

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• UNION — The Union Rural Fire Protection District board will meet July 21 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. For instructions on attending, email union.rfpd@outlook.com.

Briefs

Live webinar offered for first-time home buyers
HERMISTON — The UEC Business Resource Center, based in Hermiston, announced a free webinar will be held July 21 at 5:30 p.m. for first-time home buyers in Northeast Oregon. The live webinar will help prospective buyers prepare to purchase their first home. To register and for log-in information, email uecbrc@gmail.com or call 541-289-3000 as soon as possible.

Riverside Storywalk delayed
LA GRANDE — Cook Memorial Library began moving its Storywalk project forward in May as an opportunity to encourage reading and exercise. However, the COVID-19 pandemic interfered with the schedule, and recent construction issues have further delayed the project. The Riverside Park Storywalk will be permanent and display a variety of books. The first will be "My Octopus Arms" by local artist Keith Baker, a children's book about all the things you can do with your hands and arms. The project is a collaboration between the library and the La Grande Parks and Recreation and Public Works departments.

Honors
Local students earn higher education academic distinction, degrees

LA GRANDE — The following students, all hailing from Northeast Oregon, earned academic honors and degrees while studying at universities across the country.

Victoria Suto, of Enterprise: President's Honor Roll (GPA 3.9-4.0), spring semester 2020, College of Saint Mary, Omaha, Nebraska.

Bethany Aronson, of La Grande: Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, spring 2020, Eastern Oregon University.

Coral Goldstein, of La Grande: Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, spring 2020, Eastern Oregon University.

Cameron Scott, of Joseph: Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, spring 2020, Eastern Oregon University.

Braden Bell, of La Grande: President's List (GPA 3.85-4.0), spring semester 2020, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington.

Scott Remily, of La Grande: Dean's List (GPA 3.5-3.84), spring semester 2020, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington.

Sarah Magner, of La Grande: President's List (GPA 3.5-4.0), spring semester 2020, Minnesota State College Southeast.

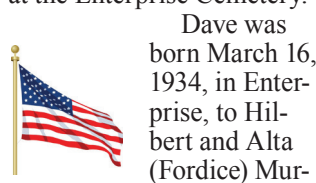
Caitlyn Robinson, of La Grande: Dean's List (GPA 3.5-4.0), spring semester 2020, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois.

DEGREES
Nena Jones, of La Grande: master of science degree, nursing, leadership and management, May 2020, Western Governors University (online).

Abbey Felley, of La Grande: bachelor of arts degree, computer science, Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington.

Dave M. Murrill

1934-2020 • Enterprise
Dave M. Murrill, 86, of Enterprise, died July 14 at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. A graveside service will begin at 11 a.m. July 25 at the Enterprise Cemetery.



Dave was born March 16, 1934, in Enterprise, to Hilbert and Alta (Fordice) Murrill. He was raised at the round barn homestead in the Flora area. In 1952 he graduated from Flora School and joined the U.S. Navy. He served on repair ships as a welder. After being discharged in 1957, Dave returned to Wallowa County and worked for Caterpillar as a welder and heavy-duty equipment mechanic for many years. He also worked for Dougherty Logging and the Wallowa County Road Department.

On Nov. 21, 1959, Dave married Patricia Kaufman in Lewiston, Idaho. They

made their home in Enterprise and welcomed a son, Arley, and daughters, Lela and Velda. They raised sheep, pigs and cattle. Those cattle were Dave's favorite.

Dave was an amazing horseman and anyone who was blessed to get to ride or purchase a horse he had started knew they had a good one. He loved roping, be it in the branding pen or team roping. Weekends during the spring were spent at various ranches in Wallowa County dragging calves to the fire.

After retiring as a mechanic from the Wallowa County Road Department in 1996, Dave started his dream job of day riding for local ranchers. He spent 16 years in the saddle riding for Buckhorn Ranch along with his buddies Greg Jennings, Mike Guentert and Bud Botts.

Dave loved to play the fiddle and mandolin. Flora dances, jam sessions and family gatherings were

OBITUARIES

always livened up by his music and singing. He also wrote and recited cowboy poetry at local events.

Dave enjoyed hunting with his boys and gathering cattle with his "pin curl crew" girls. He was a member of the Elks Lodge, Blue Mountain Fiddlers and Wallowa County Fair Board, and an honorary member of the Enterprise FFA Chapter. Selected as a Friend of 4-H in 2005 for his many years of working in the livestock auction ring, Dave loved seeing the youth and their 4-H and FFA projects.

Surviving relatives include his wife of 60 years, Pat Murrill of Enterprise; son and daughter-in-law, Arley and Becky Murrill, of Lewiston, Idaho; daughters and sons-in-law, Velda and Greg Bales and Lela and Ken Kunkle of Enterprise; brothers, Loren, Leonard and Hubert Murrill; sister, Lanette Widick; six grandchildren and

six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hilbert and Alta Murrill, and brother, Wade Murrill.

