

COMMUNITY

Briefs

Check out your child's school materials, Chromebook this week

LA GRANDE — Materials for La Grande School District students in fourth through eighth grade who are beginning the year in comprehensive distance learning will be available to pick up Aug. 27-28. From noon to 7 p.m. Thursday and from 7 a.m. to noon Friday, one person per family may come to the child's school to check out materials including school supplies, Chromebooks and other technology.

The same schedule applies to all La Grande Learning Academy students, from kindergarten through 12th grade. The virtual academy is based at the former Willow Elementary School, 1305 N. Willow St.

La Grande High School students enrolled in comprehensive distance learning may stop by LHS for Chromebooks and other materials Thursday, Aug. 27, 8-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m.

Some of these details previously were reported incorrectly. The Observer regrets the error.

Art center seeks supplies

LA GRANDE — In preparation for reopening its doors next month, Art Center East, La Grande, is seeking donations of cloth or disposable face masks, hand sanitizer and sanitary wipes. To make arrangements to drop them off, email Darcy at darcy@artcentereast.org.

Registration open for Ladd Marsh free youth pheasant hunt

SALEM — Youth hunters (age 17 and younger) can sign up now for ODFW's free pheasant hunts happening around the state this fall, including at the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area outside La Grande on Sept. 19-20. ODFW and partners stock pheasants at these special hunts that give youth a head start on regular pheasant seasons, which don't begin until October.

As with all other activities, COVID-19 safety measures will be in place including social distancing and mask requirements (during check-in). All hunters are also provided eye and ear protection and hunter orange clothing.

Register by logging in to the youth's account at MyODFW's licensing page. Then go to Purchase from the Catalog and look under the Category tab for Class/Workshop/Outdoor Skills. Hunts are listed alphabetically by city name. Registration is only online.

For further details on the Ladd Marsh event, email kyle.v.martin@state.or.us or call 541-963-2344.

These events are open only to youth who have passed hunter education. This year, that includes youth hunters who have completed the workbook or online course; the field day requirement has been postponed due to the pandemic.

An adult 21 years of age or older must accompany the youth to supervise but may not hunt.

The hunts are free, though participants need a valid hunting license (\$10 for youth 12 and older, free for age 11 and under) to hunt. Youth hunters age 12-17 also need an upland game bird validation (\$4). Licenses and validations will not be sold at the events.

Brian D. Osborn

La Grande

Brian D. Osborn, 51, of La Grande, died Aug. 24 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Marilyn R. (Jackson) Rice

1938-2020 • La Grande

Marilyn R. Rice, 81, of La Grande, died June 19 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements were handled by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory. A celebration of her life will be held Aug. 30 at 5 p.m. in the Riverside Park Pavilion. Those who wish to join and honor her are welcome.

Marilyn was born Sept. 2, 1938, in Mound City, Illinois, to Mildred and Wilbur

Jackson. She was orphaned at the age of 6 when both of her parents died of TB and lived with family for the rest of her childhood. Marilyn was married twice. The first marriage ended in divorce and the second in the death of her husband.

Marilyn was working in a hospital in Illinois when a nurse encouraged her to go to nursing school. She graduated with an RN degree from Shawnee College in 1982. She worked in the ICU at Anna Illinois Hospital until age 60 when she moved to Oregon. She briefly worked in Bend before moving to La Grande. Marilyn worked at Evergreen Vista and Evergreen Health and Rehab before going to work on the night shift on the med/

OBITUARIES

surgery floor at Grande Ronde Hospital in 2001. She retired from GRH more than 10 years later and stayed in La Grande.

Marilyn's interests included baseball. She was a big Cardinals fan. She loved to read, especially history. She enjoyed working puzzles, watching game shows and gaming on her computer. She liked a variety of music, classical to heavy metal, and collected praying mantis treasures. Marilyn loved cats and had many throughout her life. They gave her much comfort.

Marilyn loved to garden and cook. She created treats from her kitchen to give friends and neighbors, including apple butter, wonderful spice mixes and a

Upcoming local services



Aug. 28 — JOYCE STEVENS: 11 a.m. outdoor funeral, Cove Baptist Church; 1 p.m. graveside service, Grandview Ceme-

tery, La Grande; bring your own seating.

Aug. 29 — MIKE MAY: 4 p.m. memorial service, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

Aug. 30 — MARILYN RICE: 5 p.m. celebration of life, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

— Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

Please follow guidelines regarding face coverings and social distancing at all services.

special cocoa mix.

Although Marilyn never had children or much family in her life, a group of the nursing staff she worked with became her family. She called them her

"tribe." Marilyn also was fortunate to have helpful neighbors. She was very thankful for their friendship. She was a kind and loving friend who touched many lives.

We can all take action to help prevent suicide

We all have heard stats in the media about the increasing number of deaths by suicide in Oregon. My work for the past 18 years has been in

know what we are looking for. When we start to recognize the signs and guide that person to the right treatment at the right time, there will be an amazing shift in our community.

Each one of us can learn to recognize the signs of emotional and mental health challenges, including signs of depression, anxiety and trauma that can lead to thoughts of suicide. We can learn key words and key questions that can be used at key times to help those around us. If we all did this, the whole community could be part of the solution.

In this coming year, the Union County Safe Communities Coalition and the Suicide Prevention/Response Coalition will be partnering with schools, law enforcement, county and city officials, behavioral health providers,

public health and other community agencies to provide training opportunities for all residents in Union County to better understand how to recognize and assist those who may be struggling with thoughts of suicide. Be on the lookout for those opportunities.

If you have thoughts of not wanting to continue your life, you are not alone. Many of us have been where you are at. Through support from friends, loved ones and professionals, there is hope and healing. We encourage you to reach out.

