

COMMUNITY

Briefs

RSVP for next takeout Cove senior meal

COVE — The Cove senior meal program is offering takeout lunches on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Due to restrictions in place caused by the coronavirus pandemic, meals are picked up in front of Founders Hall instead of being served inside. The lunch will be handed out from noon to 12:30 p.m. Enter the driveway in front of the Ascension Founders Hall on Church Street from the north.

The menu for April 6 is turkey, creamed peas and potatoes, cooked carrots, green salad, roll and a cupcake. There is a \$5 charge per meal. If you haven't been contacted, call Imie Bristow at 541-568-4545 by Wednesday, March 21, to order your meal.

Work day at Flora School planned Saturday

FLORA — The next work party at the Flora School will be Saturday, March 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Earlier work days in March were canceled due to the amount of snow and ice in the area. There are tasks for all a variety of skills and everyone is welcome. Dress in layers and bring a sack lunch. Masks and gloves or sanitizer are required to be used and will be provided by the school if you do bring them. For more information call 541-828-7010 or email floraschool@tds.net.

This summer's Flora School Days will once again be virtual instead of in person. Demonstrations of old-time skills will be presented online June 1-5, and an auction of items made by the craftspeople will be held during each demonstration.

Honors

Wallowa County student earns academic honors and degree

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Johnelle P. Suto, of Wallowa County, was named to Mount Mary University's fall dean's list. The distinction honors full-time students who have earned a 3.6 GPA or better.

Suto, a biology major, was among the students who completed their degree requirements at Mount Mary University and graduated at the conclusion of the fall 2020 semester.

Lottery

Megabucks: \$3.3 million
3-12-14-31-39-44
Powerball: \$200 million
1-6-22-42-61 — PB 4 x3
Mega Millions: \$105 million
9-14-40-58-69 — MB 8 x3
Win for Life: March 20
11-23-37-59
Pick 4: March 21
• 1 p.m.: 9-2-3-7
• 4 p.m.: 2-2-2-7
• 7 p.m.: 1-2-0-6
• 10 p.m.: 5-3-7-0
Pick 4: March 20
• 1 p.m.: 4-5-2-5
• 4 p.m.: 0-2-2-3
• 7 p.m.: 2-4-9-4
• 10 p.m.: 3-8-3-0
Pick 4: March 19
• 1 p.m.: 9-2-4-8
• 4 p.m.: 8-2-4-1
• 7 p.m.: 0-3-0-5
• 10 p.m.: 4-0-1-1
DELIVERY ISSUES?
If you have any problems receiving your Observer, call 541-963-3161

OBITUARIES

Jimmie L. Ruth

1940-2021 • Formerly of Perry and La Grande

Jimmie LeRoy Ruth, 80, of Lincoln City and formerly of Perry and La Grande, died March 14.



His ashes will be spread at sea by immediate family at a later date.

Known as Jim, he was born March 23, 1940, in Caldwell, Idaho, to James and Gusta (Fowler) Ruth. He spent his youth in Perry just outside of La Grande and divided his time as a teenager between La Grande and Crescent City, California. He grad-

uated simultaneously from La Grande High School and Del Norte High School in Crescent City in 1958. He entered the U.S. Army just after graduation and spent part of that time serving in Korea.

Jim was many things to many people and would likely be described a little differently by each. He was independent, straightforward, opinionated, stubborn, kind, calming, intelligent, caring, generous of heart and so much more. He lived his life exactly the way he wanted and had no regrets.

He did not want a fuss. He felt that memories were enough, and so they are. All of us who were touched by his life have rich memories. Hopefully,

Surviving relatives include his wife of 27 years, Ginger; daughters, Tamah, Hali and Shalem; and stepchildren, grandchildren, siblings, nephews, nieces and cousins.

Virginia R. Anderson
Union
Virginia R. Anderson, 89, of Union, died March 21 at her home. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Upcoming local services



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

March 23 — GARY GASTON: 2 p.m. livestreamed funeral; view at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

March 24 — TOMMY WEST: 2 p.m. graveside service with military honors, Mount Hope Cemetery, Baker City.