Jack R. Hackney

Elgin
Jack R. Hackney, 77, of Elgin, died July 17 at his residence. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Keith Walker

La Grande
Keith Walker, 62, of La Grande, died July 19. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Nancy J. Lively

Union
Nancy Jo Lively, 80, of Union, died July 15 at her home. The date and time of the Eastern Star graveside service at the Wallowa Cemetery has been changed to July 21 at 11 a.m. Arrangements are by Dan-

Upcoming local services



July 21 — NANCY LIVELY: 11 a.m. graveside service, Wallowa Cemetery.
July 24 — IRMA ROGERS: noon graveside service, Hillcrest East Cemetery, La Grande; please wear a mask.
July 25 — DAVE MURRILL: 11 a.m. graveside service, Enterprise Cemetery.
— Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

iels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.

Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts moves to online auction

The Observer

JOSEPH — The upcoming Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts is taking the online route to avoid spreading the coronavirus.

The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph recently announced it was adjusting the format for the 38th year of the festival and creating a virtual presentation of artists' works through an online silent auction.

The Josephy Center will display the artwork and bidding prices should start below \$750, according to a press release.

Artists receive 60% of silent auction sales. This is a juried event, and acceptance into the show is based on artistic integrity. The silent auction will be on The Josephy Center's website, josephy.org/arts-council/festival-of-the-arts, beginning Sept. 11 by 5 p.m.

Festival Director Jeff

Costello in the press release stated, "We are so sorry that we will all miss our annual in-person gathering and celebration of the arts this year, but our priority has to be everyone's health and safety. With that, we are still committed to doing everything in our power to keep the festival tradition alive, so going virtual for this year was our best option."

To submit artwork for the silent auction, email coordinator@josephy.org up to three images (photographs of artwork must be high-quality, longest side must be up to 1200 dpi) and include your name, a short biography, a website (if applicable), medium and size of work. The submission deadline is 5 p.m. Aug. 15. All work must be original.

The online auction will go from Sept. 11 to Sept. 30. Winning bidders must make arrangements for pick up or shipping.



Image contributed by the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture
Artist Melanie Thompson painted "First Light, Hells Canyon," oil on panel in 2019. The painting is an example of what will be available at the Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts' upcoming online auction.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY

9:02 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of possible child abuse in Union.

2:20 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office responded to a home on the 800 block of North 15th Avenue, Union, on a report of domestic violence. The sheriff's office arrested Dorena Dee Moore, 63, on accusations of menacing and second-degree assault.

6:01 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a domestic disturbance at Pilcher Creek Reservoir, North Powder. A deputy responded, talked to the people involved and determined the circumstances did not rise to the level of a mandatory arrest.

9:01 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1500 block of Seventh Street on a report of someone shooting fireworks at a house. Officers did not find

anyone at the scene.

SATURDAY

12:43 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office cited Bob Run Hutchins, 53, for felon in possession of a weapon, unlawful possession of a weapon and driving while suspended.

2:07 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of possible child abuse occurring at Jubilee Lake, Elgin. The sheriff's office requested the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office assist with the follow-up.

6:17 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the La Grande Town Center, 2212 Island Ave., for a man who was possibly intoxicated and trying to drive. An officer provided the man a ride home.

8:43 p.m. — A caller reported people shooting guns across the road and into a field in the area of the 62600 block of Starr Lane, La Grande. A Union County sheriff's deputy contacted the

shooters and counseled them.

SUNDAY

9:24 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1500 block of Albany Street on a report of indecent exposure. An officer counseled the person who was the subject of the call.

12:25 p.m. — A caller reported possible child neglect on the 2200 block of Fir Street, La Grande. A city police officer responded and talked to the parties involved.

12:35 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a burglary on the 500 block of M Avenue.

4:11 p.m. — A caller in Cove reported a dog harassing sheep on the 61000 block of Love Road. The animal enforcement officer impounded the dog.

8:52 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of vandalism to a mailbox on the 300 block of North 10th Avenue, Elgin.

Round-robin roping provides afternoon fun



Photo by Ellen Morris BishopEO Media group
Two ropers get set to catch a steer at Mel Coleman's round-robin rodeo team roping event Saturday, July 18, near Joseph.

Union County commissioners OK going back to Phase 2

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Union County Board of Commissioners last week voted 3-0 to return Union County to Phase 2 COVID-19 reopening guidelines.

The vote came Wednesday morning after a brief discussion at the board's regular meeting, according to a press release

from the county.

The board on June 17 passed a recommendation asking residents to voluntarily return to Phase 1 regulations. The board, however, did not vote to actually impose Phase 1 restrictions.

According to the resolution to return to Phase 2 operations, the board determined Union County had experienced a minimal increase in the number of COVID-19 cases since the surge in early June.

Also, Grande Ronde

Hospital, La Grande, continues to maintain its capacity to treat COVID-19 patients.

County commissioners backed the move based on the recommendation from the county's incident management team.

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COVID-19 Coronavirus
Stay home let us Deliver your medicines to you
In light of the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in Union County we are taking extra precautions to ensure all of our customers safety. Red Cross will be closed from 1:30-2:30 PM, Monday through Friday, in order to clean the contact areas of the pharmacy more thoroughly. Olive Branch will be open and doing Drive thru ONLY. Please feel free to call in and leave refills on our phone line for continued service. 541.963.5741 ext. 1
Thank you for your support as we make every effort to keep you and your loved ones safe during this time.
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