Even though we are physically distancing at this time, we can still reach out to one another — over the fence, across the yard, by phone, text or video.

We can show more compassion.

I heard it said once, "When you meet someone, treat them as if they were in serious trouble, and you

will be right more than half the time." We all have troubles regardless of our situation, and sometimes it just takes another reaching out with kindness to make a difference.

Additionally, Sept. 6-12 is National Suicide Prevention Week. I encourage all of us to find ways to be more compassionate toward those around us. Chances are they are struggling. Our words will make a difference.

Some warning signs may help you determine if a loved one is at risk for suicide, especially if the behavior is new, has increased or seems related to a painful event, loss or change. Seek help by calling the Center for Human Development or the Lifeline (see numbers below) if you or someone you know exhibits any of these: talking about wanting to die or kill themselves, looking for a way

to kill themselves, talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live, talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain, talking about being a burden to others, increasing the use of alcohol or drugs, acting anxious or agitated, behaving recklessly, sleeping too little or too much, withdrawing or isolating themselves, showing rage or talking about seeking revenge and having extreme mood swings.

We can all help prevent suicide.

For more information or help, contact CHD Crisis at 541-962-8800 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

About the Author
Aaron Grigg is the mental health director at Center for Human Development in La Grande. He spends his spare time enjoying the outdoors with his wife and six daughters.



AARON GRIGG
CENTER FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

the trenches working to prevent those deaths. There are many things that lead to suicide, but all stem from mental and emotional illnesses. Culturally, we are not good in this country at caring for our mental and emotional health. We are better at meeting the needs of our physical health. I understand this. It is much easier to fix what we can see.

However, the reality is that we can see the effects of mental and emotional ailments every day if we

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY, AUG. 24

8:47 a.m. — La Grande police responded to a complaint about vandalism on the 1600 block of Adams Avenue.

9:36 a.m. — A La Grande resident in the area of Jakob Avenue and 18th Street asked police to send extra patrols due to loud parties.

10:43 a.m. — La Grande police responded to a report of a fight on the 1200 block of Hall Street. Police arrested Jesse Joe Shodin, 46, for violating a restraining order.

1:05 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a burglary at a residence on the 1200 block of Greenwood Street.

5:12 p.m. — A caller reported possible dog neglect on the 2600 block of Bearco Loop, La Grande. About 30 minutes later, police received a report of suspicious circumstances on the same block.

8:47 p.m. — A caller reported a female pulled a child harshly at Candy Cane Park, La Grande. An officer responded and found the child was fine.

TUESDAY, AUG. 25

11:49 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of possible dog abuse on the 2300 block of Q Avenue.

2:10 p.m. — A caller reported an abandoned vehicle on Bond

Lane, La Grande.

2:11 p.m. — A caller reported an abandoned vehicle at Summerville Road and Highway 204, Summerville.

2:23 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1800 block of 26th Street on a report of a runaway juvenile. An officer found and arrested the juvenile.

5:02 p.m. — A Union County deputy reported vandalism to a building on the 100 block of Adams Avenue, La Grande.

7:50 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 500 block of Adams Avenue on a report of people fighting. Officers warned the people involved.

10:45 p.m. — A caller reported someone may be breaking into a moving truck on the 1300 block of Jefferson Avenue, La Grande. Law enforcement arrived and found the person was an employee and working.

Recent Oregon State Police citations and arrests:

Aug. 18 — Oregon State Police stopped a black Kia Optima at 10:51 a.m. for traffic violations on the westbound side of Interstate 84 near milepost 268. The trooper subsequently cited Christopher Michael Oak, 46, for misdemeanor possession of methamphetamine and heroin and for delivery of meth, a Class B felony.

Oregon man dies at Anthony Lake

EO Media Group

ANTHONY LAKE — A 71-year-old western Oregon man died Sunday morning, Aug. 23, at Anthony Lake in an apparent drowning.

According to a press release from the Baker County Sheriff's Office, Robert James Akers, who is from Brownsville in the southern Willamette Valley between Eugene and Albany, was on the lake in a kickboat, a type of inflatable watercraft.

Anthony Lake is in the Elkhorn Mountains about 35 miles northwest of Baker City.

According to the sheriff's office, Akers and his wife had been camping near Granite. They drove to Anthony Lake, about 25 miles from Granite, for a day trip. Akers was out on the lake when bystanders on shore noticed that he was having some kind of trouble, according to the sheriff's office.

He then fell from the watercraft. Akers was not wearing a life jacket.

Baker County Dispatch received a report of the incident at about 11:30 a.m.

Two people in a canoe reached Akers after he had been lying face down in the water for three to five minutes, according to the sheriff's office. The pair in the canoe pulled Akers onto rocks in the lake and began performing CPR. Medical personnel pronounced Akers deceased at the scene.

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La Grande announces after-school program

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Parks and Recreation Department on Wednesday, Aug. 26, announced it is starting an after-school program.

The move is to address "an overwhelming community need as outlined by the results of our community survey," according to the press release from McKayla Nitz, the city's recreation supervisor, to help provide child care to families during the COVID-19 crisis.

Due to the restrictions to curtail the spread of the virus, the city will be able to serve 15 children a week, the press release stated, and registration will be week by week and first come, first served. Registration also will open for the next week each Tuesday.

The child care is at the Riviera Activity Center, 2609 Second St., in the classroom behind the gym

from 1-5 p.m., with late pickup until 5:15 p.m. The cost is \$60 per week (cost per week will be adjusted

for short school weeks) All registrations are online at www.lagrande-parks.org.

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