

COMMUNITY

Briefs

Republican candidate forum live tonight on Facebook

LA GRANDE — Union County Republicans and Young Republicans of Oregon are hosting an online forum with candidates for the Oregon Republican Party Executive Committee Thursday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m.

The forum features Sen. Dallas Heard, Roseburg, for chair, Josephine County Commissioner Herman Baertschiger for vice chair, Sen. Dennis Linthicum, Klamath Falls, for treasurer, and Sen. Chuck Thomsen, Hood River, for secretary. The forum will be livestreamed on the Facebook pages of Union County Republicans and Young Republicans of Oregon.

Viewers can submit questions for ask candidates during the forum. For more information, contact Alex McHaddad, Union County Republicans chair at 541-805-2630 or me@alexfor.us.

Gardening class focuses on natural pest control

COVE — Nella Mae's Farm is offering an online class for home gardeners on natural pest control. The class runs 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23. Market farmer Nella Mae Parks of Cove will share her best tips on managing aphids, flea beetles, slugs, deer, rodents and more. Participants also will learn which insects and wildlife are garden friends and how to attract and keep them around.

Class fees are on a sliding scale and all are welcome. To register or for more information, go to www.nellamaesfarm.com/events or visit Nella Mae's Farm on Facebook or Eventbrite.

Lottery

Megabucks: \$1.9 million 2-5-6-18-31-45

Powerball: \$56 million 20-28-33-63-68 — PB 20 x2

Mega Millions: \$98 million 1-36-44-54-66 — MB 10 x3

Win for Life: Feb. 15 13-33-37-40

Pick 4: Feb. 16

• 1 p.m.: 0-9-7-2

• 4 p.m.: 2-6-9-6

• 7 p.m.: 0-6-2-3

• 10 p.m.: 1-3-1-7

Pick 4: Feb. 15

• 1 p.m.: 6-3-9-9

• 4 p.m.: 2-8-7-2

• 7 p.m.: 3-9-8-1

• 10 p.m.: 1-7-4-1

DELIVERY ISSUES?

If you have any problems receiving your Observer, call 541-963-3161.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY, FEB. 15

9:10 a.m. — A caller reported an assault on the 63200 block of Highway 203, La Grande. A Union County sheriff's deputy and Oregon State Police trooper responded. Law enforcement separated the parties, who then moved on.

11:27 a.m. — A caller reported a dog bit someone on the 2700 block of Birch Street, La Grande. An officer responded and took a report.

12:43 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1900 block of H Avenue for a domestic disturbance at a residence. The parties separated.

3:01 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 600 block of Y Avenue for a domestic disturbance at a residence. Police arrested Samuel A. Longe, 50, of La Grande, for fourth-degree assault.

6:57 p.m. — La Grande

police responded to a residence on a report of a person who was suffering a mental health crisis. Police provided assistance.

11:10 p.m. — The Union County dispatch center received a suspicious 911 call. Officers responded and determined there was a domestic disturbance and the parties separated.

TUESDAY, FEB. 16

2:31 a.m. — The Union County dispatch center received a 911 call with yelling in the background at a residence on the 1200 block of U Avenue, La Grande. Officers responded and resolved the situation, which was an argument.

11:53 a.m. — A caller complained about "inappropriate artwork at a business" on the 1100 block of Washington Avenue, La Grande. An officer contacted the caller, said there was no crime and

explained options.

2:37 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of possible sex abuse in Elgin. A deputy responded and took a report.

5:56 p.m. — A caller reported possible animal neglect along Riddle Road, La Grande.

7:52 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1500 block of Fifth Street for a domestic disturbance. Officers separated the parties.

9:34 p.m. — La Grande police responded to a residence on the 600 block of Y Avenue for a domestic disturbance. Officers — again — arrested Samuel A. Longe, 50, of La Grande, this time for violating a no-contact order.

9:59 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1500 block of Fifth Street on a report of a domestic disturbance. Police separated the parties.

OBITUARY

Van G. Brown

La Grande

Van G. Brown, 57, of La Grande, died Feb. 13 at his residence. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Upcoming local services



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

Feb. 20 — HARRY

BIGLER: 2 p.m. military honors ceremony, Union City Park.

Feb. 20 — LORI GREENWAY: 3 p.m. memorial service, Enterprise First Baptist Church.

— calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

OTEC crews helping in ice storm

The Observer

BAKER CITY — Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative's four-man crew is working to help fellow utilities restore power in Western Oregon.

Communities in the Willamette Valley and beyond in Western Oregon have been power after severe winter weather swept through the area. OTEC in a press release reported fellow electric cooperative Consumers Power Inc., based in Philomath, sent out a call for assistance on Saturday, Feb. 13 after ice and snowstorms caused significant

damage to infrastructure throughout its territory, which extends from the coast to the Cascades.

OTEC answered the call for help as part of a mutual aid agreement through the Oregon Cooperative Network, the press release stated. OTEC in 2020 sent a crew to assist Consumers Power during the destructive Labor Day fires.

"The cooperative spirit is alive and well," said Mike Pommarane, OTEC's Director of Operations, said in the press release.

"We take great pride in our electric cooperative family and are always

willing to be able to help fellow members in need," he stated.

The top priority of each local Oregon cooperative, including OTEC, is service to its own member-owners and the safety of the communities they serve.

Since OTEC has available resources and manpower, it made the decision to send a crew into the storm to help.

"OTEC member-owners can rest assured that if we found ourselves in a similar emergency situation," Pommarane said, "co-ops from across Oregon would be at our doorstep in a moment's notice to help us."

Union County couple sues doctor, hospital after man's knee surgery

Mark and Lynne Brown seek \$26 million

By CHRIS COLLINS
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — A Union County couple have filed a \$26 million lawsuit against former Baker City surgeon Dr. Eric Sandefur and St. Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City.

Mark and Lynne Brown filed the lawsuit on Feb. 11 in Baker County Circuit Court. They are demanding a jury trial. The Browns allege that Mark Brown suffered a lifetime disability — the loss of mobility in his right leg — because of the defendants' negligence.

Sandefur performed a total knee replacement of Mark Brown's right leg on Oct. 16, 2018, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City, the complaint states.

Mark Brown is asking for economic damages of up to \$10 million for complications he alleges resulted after Sandefur performed the surgery.

Mark Brown claims as a result of an infection that developed and continued to worsen over the course of his recovery, and which he alleges Sandefur was negligent in treating, Brown's right leg has been left immobile.

Because of his immobility, according to the complaint, Mark Brown is permanently disabled and can no longer work as a

certified diesel and heavy equipment mechanic.

The lawsuit claims Mark Brown expects to "incur economic damages in the form of past and future medical care and expenses as well as medical devices and implants, including prosthetics; past and future lost wages and impaired earnings; and past and future substitute domestic services."

Mark Brown also is seeking noneconomic damages of up to \$12 million to be determined at trial. According to the complaint, Brown has experienced "severe pain, suffering, disability, anxiety, emotional distress, scarring, multiple hospitalizations, multiple surgical interventions, disfigurement, loss of self-esteem and permanent limitation on motion, together with interference of all aspects of his daily life."

The Browns' complaint also includes a second claim for relief against Saint Alphonsus Medical Center alleging that the hospital was negligent in credentialing and granting privileges for Sandefur to practice at the hospital.

The lawsuit alleges Saint Alphonsus should have known that prior to

Sandefur's treatment of Mark Brown, Sandefur "had a history of surgical outcomes that resulted in the development of infections."

The lawsuit claims that the hospital should have performed "reasonable credentialing and ongoing peer review" of Sandefur to ensure the safety of its patients.

(A \$5.2 million lawsuit filed Sept. 8, 2020, in Baker County Circuit Court accuses Sandefur, Veronica Crowder, a physician assistant who worked with Sandefur, and Saint Alphonsus Medical Center of negligence in connection with treating a fracture to 6-year-old Avery Martin's right arm after she was injured on May 5, 2018.)

As part of the Browns' lawsuit, Lynne Brown also is seeking \$2 million for what she claims is the loss of her husband's "society, companionship, consortium, services and support" as a result of the defendants' negligence and violations.

In a fourth claim for relief, Lynne Brown seeks an additional \$2 million in noneconomic damages. She alleges that as a result of Mark Brown's injuries caused by the defendants' negligence and violations,

NEWS BRIEFS

Josephy Center hosts online Black History Month discussion

JOSEPH — It's Black History Month, and the Josephy Center will look at Oregon's own relationship to race and government in a virtual discussion of historian Greg Nokes' "Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory," on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at noon.



