at church — but they also must be a certain height. Female applicants have to stand at least 5-foot-10 — Insko met this at 6-foot-0 — and males must be at least 6-foot-2. In addition to the current \$1,000 scholarship, the Gonzaga-bound Insko is now in the running for an additional \$1,000 scholarship from Tall Clubs International Foundation, which should be announced later this summer.

And in Baker City, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative recently selected 26 students to receive college scholarships. Twenty-two \$5,000 scholarships were awarded to graduating high school students and returning college students.

This year, OTEC and Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, partnered to launch a new program, the OTEC-EOU Rural Scholarship, which pays all tuition and fees if the student

commits to graduating from EOU. Four students were awarded this scholarship.

Applicants for scholarships must be an active OTEC member in good standing with the cooperative or a dependent of such a member to be eligible for the scholarship. The awards are funded from interest earned on unclaimed capital credits.

Les Penning, OTEC's chief executive officer, stated in a press release, "By allocating four of our scholarships to this program and leveraging a matched investment from EOU we can invest in our local communities directly, support local students and return value to OTEC member-owners through the internship projects that the students will complete throughout their four years at EOU."

Two of the four awarded an OTEC-EOU Rural Scholarship are La Grande High School students: Josie Bornstedt and Nathan Reed.

Union County students who were chosen for one of OTEC's \$5,000 College Scholarships are graduating La Grande High School seniors Julie Chandler, Lara Insko, Brittany Robles Jimenez, Keith Oswald, Katie Perry and Blaine Shaw; and returning college students Alexandra Colton (Oregon State University) and Cody Singer (Arizona State University).

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