

COMMUNITY

Briefs

Union County PEO open for scholarship applications

UNION COUNTY — The 2021-2022 Union County PEO Tri-Chapter Scholarship is open for applications. The three local chapters of PEO, a philanthropic organization dedicated to the education of women, fund the \$3,000 scholarship and each year awards it to a graduating senior girl from Union County who will attend Eastern Oregon University. Scholarship applications are available at each of the Union County high schools by contacting your high school counselor. Scholarships are evaluated for academic achievement, school activities, community service, financial need and commitment to higher education. The deadline for submitting an application is March 31.

Honors

Local student earns Miami University degree

OXFORD, Ohio — Christina Wickman of La Grande was among more than 1,000 Miami University students who received degrees during the virtual fall commencement on Dec. 11, 2020. Wickman majored in biology and graduated with a master of arts degree.

— The Observer

Lottery

Megabucks: \$1 million
5-16-18-24-39-40
Mega Millions: \$20 million
29-49-56-64-67 — 24 x3
Powerball: \$20 million
5-8-17-27-28 — PB 14 x3
Win for Life: Jan. 25
8-12-34-48
Pick 4: Jan. 26
• 1 p.m.: 6-3-9-9
• 4 p.m.: 6-5-2-2
• 7 p.m.: 5-4-5-0
• 10 p.m.: 0-9-6-8
Pick 4: Jan. 25
• 1 p.m.: 5-6-8-2
• 4 p.m.: 1-7-9-2
• 7 p.m.: 5-6-7-5
• 10 p.m.: 4-1-2-9
DELIVERY ISSUES?
If you have any problems receiving your Observer, call 541-963-3161.

Evan D. Schwebke
1950-2021 • La Grande

Evan Duane Schwebke 71, died Jan. 22 at his home in La Grande. A graveside service will be held Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. at Grandview Cemetery, La Grande. Attendees must wear a mask and practice social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines. Evan was born Jan. 10, 1950, in La Grande, to Duane and Theone (Berry) Schwebke. He graduated from La Grande High School in 1968 and attended what is now Eastern Oregon University and Blue Mountain Community College. Evan served in the Army National Guard and was honorably discharged. Evan worked for Pepsi and in 1976 began his career with CP National and then OTEC, retiring in 2012. He enjoyed many activities including hunting, fishing, camping and driving his team of horses. Evan was a member of the Union/Wallowa chapter



of the Oregon Hunters Association and a member of the American Legion Post #43, La Grande. He was also a past member of the Eagles. Evan was a volunteer with the La Grande Swim Club, serving as president and meet director for many years. Surviving relatives include his wife of 50 years, Cathy; son and daughter-in-law, Myles and Lisa of Baker City; and daughter, Angela of Bend. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Oregon Hunters Association, 67494 Market Lane, Cove 97824, American Legion Post #43, 301 Fir St., La Grande 97850, or a charity of your choice. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

Velda Klein
La Grande

Velda Klein, 96, of La Grande, died Jan. 25 at her residence. A service will be livestreamed Feb. 5 beginning at 10 a.m. To view the service, go to www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com and click on the “Funeral Videos” button near the bottom of the home page just before 10 a.m.

OBITUARIES

LeeRoy L. Moschkau
1939-2020 • La Grande

LeeRoy “Papa” Leslie Moschkau, 81, of La Grande, died Dec. 4, 2020, at his residence. A private celebration of his life will be held Feb. 6 at 10 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church. Those who receive an invitation must wear a mask and practice social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines. The celebration of life will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend (go to www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com and click on the “Funeral Videos” button near the bottom of the home page just before 10 a.m.). LeeRoy was born May 16, 1939, in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, to August and Ellen (Coleman) Moschkau. He resided in Glendale, Silverton and Myrtle Creek, and has lived in La Grande since 1999. He attended schools in Glendale and graduated in 1957 from Glendale High School, where he was on the baseball and football teams. On July 2, 1960, he married Diane Marie Kirk. LeeRoy served in the U.S. Army. LeeRoy was employed with the Bureau of Land Management for 33 years



Upcoming local services

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

Jan. 29 — PEGGY GENTLE: 2 p.m. graveside service, Wallowa Cemetery.

Jan. 29 — SUNNY GREER: 2 p.m. memorial service, La Grande First Christian Church.

Feb. 5 — VELDA KLEIN: 10 a.m. ser-

vice, livestreamed; go to www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com and click on “Funeral Videos” near bottom of home page.

Feb. 6 — LEEROY MOSCHKAU: 10 a.m. celebration of life (invitation only), Faith Lutheran Church, La Grande; to view the livestream, go to www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com and click on “Funeral Videos” near bottom of home page.

Feb. 20 — HARRY BIGLER: 2 p.m. military honors ceremony, Union City Park.

— calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

and Bowman Trucking. He earned awards for dedication of service from BLM and from Bowman Trucking. He was a sports enthusiast and enjoyed gold mining, bow hunting, traveling and riding his recreational vehicles. He was a dedicated father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Surviving relatives include his wife, Diane; sons and daughters-in-law, Scott and Christie Moschkau of Glide, Ron Moschkau of La Grande,

and Darren and Adela Moschkau of La Grande; brother, Lester Moschkau of Roseburg; 11 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren; and four nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, August and Ellen; children, Michael and Marvin; sister, Ruth Ann Nissen; brother, Arnold Moschkau; and eight aunts and uncles. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

Local organizations receive Arts Build Communities grants

The Observer

LA GRANDE — A pair of local organizations were among 40 recipients of the Oregon Arts Commission’s fiscal year 2021 Arts Build Communities grant program. Fishttrap Inc., Enterprise, received a \$5,270 grant, and the Grande Ronde Symphony Association, La Grande, received a grant of \$3,834.

The commission in a recent press release announced the program awarded a total of \$180,000. The award to Fishttrap supports The Big Read, a community-wide shared reading experience. The 2021 selection is “In the Heart of the Sea” by Nathan Philbrick. The funds will cover promotional costs, screening fees, speaker

honoraria, supplies and to purchase books to be made available free to community organizations. The grant to the Grande Ronde Symphony Association supports SOAR — String and Orchestral Arts Revitalization — an after school string instruction program with the La Grande School District. The funds will help with sup-

plementing four instructor consultants serving more than 60 students in grades three through eight. Arts Commission Vice Chair Jenny Green led the review panel for the grants. “Local citizens employ creative thinking and collective response to identify a local need,” she said in the press release, “and provide an arts-based solution.”

Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton received a grant of \$3,863 to increase American Indian cultural representation on campus through art, books, media and programming featuring contemporary American Indian artists. The funds will help the college purchase artworks and develop programming with a focus on art.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY, JAN. 25

9:22 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1900 block of N Avenue on a report of a burglary and a disturbance. Officers determined the matter was civil and not criminal.

10:04 a.m. — La Grande police responded to Depot Street and Adams Avenue for a two-vehicle collision. Police took a report.

12:01 p.m. — A caller reported an attempted burglary at a residence on the 2300 block of Q Avenue. An officer took a report.

2:23 p.m. — A caller on the 1300 block of W Avenue, La Grande, requested officer assistance. An officer responded and provided the person a ride to Shelter From the Storm, the nonprofit in La Grande that provides services to victims of domestic violence and other crimes.

2:50 p.m. — A La Grande resident reported fraud to a bank account. An officer took a report.

6:41 p.m. — A caller reported animal cruelty on the 10700 block of South Walton Road, Island City.

10:25 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1200 block of Adams Avenue on a report of a

domestic disturbance. Police warned one male for disorderly conduct.

TUESDAY, JAN. 26

6:39 a.m. — A caller complained about loud music on the 100 block of Fir Street, La Grande. Officers responded but did not find any loud music.

2:12 p.m. — A caller on the 1800 block of Second Street, La Grande, asked to speak to police about a stolen vehicle. An officer took a report.

3:52 p.m. — The animal enforcement officer received a report of dogs in traffic on Highway 82 and Alicel Lane, La Grande. The officer checked the area and found the owner had the dogs back at his house.

5:17 p.m. — A caller asked to speak to police regarding a landlord-tenant issue on the 600 block of 18th Street, La Grande. An officer explained options.

7:07 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office received a report that a vehicle collided with property on the 68400 block of Mill Creek Lane, Cove.

9:16 p.m. — A caller reported sheep on the loose on Highway 204 and Summerville Road near Elgin.

Recent Oregon State Police activity SUNDAY, JAN. 24

10:51 a.m. — A state trooper stopped a Mazda 3 going west on I-84 for traffic violations near milepost 266. The trooper searched the vehicle and found a handgun under the passenger seat. The passenger, Lane Phillip-Hart, 24, of Burns, is a felon. The trooper cited Phillip-Hart for felon in possession of a firearm.

9:42 p.m. — Oregon State Police arrested Daniel Mathew Garcia, 33, for DUII and cited him for refusing to take a test for intoxicants.

FRIDAY, JAN. 22

12:44 p.m. — An OSP trooper stopped a BMW X5 for traffic violations on the eastbound side of Interstate 84 near milepost 268 and noticed “indicators of criminal activity” upon contact with the occupants. The passenger, Zachary Aron Carter, 23, had a Union County warrant for larceny. The trooper searched the vehicle and found brass knuckles and drugs. The trooper cited Carter for failure to appear on the warrant, possession of marijuana and felon in possession of a weapon.

