

COMMUNITY

Meetings

LA GRANDE — A special board meeting and work session of the La Grande School District Board of Directors begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 31, in the Central Elementary School library. On the agenda is a review of state updates to Ready Schools, Safe Learners and implementing the new 3-foot physical distance option in the district's schools. Due to physical distancing requirements, the meeting will be accessible to the public online and by phone. For access information, see the agenda posted at [www.lagrandesd.org](http://www.lagrandesd.org) or call 541-663-3200.

Briefs

Walk-ins welcome at community blood drive

LA GRANDE — A community Red Cross blood drive March 30-31 is open to walk-ins. The drive is taking place at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1802 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday. Appointments also are being taken; call Linda Strand at 541-963-4261.

Calling potters with extra inventory

LA GRANDE — Shelter From the Storm is seeking bowls to support its annual Soup Supper fundraiser, which will occur in April. The funds go toward outreach programs and supplies that help the agency in turn to help survivors of domestic abuse. Potters who would like to donate bowls to the event can call the shelter at 541-963-7226.

Master Excel with free online classes

LA GRANDE — Training & Employment Consortium, La Grande, is offering free computer classes, with online interactive Excel courses available in April. Intro to Excel will be taught Tuesday, April 6. Students may then move on to the five-day Intermediate Excel course, held April 7-8 and 13-15. All classes are 8:30-11:30 a.m., and preregistration is required. Call Lynn at 541-963-7942, ext. 4, or email [lynn@tecteam.org](mailto:lynn@tecteam.org) for more information and to register.

— The Observer

Menus

Children's free takeout breakfast and lunch menu

Free breakfast and lunch for anyone age 18 and younger, available on days school is in session. 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. Meals are served at La Grande schools for on-campus students.

MARCH 31-APRIL 2

Central and Island City elementary schools

**Wednesday** — BREAKFAST: strawberry toaster pastry, cheese stick, fruit or juice; LUNCH: Italian meatball sub, celery sticks.

**Thursday** — BREAKFAST: mini-cinnis, canned fruit; LUNCH: chicken Caesar wrap, roll, dark green veggies.

**Friday** — BREAKFAST: cocoa cereal bar, orange juice; LUNCH: corn dog, tator tots, red/orange veggies.

Greenwood Elementary School  
**Wednesday** — BREAKFAST: strawberry toaster pastry, cheese stick, fruit or juice; LUNCH: Italian meatball sub, celery sticks

**Thursday** — BREAKFAST: mini-cinnis, fruit or juice; LUNCH: crispy chicken sandwich, coleslaw, dark green veggies.

**Friday** — mini waffle dog, fruit or juice; LUNCH: pizza, red/orange veggies.

La Grande high and middle schools

**Wednesday** — BREAKFAST: strawberry toaster pastry, cheese stick, canned fruit; LUNCH: chicken quesadilla, salsa with black beans and corn.

**Thursday** — BREAKFAST: oatmeal chocolate chip bar, canned fruit; LUNCH: chicken-bacon-ranch wrap, dark green veggies.

**Friday** — BREAKFAST: strawberry-cream-cheese-filled bagel, orange juice; LUNCH: hot dog, fish crackers, red/orange veggies.

Lottery

**Megabucks:** \$3.6 million  
5-6-25-37-44-47

**Powerball:** \$238 million  
6-14-38-39-65 — PB 6 x3

**Mega Millions:** \$137 million  
4-25-37-46-67 — MB 15 x3

**Win for Life:** March 27  
18-28-35-40

Pick 4: March 28

• 1 p.m.: 7-2-8-9; • 4 p.m.: 5-9-6-9

• 7 p.m.: 9-5-4-6; • 10 p.m.: 5-2-6-1

Pick 4: March 27

• 1 p.m.: 3-7-1-7; • 4 p.m.: 5-8-8-1

• 7 p.m.: 6-8-9-9; • 10 p.m.: 9-9-5-8

Pick 4: March 26

• 1 p.m.: 7-2-5-3; • 4 p.m.: 0-5-3-8

• 7 p.m.: 7-4-6-1; • 10 p.m.: 2-8-7-1

DELIVERY ISSUES?

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

OBITUARY

Gene L. Bolin

1932-2021 • La Grande

Gene L. Bolin, 88, of La Grande, died March 16. At his request, there will not be a service.



Gene was born April 23, 1932, in Elmwood, Oklahoma, to Everett and Mary Bolin. He attended grade school at Dry Creek School in Summerville and graduated from Imbler High School in 1948. In the fall of 1951, Gene joined the U.S. Coast Guard. He was granted a 30-day leave in 1952 and hurried home to marry Shirley L. McDaniel of Imbler.