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

Rebecca E. Harper

Rebecca E. Harper, 64, of La Grande, died March 21 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Fauna L. Ollis

Fauna L. Ollis, 89, of Elgin, died March 20 at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

12:24 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a domestic disturbance at a residence on the 100 block of Fir Street. Officers responded, found the parties were arguing and separated them.

1 p.m. — A caller reported vandalism to a trailer on the 76600 block of Bowman Loop, Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and took down information.

1:15 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about identity theft. An officer took a report. A second identity theft complaint came into La Grande PD at 3:37 p.m. An officer made contact.

4:39 p.m. — A caller reported a disturbance on the 2200 block of Penn Avenue, La Grande. Officers responded and counseled one male.

5:20 p.m. — A caller reported a dead calf on the 71700 block of Highway 82, Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and had the calf removed.

9:22 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a possible sex crime. An officer made contact and took down information.

9:51 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 400 block of Grandy Avenue for an assault. Officers separated the parties.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

11:07 a.m. — A caller reported a juvenile on the side of the road on the 71000 block of Highway 82, Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and counseled the juvenile and parent.

12:19 p.m. — A caller reported the theft of a vehicle from the 1200 block of Eighth Street, La Grande. An officer responded and determined this was a civil issue and not criminal.

4:34 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2200 block of Penn Avenue for a possible assault. No one wanted to pursue charges. Police counseled one person.

9:32 p.m. — A caller reported

a person was firing a gun into the air on the 200 block of West Arch Street, Union. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and warned the subjects.

10:30 p.m. — A caller complained about litter on the side of Standley Road, La Grande. A Union County sheriff's deputy found the garbage and took a report.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

1:50 a.m. — A caller reported a disturbance on the 2900 block of Third Street, La Grande. Local law enforcement responded and found the subjects resolved the situation for now. Police took a report.

4:59 a.m. — An officer with the La Grande Police Department saw a couple arguing on the 1900 block of H Street. The officer advised them to keep down the noise.

10:27 a.m. — A caller reported a burglary on the 64400 block of Wolf Creek Lane, North Powder. A Union County sheriff's deputy

responded and took a report.

4:38 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2400 block of Riddle Road on a report of a suspicious male. The subject left before an officer arrived.

6:54 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to Walmart, 11619 Island Ave., Island City, for a male causing a disturbance. The subject left the property.

7:18 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy questioned a male at Walmart, 11619 Island Ave., Island City, for causing a disturbance and warned him for trespassing.

9:28 p.m. — La Grande police responded to a residence on the 1800 block of 26th Street for a person having a mental breakdown. The person went to Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande.

10:19 p.m. — A caller reported the theft of a vehicle from the 1900 block of Cedar Street, La Grande. An officer took a report.

Scholarships available for specialized areas of study

The Observer

HERMISTON — The Northeast Oregon Home Builders Association and Oregon Music Hall of Fame announced the availability of college scholarships for local students.

The Northeast Oregon Home Builders Association is offering two \$1,500 scholarships to help educate and train individuals in a profession related to the building industry. The scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of their potential to succeed.

Applicants must be a

senior enrolled in high school, enrolled as a college student or enrolled in a qualified apprenticeship program. The students must be a resident of Umatilla, Morrow, Union, Baker, or Wallowa County and have an interest in or intend to pursue a career in the construction industry. These professions include, but are not limited to: welding, heating and ventilation, heavy equipment operator, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, concrete, construction management or architecture/

engineering. To learn more about building trade career opportunities, go online to the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council.

Scholarship application forms are available at www.neohba.com, www.columbiabasinstudenthomes.org and local high school counseling offices. The deadline for application is April 16. For more information, email adming@NEOHBA.com.

The Oregon Music Hall of Fame also is offering college scholarships to

students studying music and graduating in spring 2021 from an Oregon high school and continuing to college in the fall of 2021 with a major or minor in music. OMHA strives to inspire the continuing higher musical education by offering assistance with college expenses, so that these music students may aspire to a higher level of performance and success in their field of interest.

A total of four \$2,500 scholarships are available. Application deadline is May 15. Any questions may

be emailed to info@omhof.org. For more information and to access an online version of the application, visit www.omhof.org.

