

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• **UNION** — The Union Rural Fire Protection District will have its monthly board meeting Tuesday, April 20, at 7 p.m. at the fire hall. For more information, contact Kim George, Union RFPD clerk, at 541-910-3114 or union.rfpd@outlook.com.
 • **IMBLER** — The Imbler School District Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, April 20, beginning at 7 p.m. in room 1 of the high school. The agenda includes an executive session to discuss labor negotiations.

Briefs

Bike swap includes bike safety 'rodeo' and door prizes

LA GRANDE — La Grande Parks and Recreation and the Safe Routes to School Program are holding a bike swap at Pioneer Park Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event gives the community the opportunity to buy, sell or trade their used bicycles. There also will be a bike safety course, known as a bike safety "rodeo," where children can learn bicycle safety. Children must have their own bicycle and helmet to participate. In addition, door prizes will be drawn every hour. To preregister, contact Jessie Wilson, Safe Routes to School coordinator, at srts@cityoflagrande.org or 541-962-0514. Registration also will be available at the event.

Lottery

Megabucks: \$1.3 million
 3-9-10-19-34-35
Powerball: \$55 million
 14-16-23-50-53 — PB 3 x2
Mega Millions: \$220 million
 10-15-19-45-68 — MB 9 x2
Win for Life: April 12
 2-13-49-57
Pick 4: April 13
 • 1 p.m.: 1-9-0-8
 • 4 p.m.: 8-6-6-6
 • 7 p.m.: 0-5-2-6
 • 10 p.m.: 6-9-6-6
Pick 4: April 12
 • 1 p.m.: 5-8-9-1
 • 4 p.m.: 8-5-5-3
 • 7 p.m.: 4-4-7-3
 • 10 p.m.: 9-2-8-8

DELIVERY ISSUES?

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

OBITUARY

Ronald L. Olsen

1946-2021 • Elgin

Ronald Lee Olsen, 74, of Elgin, passed away April 9 at his residence. A celebration of his life will be held at the end of July.

Known as Ron, he was born Aug. 24, 1946, in Pendleton, to Bernard and Winnie (Morse) Olsen. He was raised in Pendleton and graduated from Pendleton High School. Ron married Joyce Needham in 2003.

Ron was employed with Boise Cascade. He enjoyed car racing, four-wheeling and spending time with his family and especially his grandchildren.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Joyce; children and their spouses, Michael Olsen and Susan Wood of Iowa and Geoffrey and Stacia Olsen of St. Cloud, Minnesota; stepson, Mikel Hicks

and wife, Jamie, of La Grande; sisters and brothers-in-law, Bonnie Roberts of Walla Walla, Washington, Terrie and Tom Lapp of Pendleton, and Durinda and Ron Mann of Kennewick, Washington; and seven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bernard and Winnie; brother, Rodney Dee Olsen; and sister, Billie Jean Olsen.

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

Michael L. 'Larry' Keffer

La Grande

Michael Lawrence "Larry" Keffer, 79, of La Grande, died April 13 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Upcoming local services



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

April 18 — LARRY ROBBINS: 2 p.m. virtual celebration of life; contact family for details.

April 24 — RICHARD BIDWELL: 2 p.m. graveside service, Elgin Cemetery.

April 24 — BECKY ROBERSON: 2 p.m. celebration of life, Elgin Com-

munity Center.

May 1 — MICHELLE SANDOVAL: 10 a.m. celebration of life, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

May 17 — JERRY BROOKSHIRE: 2 p.m. graveside service, Union Historic Cemetery; reception follows at Catherine Creek Community Center, Union.

June 26 — DAVID COUNCIL: 1 p.m. celebration of life, North Powder City Park.

— calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Monday, April 12

9:44 a.m. — A caller reported possible animal abuse on the 1600 block of Seventh Street, La Grande. An animal enforcement officer responded and counseled the parties involved.

2:35 p.m. — La Grande police responded to Max Square in downtown on a report of suspicious circumstances. Officers took a report.

3:31 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2600 block of Bearco Loop on a call about a domestic disturbance. Officers determined the situation did not rise to the level of mandatory arrest and separated the parties.