After Gene was honorably discharged from the Coast Guard in 1954, he moved back to the Grande Ronde Valley, where his son, Mark, was born. The

family in 1957 moved to Baker City, where he was a manager for Standard Oil and his daughter, Vel Donna, was born. In 1959, Gene and his family returned to La Grande, where he managed and later became owner of the Standard Oil station.

Over the course of his life, Gene farmed many crops, including strawberries, raspberries, alfalfa and grass hay. He loved animals and also raised cattle, horses and mules. He had a natural talent for handling mules. He knew how they thought and moved. In 1978, he and his brother, Ralph, brought the first mammoth jacks into the Grande Ronde Valley and began producing "Bolin Mules." He was known as the "mule man" in this valley.

Gene enjoyed packing in hunters every winter with his 23 pack-string mules. He cherished the

friendships he made with many friends and neighbors along with all the hunters who came from far and wide to experience the packing trips. He heard from many that he had the most impressive mule team they had ever seen. It was breathtaking to see all of them moving across the mountain. His proudest moment was when they packed into Idaho and he shot his six-point bull elk.

Gene served for three years in the La Grande Auxiliary Police, and in 2007 he hired on with PTI as a shuttle driver for the railroad. He enjoyed the camaraderie with the railroad engineers. In January 2021, he decided it was time to retire.

Gene was admired for his amazing work ethic by those who knew him and worked with him. He always gave a helping hand when needed. In the summer of 2016, he was

Upcoming local services



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

**April 2 — JIM ROMINE:** 1 p.m. memorial service, Pine Valley Presbyterian Church, Halfway.

**April 9-10 — DOUGLAS CARPER:** 5-7 p.m. April 9 viewing, Loveland Funeral Chapel;

2 p.m. April 10 graveside service, Cove Cemetery (view the livestream at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com)).

**April 10 — BRUCE ARBOGAST:** 11 a.m. graveside service, Cove Cemetery; reception follows at the Cove Sportsman Club.

**April 24 — BECKY ROBERSON:** 2 p.m. celebration of life, Elgin Community Center.

— calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

baptized and accepted Christ as his savior.

Surviving relatives include his daughter, Vel Donna Blanton, and son-in-law, Chris, of La Grande; sister-in-law, Maryanne Bolin La Grande; and seven grandchildren and five

great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley; son, Mark; brother, Ralph; sister, Lola; and parents, Everett and Mary.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com).

Robots, craft kits and after-hours lockers at the library

Lots of news for the library this month. The building is open for browsing, checkout and computer use. For those who aren't able to make it in during open hours, we now have exterior lockers for after hours and weekend pick-up.



ROSE PEACOCK  
OFF THE SHELF

The six lockers are located at the library's Fourth Street entrance. Call for details.

The library is now fine free. You will no longer be charged overdue fines if you don't return items on time. Better yet, all past overdue fines are also forgiven from your account. While we won't charge you late fees, patrons are still responsible for lost and damaged items. Items will also automatically renew on their due date, as long as renewals are

remaining and no other patron has a hold on the item.

Wednesday, April 7, is Library Giving Day. In times of uncertainty, Cook Memorial Library is a community anchor, responding to the needs of our neighbors and friends through enhanced services, robust resources and innovative programming for all. People continue to turn to us for eBooks, virtual storytimes and assistance with finding basic necessities. The library is here for everyone and we hope on April 7 you'll be there for Cook Memorial Library. Donations are accepted at any time; for options of how to support the library, go to [www.cookmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.cookmemoriallibrary.org), click on the "About Us" then choose "Libraries of Union County Foundation."

Craft kits for April are an Oregon's Dino-Story kit from the Museum of Natural and Cultural History for kids and Coloring Page Sun Catchers for teens and

adults. Kits will be available for pick up starting Monday, April 5, while supplies last.

We now have three adorable coding robots available for checkout: Dash, Botley and Code-a-Pillar. These robots allow kids to learn STEM concepts in a fun and interactive way. Dash is controlled through free apps and you need a supported Android or iOS device.

Kids of all ages are invited to play an online, four-week Dungeons & Dragons campaign with Ryan on Saturday mornings. Contact the library for details; space is limited.

Virtual Storytime is on our website and YouTube channel. Dial-a-Story for all ages continues with new selections and can be accessed by calling 541-624-6339.