Nokes

Nokes will join this session of the Brown Bag lecture series. Participants do not have to have read the

book. The one-hour online gathering is free and open to all.

"Breaking Chains" tells the story of the only slavery case adjudicated in Oregon's pre-Civil War courts: Holmes v. Ford. Through the lens of this landmark case, Nokes explores the historical context of racism in Oregon and the West.

According to a press release from the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, Nokes drew on court records and offers an intimate account of the relationship between a slave and his master. He explores the experiences of other slaves in early Oregon, examines attitudes toward race and reveals contradictions in the state's early history.

Oregon came into the Union as a "free state," but it also came in with a voter-approved constitutional clause banning African Americans. Many came to Oregon with slaves, and others tolerated slavery and supported politicians who advocated for slavery, including Oregon's first territorial governor.

The Brown Bag discussion will explore the impacts of this on Oregon's subsequent racial history.

"This will be a wide-open Zoom meeting," stated the release. "Bring your questions and concerns, and join us." Find the Zoom link at www.josephy.org/event/black-history-month-book-group-brown-bag.

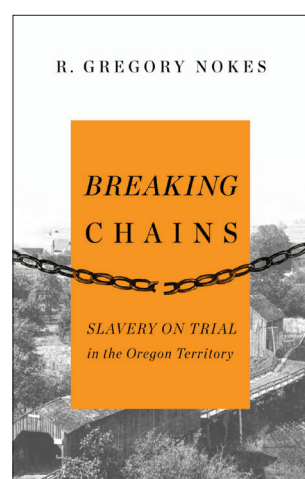
Union County students named to BMCC honor roll

PENDLETON — Blue Mountain Community College announced the names of Union County students who earned honor roll recognition during the summer and fall terms of the 2020-21 academic year.

To qualify for this recognition by Pendleton's community college, students must be full-time. Students who earn a GPA of 3.5-3.74 are named to the Vice President's List, and those who earn a GPA of 3.75 and higher are named to the President's List.

SUMMER TERM 2020
President's List (3.75-4.0 GPA): Tonya Evans.
Vice President's List (3.5-3.74 GPA): Paige Barker, Loren Simon.

FALL TERM 2020
President's List (3.75-4.0 GPA): Stacey Adams, Zoe Adamson, Wyatt Erickson, Tonya Evans, Alisa Fox, Carissa Gia-



ndrea, Abigail Hale, Luke Johnson, Brianna Kohr, Tanner Lee, Dylan Miles, Brenale Ritter, Mattie Spencer, Erin Winterton, Karley Witten.

Vice President's List (3.5-3.74 GPA): Samantha Graham, Katherine Oglesbee, Matthew Orthmann, Mara Sampson, Isaac Seggerman, Sierra Teeman, Kenzie Williams, Kelly Winebrenner.

Free computer software classes offered

LA GRANDE — Training & Employment Consortium, La Grande, continues to offer free computer classes, with online interactive Word and Excel courses planned in March and April.

All classes are held 8:30-11:30 a.m., and registration is required. Participants must have on their home computer a version of Microsoft Office 2010 or newer and a microphone. Also, a camera is preferred.

A one-day Intro to Word class is set for Monday, March 8. The class is designed to introduce basic word processing functions. Participants will learn how to create documents; cut, copy and paste information; format documents; know the difference between the Save and the Save As feature; and use the spellcheck and the-saurus features.

Intermediate Word, a four-day course, follows on March 9-11 and 15. Students will review features taught in the Intro to Word class plus learn how to create, format and use the different features of tables, place information into columns, and add graphics to a document. The instruction is entirely hands-on with a lot of exercises.

Excel classes will be offered in April. Intro to Excel will be taught on Tuesday, April 6. The class is designed for the beginning student to learn how to develop spreadsheets; enter formulas that will calculate desired rows and columns; and enhance documents by modifying fonts, font size and color.

Students may then move on to the five-day Intermediate Excel course, held April 7-8 and 13-15. Participants will learn how to create graphs; use the absolute function, subtotal and comment features; and how to use the software's more advanced functions.

Call Lynn at 541-963-7942, ext. 4, or email lynn@tecteam.org to register and get enrolled through I-Match.

Training & Employment Consortium is an EOE/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request (TTY dial 711).

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