7:46 p.m. — A caller reported a dead dog at Y Avenue and Birch Street, La Grande. An officer

responded and took the dog to the Blue Mountain Humane Association, La Grande.

Tuesday, April 13

7:45 a.m. — A caller on the 2600 block of Island Avenue, La Grande, made a complaint about theft of services. An officer responded and took a report.

10 a.m. — A caller reported two horses missing from the 800 block of West Arch Street, Union.

4:20 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to the 1300 block of South Main Street, Union, for neighbors having an issue. The deputy counseled the parties and gave them options.

6:18 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the

area of Adams Avenue and Depot Street for a person yelling obscenities. An officer counseled the subject.

6:47 p.m. — La Grande police responded to a residence on the 2200 block of Island Avenue on a report of indecent exposure. The officer was not able to find the subject.

10:02 p.m. — Union County sheriff's deputies responded to a residence on the 800 block of North 15th Avenue, Elgin, for a domestic disturbance. The deputies determined the situation did not rise to the level for an arrest and separated the parties.

Recent Oregon State Police activity

April 7, 12:56 p.m. — A trooper responded to the westbound side of Interstate 84 after a semi-

trailer nearly crashed into an Oregon Department of Transportation crew conducting a slowdown near milepost 248.

The trooper stopped the big rig about 24 miles down the road, interviewed witnesses and cited the driver, Ariel Garcia Martin, 26, of San Antonio, Texas, for reckless driving and reckless endangering of highway workers.

April 7, 5:48 p.m. — A trooper stopped a Toyota Sequoia heading east on Interstate 84 near milepost 269 after multiple driving complaints. The trooper subsequently arrested Sharon Lynn Callen, 63, of Lake Oswego, for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

April 8, 11:10 p.m. — Oregon State Police troopers responded to

the area of milepost 271 on the eastbound side of I-84 for a vehicle that struck an elk in the road.

Two other vehicles also struck the elk. No one was injured, but two of the vehicles needed to be towed.

April 8, 11:37 p.m. — Troopers responded to the westbound side of I-84 near milepost 252 for a driver heading the wrong way.

OSP caught the Ford F150 pickup near milepost 259 and turned on lights and sirens, but the driver would not stop and continued east before La Grande police found the vehicle a short time later.

A trooper spoke with the driver and subsequently arrested Warren Lee Alworth, 47, of Portland, for DUII and reckless driving.

Student-led program fights food insecurity at EOU

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The "starving college student" is an image that lived too strongly in the mind of political science major Keegan Sanchez, so he worked to change the stigma.

Upon returning to college from military training for his junior year, Sanchez, president of the Associated Students of Eastern Oregon University, found himself in need of food swipes at EOU.

He was financially unable to purchase swipes and realized he had become one of the many college students who struggles to afford food while completing their post-secondary education.

Refusing to believe he was the only one in the area facing this problem, he worked with ASEOU and the food services company Sodexo to bring the Swipe Out Hunger program to EOU and provide support for many of the students



Eastern Oregon University/Contributed Photo

The "starving college student" is an image that lived too strongly in the mind of political science major Keegan Sanchez, so he worked to change the stigma.

who found themselves in similar situations.

"We've created a swipe bank, in which Sodexo will donate one swipe per mandatory meal swipe on campus to populate the bank initially," Sanchez said.

Working with ASEOU, Sanchez and other committee members plan to

hold events for the further collection of swipes. Noticing that many students had unused meal swipes when the terms ended, Sanchez found a way to use all swipes, so none went to waste.

"We will host swipe drives where we'll ask students with meal plans to donate up to 10 swipes a

term," said Sanchez. "Then, we will use those meal swipes we collect and give them out to students who are facing food insecurity so they have something to eat."

He also felt it was important to include that all students are welcome to apply. As the case manager, it is his duty to see all of the students who apply. Upon first application it is a no-questions-asked policy. Although Sanchez is aware he will be unable to feed a student for a full term, he said he hopes he will be able to help those who need it most.

"It's no questions asked. The first time you apply, I'm not even going to think twice, I'm just going to click approve and put your information down. Once you start requesting more, we'll start requesting more information and providing additional resources. I don't see a situation where I'll ever say no to a student," he said.

