

COMMUNITY

Meetings

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Rural Fire District's board will have a budget committee meeting Tuesday, May 11, at 6 p.m. at the fire hall in Island City. Call 541-910-3114 for more information.

Briefs

Imbler School Board candidate forum is Wednesday

IMBLER — The Imbler School District is hosting a forum for the candidates running for school board Thursday, May 6, at 7 p.m. at the high school. The forum will give people an opportunity to meet the candidates and learn a bit about each one. Masks and social distancing are required.

'ScreenAgers' virtual events set

LA GRANDE — The Union County Safe Communities Coalition invites parents and other community members to view a free livestream of the movie "ScreenAgers: Growing Up in the Digital Age" Thursday, May 6, at 6:30 p.m. A virtual Q&A session will follow the viewing.

A second film, "ScreenAgers: Next Chapter, Uncovering Skills for Stress Resilience," will livestream Tuesday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m.

To register for the virtual events, go to www.ucsafecommunities.org/upcoming-events. For more information, email ucsafecommunities@gmail.com or call 541-963-1068.

Public can view ballot counter test

LA GRANDE — The public is welcome to observe the "Logic and Accuracy" test of the ballot counter that will be used for the May 18 special districts election.

This test will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 11, at the Union County Clerk's Office, 1001 Fourth St., Suite D, La Grande. Space is limited, but as many observers as possible will be accommodated. Call the clerk's office at 541-963-1006 for more information.

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 Tuesday, May 18, is baked chicken, mac and cheese, peas and carrots, green salad, rolls and peach cobbler. There is a \$5 charge per meal. If you haven't been contacted, call Imie Bristow at 541-568-4545 by Wednesday, May 12, to order your meal.

Lottery

- Megabucks:** \$2.1 million
27-34-35-39-40-42
- Powerball:** \$129 million
35-36-47-61-63 — PB 3 x3
Mega Millions: \$319 million
8-19-26-48-49 — MB 5 x3
- Win for Life: May 1**
8-28-33-54
- Pick 4: May 2**
• 1 p.m.: 8-5-2-0; • 4 p.m.: 3-6-8-6
• 7 p.m.: 4-2-0-1; • 10 p.m.: 1-4-2-6
- Pick 4: May 1**
• 1 p.m.: 3-8-5-5; • 4 p.m.: 1-5-8-0
• 7 p.m.: 9-0-4-7; • 10 p.m.: 9-3-1-1
- Pick 4: April 30**
• 1 p.m.: 2-6-4-7; • 4 p.m.: 6-0-2-8
• 7 p.m.: 5-1-9-7; • 10 p.m.: 9-8-1-7

DELIVERY ISSUES?

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

EOU hosts math conference

The Observer
LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University math professor Amy Yielding recently cohosted the Pacific Inland Mathematics Undergraduate Conference for college students to present their original math research.

This was the first year EOU hosted the event, which more than 13 colleges and universities attended April 10.

Cash prizes went to the top speakers thanks to the Pacific Northwest Section of the Mathematical Association of America and Pi Mu Epsilon.

Learn more about the EOU mathematics program at eou.edu/math.

Mark A. Strickland

1960-2021 • Elgin

Mark Allan Strickland, 61, of Elgin, died April 20 at his home. Arrangements are by Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home, Milton-Freewater.



Mark was born Jan. 17, 1960, in Walla Walla, Washington, to Steve and Betty Lou (Postlewait) Strickland. He attended Milton-Freewater schools.

Mark worked for the city of Milton-Freewater at the age of 16. When he moved to Lake Tahoe, Nevada, he worked at various jobs including for Heavenly Valley Ski Resort as a snowcat mechanic and for various construction firms. Mark later worked for his brother, Kim Strickland, for many years then started working for himself. He loved to do concrete work, sprinkler systems, chain link fences, pole buildings and numerous decks and remodels.

Mark met his future wife, Pam, in Elgin. They were married April 8, 1994, in La Grande and had three children: Michael, Shelby and Shannon. Mark also had a daughter from a previous marriage: Shayley.