James Dwight Hebert

November 12, 1952 - January 5, 2021

James Dwight “Jimmy” Hebert passed away January 5, 2021 at St. Luke’s Hospital in Meridian, Idaho. He was 68 years old. Jimmy was born November 12, 1952 in Rayne, Louisiana. He was the youngest child, and only son of Eldridge Joseph “Snipe” Hebert and Dora Jeanne (LeBlau) Hebert. He was educated in Rayne and graduated from Rayne High School in 1970. He was surrounded by cousins and neighborhood kids growing up. As a typical boy, he spent summers and weekends barefoot, hunting, fishing, riding bicycles and getting into his share of mischief with these kids. Although he was the baby of the family, he still got his share of lickins’. His folks ran a pool hall/hamburger joint for a while when he was young and Jimmy became quite a pool player. He enjoyed this game and played a lot throughout his life. Jimmy so loved his momma’s cooking, had many favorite dishes and remembered how she prepared them. The budget was meager, yet he said there always seemed to be plenty to eat and it always tasted so good because it cooked slowly, all day, making the whole neighborhood smell good. He became a very good cook himself, taking the time to simmer slowly.

After high school Jimmy married Margaret Mary Prejean and they had a son, James “Dwight” Hebert Jr. He worked several places while they lived in the Rayne area, including an auto parts house. He enjoyed this job working with people and at the same time gaining more knowledge of vehicles and began making most repairs on his own cars. Jimmy continued to take care of all the vehicles he owned. In 1977, Margaret and Jimmy separated and he came to Oregon via a long Greyhound bus ride (that was quite the story in itself) to work on his sister and brother-in-law, Brenda and Wayne Schwabrow’s, ranch in North Powder. He worked there for a couple of years before he began working at various sawmill companies that occupied the property at the east edge of North Powder. In the early 1990’s he accepted the position of sawmill supervisor at the time WTD owned the business. Jimmy was a fair and respected boss because he believed in second chances, once. The WTD sawmill closed in 1999 like many in the area when environmental issues flared, so Jimmy sought other employment. He joined the Laborers Union and worked paving roads and at the Boardman, OR coal fire plant during shutdown doing cleanup. He worked several years at Fleetwood Trailers in La Grande until it closed. He applied for the job at the City of North Powder, where he worked until his retirement in 2018.

In 1984, Jimmy married Bonita Elaine Hill in Weiser, Idaho. They had a daughter, Amanda Jeanne Hebert. They purchased the house in North Powder on the corner of F and 4th St.



where he was living at the time of his death. He always planted a nice garden in the back and spent early mornings weeding and watering. He loved raising tomatoes and hot peppers for homemade salsa.

He was a member of many slow pitch softball teams in Louisiana and joined teams in Baker and La Grande after he came to Oregon. Spring and summers were occupied with league and tournaments in the Northwest. Jimmy played for Baker Jaycees, La Grande Merchants, and Wendell’s. He was chosen many times for first team all-star teams and had trophies for several home run hitting contests at these tournaments. A highlight of this hobby was going to Midland, Texas in 1987 to play in the men’s class “A” slow pitch tournament with the Wendell’s team. In the fall, Jimmy always looked forward to deer and elk hunting and most times he put meat in the freezer. He learned how to cut and wrap his game animals at home from Austin Coates, an old butcher and neighbor. This was the best meat every time because it was taken care of in a timely manner. Jimmy hunted pheasant, chucker and dove and had several beloved bird dogs – Zach, Buck and Jigs and then along came the cow dogs, Sadie and Izzy. He also loved to fish especially for bass and crappie and was so glad to have his boat. Brownlee Reservoir was a favorite place to go and a couple of times a year meeting up with Idaho friends, Pat and Jack Boesel, at Woodhead Park for camping and fishing. Jimmy was so proud of his kids; Dwight starting his own diesel service business in Louisiana and Amanda working and living away from home nearby in La Grande. He felt so blessed that Dwight, Patty, and Alex and Amanda were here for the holidays.

Jimmy is survived by his wife Bonita of North Powder; son Dwight (Patty) Hebert and grandsons Jacob (Jessica) Hebert and Alex Hebert; his first wife Margaret Hebert of Louisiana; his daughter Amanda Hebert of La Grande; sister Jackie Penticura and brother-in-law C.J. Rogers in Louisiana. Brother-in-law Elmer (Jer) Hill in North Powder and sister-in-law Bertha (Craig) Calder in Baker, Oregon, and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters and brothers-in-law, Nada (Stan) Titus, Brenda (Wayne) Schwabrow and Sylvia Rogers. A celebration of Jimmy’s life will be April 3, 2021 at a time and location announced later. Donations in his memory may be sent to Doernbecher Children’s Hospital in Portland or Wolf Creek Grange #596 in North Powder in care of Gray’s West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, Oregon 97814. To offer online condolences to Jimmy’s family, please visit www.grayswestco.com

Standing up against abortion



Dick Mason/The Observer

Union County activists express their opposition to abortion in downtown La Grande on Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, on the 48th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion across the United States. About 30 people took part in the demonstration at Fourth Street and Adams Avenue.



Nicole Cathey

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