

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• LA GRANDE — The Board of Commissioners for Northeast Oregon Housing Authority will hold an emergency meeting Monday, March 1, at 9 a.m. The public may attend via conference call. Call 1-253-215-8782 and use meeting ID 843 0753 3399.

Menus

Union County Senior Center takeout lunch menu

Pick up 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande. For delivery, call 541-963-7532 before 10 a.m. Age 60+, \$3 suggested donation; all others, \$5. Public is welcome. Inquire about family meals and prepackaged sides.

MARCH 1-5

Monday: ravioli, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, bread, dessert.

Tuesday: Reuben sandwich, potato salad, fruit garnish, dessert.

Wednesday: honey-glazed ham, scalloped potatoes, cashew-pea salad, roll, dessert.

Thursday: chicken Alfredo, salad greens, bread, fresh fruit, cookie.

Friday: pork fried rice, egg rolls, oriental salad, fortune cookie.

Children's free takeout breakfast and lunch menu

Free breakfast and lunch for anyone age 18 and younger. Pick up 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Central, Greenwood or Island City elementary schools, La Grande. Fresh vegetables, seasonal fruit and 1% milk are offered daily in addition to the menu items. Served at La Grande schools for on-campus students.

MARCH 1-5

Central and Island City Elementary schools

Monday: BREAKFAST: bagel with cream cheese, canned fruit; **LUNCH:** hot dog, potato chips, green beans.

Tuesday: BREAKFAST: blueberry muffin, cheese stick, orange juice; **LUNCH:** popcorn chicken, roll, tator tots.

Wednesday: BREAKFAST: cocoa cereal bar, fresh fruit; **LUNCH:** ham deli sandwich, cherry tomatoes.

Thursday: BREAKFAST: pancake on a stick, orange juice; **LUNCH:** soft beef taco, corn and black bean salsa.

Friday: BREAKFAST: mini-cinnis, fresh fruit; **LUNCH:** fish sticks, roll, cauliflower florets.

Greenwood Elementary School

Monday: BREAKFAST: blueberry muffin with cream cheese, fruit or juice; **LUNCH:** popcorn chicken, breadstick, tator tots.

Tuesday: BREAKFAST: mini-cinnis, fruit or juice; **LUNCH:** turkey deli sandwich, goldfish crackers, baby carrots.

Wednesday: BREAKFAST: pancake on a stick, fruit or juice; **LUNCH:** BBQ rib sandwich, cherry tomatoes.

Thursday: BREAKFAST: sausage breakfast muffin, fruit or juice; **LUNCH:** cheeseburger, potato chips, celery.

Friday: BREAKFAST: yogurt pak with bagel, fruit or juice; **LUNCH:** pizza parlor, cauliflower florets.

La Grande middle and high schools

Monday: BREAKFAST: mini-cinnis, canned fruit; **LUNCH:** BBQ rib sandwich, green beans.

Tuesday: BREAKFAST: oatmeal-chocolate chip bar, cheese stick, orange juice; **LUNCH:** hamburger, tator tots.

Wednesday: BREAKFAST: strawberry toaster pastry, cheese stick, fresh fruit; **LUNCH:** turkey deli sandwich, potato chips, carrots.

Thursday: BREAKFAST: pancake on a stick, orange juice; **LUNCH:** parmesan chicken bites, bread stick, red peppers.

Friday: BREAKFAST: long John, fresh fruit; **LUNCH:** hot dog, potato chips, corn.

Lottery

Megabucks: \$2.3 million 8-11-14-23-37-39

Powerball: \$90 million 4-33-43-53-65 — PB 21 x3

Mega Millions: \$22 million 5-7-9-20-57 — MB 15 x3

Win for Life: Feb. 22 22-36-66-75

Pick 4: Feb. 25

• 1 p.m.: 8-4-5-5

• 4 p.m.: 4-5-1-3

• 7 p.m.: 3-0-9-8

• 10 p.m.: 8-8-2-7

Pick 4: Feb. 24

• 1 p.m.: 6-4-3-3

• 4 p.m.: 3-0-9-8

• 7 p.m.: 0-8-5-1

• 10 p.m.: 4-6-2-8

DELIVERY ISSUES?