Mark's passion was fishing. He also loved his hound dogs that he used for bobcat hunting. He loved hunting season. He was an archery hunter and enjoyed hunting with his son and daughters. Mark purchased a sailboat and enjoyed sailing and fishing on Wallowa Lake.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Pam, of Elgin; daughters and sons-in-law, Shayley and Chad Fisher of Milton-Freewater, Shelby Strickland of Junction City, Kansas, and Shannon and Josey Murry

of Elgin; mother, Betty Lou Wales, and father, Steve Strickland, of Milton-Freewater; sisters and brothers-in-law, Gini and Bob Davis and Rhonda and Cliff McReynolds; brother, Kim Strickland; and six grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his son, Michael; grandparents; and two aunts and one great-aunt.

To leave an online condolence visit www.munsellerhodes.com.

Charlene V. (Smith) Hall

1948-2021 • Formerly of La Grande
Charlene Valetta Hall, 72, formerly of La Grande, died April 28 at Chaplaincy Hospice House in Kennewick, Washington.



A graveside service will be held May 5 at 1 p.m. at Grandview Cemetery, La Grande.

Charlene was born Sept. 14, 1948, to Harvey and Ida (Sherman) Smith in La Grande. She spent her childhood in La Grande, graduating high school in 1966. She married her high school sweetheart, Donald Eugene "Butch" Hall on Dec. 31, 1966. She was widowed in 2011.

Through their years together Charlene and Don raised two children: Rhonda and Jeff. They had the opportunity to travel and live many different places. Her greatest joy was the time spent with her grandchildren. Charlene's favorite place to spend time with family and friends was the beach.

Surviving relatives include her children, Rhonda and Jeff; three grandchildren; siblings, Carl and Christine; sisters-in-law, Linda, Jacque and Monaca; and brother-in-law, Jay.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Don; parents, Harvey and Ida;

OBITUARIES

and siblings, David, Maxine and Roger.

Cecle R. DeFries

1997-2021 • Union

Cecle Rex "Jr." DeFries, 23, of Union, died April 27 as a result of a motor vehicle accident in Union County. A celebration of his life will be held May 23 at 2 p.m. at the Union High School football field. Casual dress is preferred by the family.



Cecle was born July 17, 1997, in Brighton, Colorado, to Nick DeFries and Addie (Savoie) Hammond. He resided in Union and graduated in 2016 from Union High School, where he participated on the wrestling, football and track teams. Cecle served in the U.S. Army as an Infantry PV2. He proudly received the Army Service Ribbon and National Defense Service Medal.

Cecle was employed as a farmhand. While in high school he was an FFA member, and he loved to weld, show animals and drive tractors. His favorite activities were hunting, fishing, being outdoors and fast driving. He lived like there was no tomorrow. Cecle was a loving father, son, brother and friend and made an impact on those he met. He played rough and tough but had a kind, caring heart and soul. His daughters brought out the best in him. He loved his mama and his daughters with every ounce of his being.

Surviving relatives include his daughters, Payton and Aurora DeFries of Baker City; mother and partner, Addie and Rick Hammond of Union; father and partner, Nick DeFries and Katie Sim-

mons of Union; siblings, Caitlin DeFries of Union, Jordan DeFries of Union, Tyler DeFries of Union, Levi Hammond of La Grande, Ty Hammond of La Grande, and Hailey Hammond of Union; aunts, Kira Martinez, Shanna Riomondo and Becca Riomondo; uncles, Chris DeFries and wife, Candice, Eddie Savoie and Levi Tatkenhorst; grandmother, Georgeann Savoie; grandparents, Debbie and Ralph Riomondo, Jim and Connie DeFries, and Jerry and Carol Hansen; and one nephew.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, George Donahou; great-grandmother, Barbara DeFries; and great-grandfathers, Charlie DeFries and Roy Wilkes.

Upcoming local services



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

May 5 — CHARLENE HALL: 1 p.m. graveside service, Grandview Cemetery, La Grande.