Community food project takes root with grant

By BILL BRADSHAW
 Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Supporters of the Wallowa County Food Bank are working to raise an additional \$500 toward a project to help feed and inform the needy about food resources after the receipt of a \$1,075 grant for the effort, according to a press release.

A new project emerged March 16 when more than 25 community members gathered in the online Wallowa County FEAST (Food, Education and Agriculture Solutions Together) event and has received seed funds to launch the project. The FEAST grant will pay about two-thirds of the project, which is expected to cost \$1,575, the release stated.

During the March 16 event, panelists told about opportunities and challenges in local farming, food distribution and food access. Participants also broke into small groups for more in-depth discussion and idea sharing.

A challenge that came up in all four break-out groups was local access to fresh, healthy foods by people on a limited budget. One idea to address this challenge has now grown roots into a new project.

"The challenge of accessing nutritious food on a limited budget has come up in all three FEAST events held since 2012," said Sara Miller, a

FEAST Leadership Team member of the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District.

"It is exciting to see this collaborative project coming together to help all of us know about and be able to share information that can benefit our communities," said Katy Nesbitt, of St Patrick's Episcopal Church, the sponsor of this year's FEAST event.

The project will share information on food programs/services and transportation services available to people with lower incomes in Wallowa County. Information such as where to apply and who can offer support in the application process, locations of food banks and food box programs, what local establishments accept state and federal benefits such as SNAP and WIC and ways to support local food programs will be included.

The project will work with the many organizations providing resources to gather information and develop a flyer that can be handed out and posted on websites and social media. In addition, an info-mailer will be direct mailed to every mailbox.

Project organizers hope that sharing the information will ensure many more people know about these essential resources and ways to support them, and that people will also feel empowered to share the information with others.

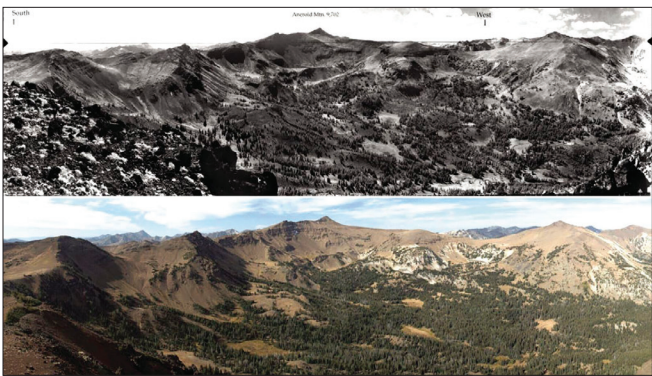
'Fire Stories' exhibit coming to Joseph Center

The Observer

JOSEPH — The Joseph Center for Arts and Culture announced it is exhibiting "Fire Stories" April 23 to June 15.

The exhibit showcases photos taken from fire towers with Osborne panoramic cameras 80 years ago paired with modern replications from photographer/naturalist John F. Marshall. The contrasts show how fire and fire suppression have changed the landscapes of the Wallowa and Blue mountains.

"Fire Stories" is an exploration of wildfire in Northwest landscapes, according to the release. As humans, our relationship with fire is tangled with how we live on the land and use its resources, the release stated. American Indians long learned to live with fire and made it useful. European settlement brought a different sensibility and the tools and organization to control fire. Little was it known how fire is essential to the function of nature, and in attempting to eliminate fire, man has



Contributed Photos

The top photo, from the U.S. Forest Service in 1936, and the bottom one, from John F. Marshall in 2018, view the Wallowa Mountains in the Eagle Cap Wilderness and show the changes wildfire made on the landscape.

brought worse fire on, the release said.

How does nature live with fire, and how can we? According to the release, these are questions that cannot be ignored in this unprecedented time. This exhibit will provide some answers and stimulate more thought and discussion.

There will be a limited opening at 7 p.m. Friday, April 23, first-come, first-served, as the Joseph Center is authorized for just 31 visitors. There will be unlimited access via Zoom. For more information, call

the center at 541-432-0505 or visit www.josephy.org.

In addition to the exhibit at the center, 403 N. Main St., Joseph, two fire pro-

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