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

OBITUARIES

Charles 'Charlie' L. Ritter

1928-2021 • La Grande

Charles Lindy Ritter, 93, of La Grande, died Feb. 21 at his residence. A funeral service will be held March 2 at 10 a.m. The service will be lives-



treamed. To view the service, go to www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com and click on the "Funeral Videos" button near the bottom of the page just before 10 a.m. A graveside service will follow at Island City Cemetery, and a lunch will be provided after the service at the American Legion.

Known as Charlie, he was born Feb. 2, 1928, in La Grande, to George and Bertha (Goble) Ritter. He was raised in La Grande

Upcoming local services



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

March 2 —

CHARLIE RITTER: 10 a.m. livestreamed funeral (to view the service, go to www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com, scroll to the bottom and click on the "Funeral

and graduated from La Grande High School. On Jan. 8, 1949, in Boise, Idaho, he married his life partner, Dora Ellen Jones. He served in the U.S. Army and reached the rank of master sergeant. Charlie worked at Boise

Videos" button); graveside service follows at Island City Cemetery, then lunch at the American Legion.

March 20 — CHARITY HENRY: 11 a.m. memorial service, La Grande Church of Christ.

April 24 — BECKY ROBERSON: 2 p.m. celebration of life, Elgin Community Center. — *calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande*

Cascade as summer help in 1946 then was hired permanently in 1947. He mostly was a forklift driver. He retired on Feb. 28, 1990, after 43 years of service.

Charlie enjoyed hunting and fishing in his early

years, some gardening, camping, four-wheeling, snowmobiling, and playing bingo the last 10 years. He also enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and family, and Sunday lunch was always at his house for the last several years. He enjoyed playing baseball in his younger years and later played slow pitch on the city league. He was a member of the American Legion and the Eagles Lodge and was a trustee in his early days.

Surviving relatives include his children, Craig Ritter of Milton-Free-water, Jana Shenfield and husband, Randy, of La Grande, and Bob Dalton of Island City; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren with another on the way; and two nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Dora; parents,

George and Bertha; sister, Ella Marie Packard; brothers, Don D. "Bud" Ritter, and George E. Ritter; and grandson, John Shenfield.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Legion Post 43, P.O. Box 55, La Grande 97850.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

Steve A. Craig

La Grande

Steve Alan Craig, 65, of La Grande and Albany, died Feb. 23. Arrangements are by AAsum-Dufour Funeral Home, Albany.

Agnes Sudway

Elgin

Agnes Sudway, 87, of Elgin, died Feb. 26 at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month



DEANNE MANSVELD
UCSCC

The month of March is recognized across the United States as Problem Gambling Awareness Month. The campaign theme "Awareness + Action" is all about taking specific action and having conversations about problem gambling issues and directing people to the help they may need.

For many people gambling is a form of entertainment that doesn't carry any significant consequences. However, for some people gambling can lead to problem gambling or gambling addiction. Gambling is also a popular activity for underage youth. Research has shown that there is a correlation between youth gambling and engaging in other risky behaviors.

Gambling often is a form of entertainment, but it also is an activity that carries risk. For some people, it can become such a problem that they continue to gamble despite personal, social or financial consequences.

More than 84,000 Oregon adults are estimated to meet the clinical diagnosis for a gambling disorder. Gambling disorders impact the lives of families and friends and our society. Problem gambling in Oregon results in more than \$500 million in social costs impacting the criminal justice, corrections and human service systems as well as our economic health.