May 7 — BOB GREGORY: 2 p.m. graveside service, Grandview Cemetery, La Grande; view the livestream at www.loveland-funeralchapel.com (click on "Funeral Videos" near bottom of home page).

May 8 — DONNA DOUD: 11 a.m. graveside service, Summerville Cemetery.

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

Center, Union.
May 22 — BRUCE HILDE: noon memorial service, Skyview Cemetery, between Pendleton and Pilot Rock; celebration of life lunch follows (RSVP by May 8 by emailing BruceHildeMemorial@gmail.com).

May 23 — CECLE DEFRIES: 2 p.m. celebration of life, Union High School football field (casual dress preferred).

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

June 26 — SALLY TOUCHE-MOSER: 1-3 p.m. celebration of life open house, 404 Depot St., Enterprise.

June 27 — MERI OLMSTEAD: 1 p.m. memorial service, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

— *calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande*

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

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Bob W. Gregory

Bob W. Gregory, 92, of La Grande, died May 1 at his residence. A graveside service will be held May 7 at 2 p.m. at Grandview Cemetery, La Grande. Attendees must wear a mask and practice social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines. The graveside service will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend; go to www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com and click on "Funeral Videos" near the bottom of the home page just before 2 p.m. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

9:30 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a possible sex crime in Union.

10:55 a.m. — A caller complained about a dog on the loose at Sixth Street and O Avenue, La Grande. An animal enforcement officer responded and returned the dog to its owner.

10:58 a.m. — A caller complained about two dogs at large at Crook Avenue and Second Street, La Grande. An animal enforcement officer responded and took the dogs to the Blue Mountain Humane Association shelter, La Grande.

4 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of horses on the loose on the 1000 block of West Birch Street, Union.

9:22 p.m. — A caller reported a possible disturbance on the 90 block of North 17th Avenue, Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and determined the subject had mental health issues. The person denied any assistance.

9:55 p.m. — La Grande police received a report about someone threatening to damage vehicles on the 300 block of 20th Street. An officer made contact and provided extra patrols.

SATURDAY, MAY 1

4 a.m. — La Grande police responded to a residence on the 1800 block of G Avenue on a report of

a loud party. The subjects turned off the music.

11:56 a.m. — A caller reported a fight at Walmart, 11619 Island Ave., Island City. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and separated the parties.

12:14 p.m. — La Grande police stopped a vehicle on the 3000 block of Island Avenue, La Grande, and arrested Tyler Ray Ruiz, 25, of La Grande, on a probation violation with an additional charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

1:15 p.m. — A caller reported a theft from a storage unit at a residence on the 500 block of Center Street, North Powder. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and took information.

3:41 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of someone trying to break into a residence on the 100 block of North 17th Avenue, Elgin. A deputy responded and trespassed a person from three residences.

10:02 p.m. — A caller reported a possible theft of a vehicle from the 1900 block of Cedar Street, La Grande. An officer contacted the caller.

11:25 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy contacted an Elgin resident on a report of suspicious activity. The deputy took information and issued a warning for the misuse of 911.

SUNDAY, MAY 2

1:03 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a possible underage drinking party on the 500 block of Center Street, North Powder. A deputy counseled subjects at the scene.

5:37 a.m. — A caller reported the theft of a vehicle from the 500 block of Second Street, La Grande. An officer made contact and took information.

10:41 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the intersection of 21st Street and L Avenue for a vehicle crash. Police subsequently arrested Lance William Couvillion, 20, for first-degree hit-and-run, first-degree criminal mischief and driving under the influence of intoxicants.

4:19 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to a report of trespassers on the 11200 block of Keltz Lane, La Grande. The property owner gave them two days to get off the site.

7:56 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of juveniles throwing rocks on the 1700 block of Washington Street. An officer responded but did not find the youths.

8:36 p.m. — A caller reported an intoxicated person walking in the road on the 1700 block of Gekeler Lane, La Grande. An officer arrived and advised the person to stay off the road.

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jmyer@valleyinsurance.com

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