Genre Book Club for adults meets online Thursday, April 22, at 2 p.m. This month the club will read or listen to a poetry collection to discuss at the gathering. Join at anytime. Email [rpeacock@](mailto:rpeacock@)

[cookmemoriallibrary.org](http://cookmemoriallibrary.org) for the meeting login.

The library's hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday are 10-11 a.m. for at-risk and older individuals and 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for all patrons; and Wednesday noon to 7:30 p.m. for all patrons.

Library visitors are limited to half an hour for browsing and checkout, or one hour for library computer use. Masks are required. If you created an eCard during our closure, you may come in with your current ID and update your account.

The library's Wi-Fi (LGPLWiFi) is on from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. The signal reaches to the building's entrances and the parking lot and does not require a password. Find out more at [www.cookmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.cookmemoriallibrary.org), call 541-962-1339 or stop by 2006 Fourth St., La Grande.

— Rose Peacock oversees adult services at Cook Memorial Library, La Grande.

Local students win trade and lineman school scholarships

The Observer

BAKER CITY — Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative in a press release announced the recipients of this year's trade and lineman scholarships.

Aidan Patton of Imbler was awarded a \$5,000 OTEC scholarship to pursue a career as a lineman, and Riley Youngblood of North Powder received a \$2,500 scholarship to attend trade school. "We are pleased to award these scholar-

ships to help support these students as they pursue their career paths and gain the valuable skills needed for in-demand jobs in the trades or in the electric utility industry," said Joe Hathaway, OTEC communications manager, in the release. "Member-owned cooperatives like OTEC are, by their very nature, community partners and we have always been proud to



Patton



Youngblood

support the educational goals of local students and give back to the communities in our service territory."

Scholarship winners are selected from a pool of candidates from OTEC's service territory in Baker, Grant, Harney and Union counties. Scholarship funds come from unclaimed capital credits.

Other regional students who earned awards

are Nolan Scheen of Burns (\$5,000 lineman scholarship), and Katie Hire of John Day and Jacob Swindlehurst of Burns (\$2,500 trade scholarship each).

"Lineman schools and trade schools provide excellent opportunities for those who don't want to pursue college, but want to learn marketable skills, work in an interesting living-wage job and carry little or no student debt," Hathaway added.

Applications for both trade and lineman school

scholarships are open year-round. You can apply at [www.otec.coop/](http://www.otec.coop/) scholarships.

OTEC also offers academic scholarship. The 2021 recipients will be announced this spring.

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative that serves more than 60,000 residents in Eastern Oregon. With headquarters in Baker City, OTEC has district offices in Burns, John Day and La Grande.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

5:23 a.m. — La Grande police arrested Vonell Lenn Edwards, 43, for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

11 a.m. — A caller on the 700 block of South Second Street, Union, made a complaint about an animal. An animal enforcement officer responded and issued a warning.

12:45 p.m. — Law enforcement responded to a report of a fight between relatives on the 100 block of South 20th Avenue, Elgin. Oregon State Police resolved the situation.

3:18 p.m. — A caller complained about noise on the 1400 block of Balm Street, La Grande. An officer responded and told the occupant to keep down the noise.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

12:30 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2200 block of Adams

Avenue on a noise complaint and warned the subjects about the volume.

8:38 a.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about an ongoing problem with a vehicle parked the wrong way at Third Street and X Avenue. An officer cited the vehicle.

11:13 a.m. — A caller reported vandalism on the 1500 block of X Avenue, La Grande. An officer responded and took a report.

12:26 p.m. — A caller reported vandalism to a vehicle on the 500 block of North Main Street, Union. A Union County sheriff's deputy took a report.

1:03 p.m. — A caller reported the theft of a dirt bike from the 54700 block of Highway 237, Union. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and took a report.

9:07 p.m. — Union County sheriff's deputies

responded to the 66000 block of Gekeler Lane, La Grande, for a domestic disturbance. This also did not rise to the level of a mandatory arrest.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

2:22 p.m. — A caller reported a juvenile causing a disturbance on the 69000 block of Pumpkin Ridge Road, Summerville. A Union County sheriff's deputy made contact, and the caller would seek counseling for the juvenile.

6:08 p.m. — A caller reported a power line was sparking on Fruitdale Lane, La Grande.

9:06 p.m. — Local law enforcement continued to receive calls related to the storm that blew through the region, including a report from the 2900 block of Misty Avenue, La Grande, of a possible burglary that turned out to be noise from the weather.



Turning 65?  
We're here to help!

Joel Myer  
[jmyer@valleyinsurance.com](mailto:jmyer@valleyinsurance.com)



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(541) 963-3121

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mystery out of  
Medicare for you!

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