Youth also are affected by these problems, and the teen rates for problem gambling are often higher than the adult rates. Gambling activates the reward system of the brain in the same way a drug or alcohol does. Since neural pathways are still forming during the teenage years, this activity can essentially prime the brain for future addiction issues. Many adults in treatment for problem gambling

have reported they began gambling at an early age.

Entertainment/fun was the No. 1 reason youth reported they gambled. Smartphones, tablets and other electronic devices have dramatically increased access to internet gambling for those who are underage. It's not surprising a majority of youth have gambled prior to their 18th birthday. The internet is as close as any public Wi-Fi. Although it is illegal for teens to gamble online, the safeguards are easy to overcome — many are as simple as a check box or the insertion of a birthdate. Youth who play free online gambling games are more likely to later gamble.

Another concern is the relationship between youth gambling and engaging in other risky behaviors. The 2019 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey stated that "research indicates the frequency of gambling activity among youth correlates with increased alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use, with some youth developing serious gambling problems." Oregon teens who gambled had higher rates of problems at school, being in a physical fight, experiencing sadness for two or more weeks, and using alcohol, marijuana and other drugs. This can have devastating impacts on youth and their families.

While many concerns exist, there is hope. Problem gambling can be prevented, and free treatment is available for adults and teens if problems do develop. The Oregon Problem Gambling Resource website, www.OPGR.org, provides information, resources and a helpline.

In Union County, the Center for Human Development provides free, confidential treatment for those with gambling problems and support services for families. Call CHD at 541-962-8800 or visit www.chdinc.org for more information.

DeAnne Mansveld is the prevention programs coordinator for the Center for Human Development Inc., La Grande, and a member of the Union County Safe Communities Coalition.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24

7:53 a.m. — Union County sheriff's deputies responded to the 700 block of Main Street, Union, on a report of a disturbance. Deputies took one juvenile into custody.

9:04 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1400 block of Hall Street for a disturbance. Officers determined there was an argument concerning property.

9:48 a.m. — Emergency services responded to the 1100 block of Adams Avenue, La Grande, for a vehicle that wrecked into a building. Police took a report.

11:32 a.m. — A La Grande resident reported possible fraud. An officer made contact and will follow up.

4:36 p.m. — Local law enforcement responded to the 1200 block of U Avenue, La Grande, on a report of a domestic disturbance. Police arrested one person.

9:52 p.m. — La Grande police returned to the same address on the 1200 block of U Avenue on a call about a no-contact order violation. Police took a report.

10:19 p.m. — A caller complained about noise from a residence on the 1200 block of Adams Avenue, La Grande. An officer responded and contacted the subject, who agreed to quiet down.

THURSDAY, FEB. 25

7:09 a.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy removed debris from the road on the 3100 block of Island Avenue, La Grande.

8:45 a.m. — A caller reported a possible restraining order violation on the 64100 block of Hunter Road, La Grande. A Union County sheriff's deputy made contact.

11:59 a.m. — A La Grande resident reported possible identity theft. An officer made contact and took information.

3:09 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a possible sex crime outside La Grande. A deputy made contact and will follow up on the matter.

3:24 p.m. — La Grande police cited Orlan Gerald Dudek, 77, for two counts of felon in possession of a weapon.

8:21 p.m. — A caller reported livestock on the

loose at Hu-Na-Ha RV Park, 255 Cedar St., Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy contacted the cattle's owners, who moved the animals.

FRIDAY, FEB. 26

12:12 a.m. — A caller reported the theft of a vehicle from the 2000 block of H Avenue, La Grande. Police responded and took a report.

EOU announces fall term dean's list

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, named 564 students to its dean's list for the 2020 fall term. Qualifying students maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while completing a minimum of 12 hours of graded coursework.

This is a partial list of students from Union and Wal-lowa counties who earned this distinction. The Observer will run the rest of the names Tuesday, March 2.