Performances may be viewed on the Oregon Music Hall of Fame YouTube channel of last year's winners: Taylor Yoon, cello, Lakeridge High School, Lake Oswego; Nicholas Weathers, clarinet, McNary High School, Keizer; Avery Hsieh, violin, Corvallis High School; and Isabella Morill, piano/French horn/composition, Warrenton High School.

Baker City man barely avoids wrong-way driver in close call on the freeway

By JAYSON JACOBY

Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — When Terry Bengé saw the silver car speeding straight at him, he scarcely had time to react.

Bengé, who was driving a tow truck, swerved to the shoulder of Interstate 84.

Maybe a second later, the car whizzed past.

Bengé estimates the distance between the car and his truck was a couple feet. "It was close enough I could tell he was clean-shaven," Bengé said.

A few miles farther along the freeway, the driver of the silver car, Logan Deuel-Clinkenbeard, 28, collided with an Oregon State Police SUV driven by Senior Trooper Andrew McClay.

Neither was seriously hurt in the crash, which happened about 2:10 p.m. Friday, March 12, near Milepost 327, about 23 miles east of Baker City near Durkee.

Deuel-Clinkenbeard, whose address was listed as Missoula, Montana, by the

Baker County Jail but who also has a Camas, Washington, address, according to court records, was arrested and charged with second-degree attempted assault, reckless driving and recklessly endangering another person.

Baker County Circuit Court Judge Matt Shircliff on Tuesday, March 16, granted Deuel-Clinkenbeard a conditional release. He is required to stay with his father in Montana and to attend a status check hearing, by phone, April 1.

Bengé, who has worked for Superior Towing in Baker City for about seven months, was driving eastbound, toward Ontario, on the afternoon of March 12.

He said he had just picked up a couple whose car had hit a deer near Milepost 327. He was towing their car to Ontario, and they were riding with him in the tow truck.

Bengé said he was near Ash Grove Cement, where the freeway enters a series of curves in the Burnt River Canyon, when he saw the



Oregon State Police/Contributed Photo

This 2011 Toyota Camry sits on the side of Interstate 84 near milepost 327 on Friday, March 12, 2021, after Logan Deuel-Clinkenbeard drove it the wrong way on the freeway and collided with an Oregon State Police vehicle, the law enforcement agency reported.

silver car, traveling west in the eastbound lanes.

The car was rounding a corner when Bengé saw it. He estimated its speed at more than 90 mph.

"The whole car was lifting to one side from the force," Bengé said.

After the near collision, Bengé continued east to Ontario to drop off the couple, who are from Washington, and their vehicle.

Bengé said his boss, having heard over a police scanner about Deuel-Clinkenbeard's col-

lision with McClay's patrol SUV, radioed him to tell him what had happened.

Bengé ended up towing the OSP vehicle, which suffered major damage, to Baker City.

Bengé said it was his first encounter with a wrong-way driver on the freeway.

Sgt. Craig Rilee of the Baker County Sheriff's Office, who investigated the case and interviewed both McClay and Bengé, wrote in his report that the Baker County Dispatch Center received more than 35 calls to 911 about the wrong-way driver.

It's not clear where Deuel-Clinkenbeard started driving the wrong way, but callers reported the silver car driving west in the eastbound lanes starting around Milepost 342 near the Lime exit.

Deuel-Clinkenbeard then drove through the Burnt River Canyon, which is one of the curviest sections of Interstate 84 in Eastern Oregon, and continued through the Durkee Valley

toward Baker City.

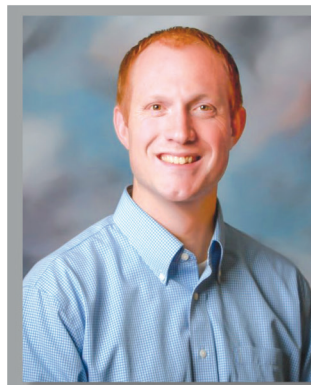
According to Rilee's report, McClay was driving eastbound near Milepost 327 when he saw, about a half mile ahead, a vehicle swerve to avoid colliding with a silver car traveling west. McClay had his emergency lights flashing and his siren blaring.

In his report, Rilee wrote McClay "was unable to safely maneuver out of the path of the oncoming vehicle so he made the decision to stop the wrong way vehicle from continuing the wrong way. The left front of (McClay's) patrol vehicle collided with the left front of the wrong way vehicle."

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