UNION COUNTY COVE

Colten Alldredge
Allie Best
Kendall Hettinga
Maggie Ledbetter
Cassie Nelson
Jill Pedro
Eric Stone

ELGIN

Ryan Chandler
Cynthia Cramlet
Jessica Sorensen
Zeke Wright

IMBLER

Gary Combe
Benjamin Wagner

ISLAND CITY

Morgan Correa
LA GRANDE
Aisha Abimbola
James AhHee
Sophia Aimone
Makayla Akers
Joseph Aliff
Emily Andrews
Brandon Anger
Katie Arnold

Roland Victor
Balajadia
Anjelynn Baron
Madison Bazer
Jordan Beachy
Joseph Bell
Kayla Berg
Joaquin Bermejillo
Koedi Birmingham
Samantha Blaine
Britney Blaluk
Brenda Boles
Kelsi Bourasa
Carolyn Brandt
Sarah Buddingh
Kellen Burke
Mannelyn Cabrera
Andrea Camacho
Erin Campbell
Lai-Na Chen
Diana Cobian
Ella Coughlan
Lisa Culley
Tyler Dabritz
Bonny Daggett
Chealsey Daniel
Hailey Davis
J. Cameron Davis
David Dill

Zakery Donato
Taylor Dow
Patience Dudley
Tori Eaton
A.J. Enos
Cheyenne Evans
Robert Fitzpatrick
Olivia Fleming
Johnny Fogle
Dustin Follett
Haley Fonceca
Taylor Friederichs
Jaycen
Friedrichsen
Dmitry Gadashev
Landrey Gaertner
Megan Garoutte
Kaitlyn Gekeler
Anthony Given
Ambrose Greif
Alexia Guhlke
Sydney Hacker
Brittney Hamilton
Annalise Han Khorn
Elizabeth Hanson
Devon Harrington
Adyson Harris
Ciara Haruo
Kayla Harvey

Captain Milburn J. (Mel) Holmes

October 12, 1939 - February 9, 2021

Captain Milburn J. (Mel) Holmes passed away peacefully at home in Escondido, California, on February 9th, 2021.

Mel was born in La Grande, Oregon, to Betty Mae and Milburn Jay Holmes on October 12, 1939. He attended La Grande High School, lettering in both basketball and baseball. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Oregon University in 1961. In 2006, Mel was the first recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from EOU.

Mel entered the Navy Flight Training Program in Pensacola, Florida, in 1961. After completing the Jet Fighter Course, he was designated a Naval Aviator in 1963.

During his career, Mel flew various fighters including the F-4 "Phantom" and participated in three cruises in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. He received 18 medals and commendations throughout his service.

Mel was one of the original founders of the legendary Navy Fighter Weapons School, better known as "TOPGUN", based at Naval Air Station Miramar. He completed his naval career as the Commanding Officer of VF-301, a reserve F-4 Fighter Squadron. After his retirement as a 747 Captain from Northwest/Delta Airlines, he established a premier flight school in Carlsbad, California.

Mel is survived by his wife of 42 years, Jeannie; his four sons; John, Brad (Sarah), Doug (Melissa) and Craig. In addition, he is survived by four grandchildren; Tyler, Alec, Jacqueline and Maddie Holmes.

A heartfelt thanks to the medical professionals, Lori Saunders and Shari Cattozzi, whose compassion and care for Mel during this past year was exemplary.

A memorial service will be planned at a later date due to COVID restrictions. Memorials can be made in Mel's honor to Warrior Foundation Freedom Station, 1223 1/2 28th St. Suite A, San Diego, CA, 92102 or <https://warriorfoundation.org>



Many people have been asking us??

Can we move our pre-arranged funeral plan to your funeral home?

YOU CAN! And it is easy. Loveland Funeral Chapel accepts and honors almost all pre-arranged funeral plans from other funeral chapels. We understand that changes occur and you can easily transfer your plan to Loveland Funeral Chapel. These transfers can take place ahead of time or even when someone passes away.



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