

TODAY

On Jan. 27, 1967, astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White and Roger B. Chaffee died in a flash fire during a test aboard their Apollo spacecraft.

In 1756, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria.

In 1880, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp.

In 1888, the National Geographic Society was incorporated in Washington, D.C.

In 1944, during World War II, the Soviet Union announced the complete end of the deadly German siege of Leningrad, which had lasted for more than two years.

In 1945, during World War II, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.

In 1973, the Vietnam peace accords were signed in Paris.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, greeted the 52 former American hostages released by Iran at the White House.

In 2006, Western Union delivered its last telegram.

In 2010, Apple CEO Steve Jobs unveiled the iPad tablet computer during a presentation in San Francisco. J.D. Salinger, the reclusive author of "The Catcher in the Rye," died in Cornish, New Hampshire, at age 91.

In 2013, Flames raced through a crowded nightclub in southern Brazil, killing 242 people.

In 2018, a suicide bombing in the Afghan capital of Kabul killed more than 100 people; the attacker was driving an ambulance full of explosives and raced through a security checkpoint after saying he was transferring a patient to a hospital.

In 2020, China confirmed more than 2,700 cases of the new coronavirus with more than 80 deaths in that country; authorities postponed the end of the Lunar New Year holiday to keep the public at home. U.S. health officials said they believed the risk to Americans remained low and that they had no evidence that the new virus was spreading in the United States; they advised Americans to avoid non-essential travel to any part of China.

Today's Birthdays: Actor James Cromwell is 82. Rock musician Nick Mason (Pink Floyd) is 78. R&B singer Nedra Talley (The Ronettes) is 76. Ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov is 74. Latin singer-songwriter Djavan is 73. U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts is 67. Country singer Cheryl White is 67. Country singer-musician Richard Young (The Kentucky Headhunters) is 67. Actor Mimi Rogers is 66. Rock musician Janick Gers (Iron Maiden) is 65. Actor Susanna Thompson is 64. Political and sports commentator Keith Olbermann is 63. Rock singer Margo Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 61. Rock musician Gillian Gilbert is 61. Actor Tamlyn Tomita is 59. Actor Bridget Fonda is 58. Actor Alan Cumming is 57. Country singer Tracy Lawrence is 54. Rock singer Mike Patton is 54. Rapper Tricky is 54. Rock musician Michael Kulas (James) is 53. Actor-comedian Patton Oswalt is 53. Actor Josh Randall is 50. Country singer Kevin Denney is 44. Tennis player Marat Safin is 42. Rock musician Matt Sanchez (American Authors) is 36. Actor Braeden Lemasters is 26.

LOTTERY

Monday, Jan. 24, 2022
Megabucks
 7-11-13-37-41-47
 Estimated jackpot: \$8.7 million
Lucky Lines
 1-6-10-13-17-21-27-31
 Estimated jackpot: \$11,000
Win for Life
 4-6-38-42
Pick 4
 1 p.m.: 4-4-9-7
 4 p.m.: 7-3-3-6
 7 p.m.: 9-7-9-9
 10 p.m.: 7-1-1-8
Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022
Mega Millions
 3-12-38-53-58
 Mega Ball: 13
 Megaplier: 3
 Estimated jackpot: \$396 million
Lucky Lines
 2-8-12-16-17-22-28-31
 Estimated jackpot: \$12,000
Pick 4
 1 p.m.: 9-6-3-6
 4 p.m.: 4-7-3-1
 7 p.m.: 9-9-5-4
 10 p.m.: 8-4-3-7



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Art Center East's Co-op Gallery showcases The Big annual open exhibit on Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, in La Grande.

Art Center East to rename its Co-op Gallery

Vote now to decide which local artist the Co-op Gallery will be named after

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — An election is underway, one which is giving people a chance to honor and reflect upon the lives and contributions of popular artists from Union County's recent past.

The election is for the renaming of Art Center East's Co-op Gallery. Four Union County artists who were nominated to become the gallery's namesake are on the ballot.

"The beautiful part of this process is that it honors individuals and brings an awareness of them," said Darcy Dolge, executive director of Art Center East.

The candidates, all of whom were nominated posthumously, are Dennis "Craig" Canoy, an art teacher and painter; Kat Galloway, an Eastern Oregon University art instructor who also taught children; Tom Madden, a poet and EOU writing and journalism professor; and Sue Orlaske, a biologist who was also a ceramic artist.

The Art Center East staff asked the families of all four nominees for permission to place their names on the ballot.

Dolge said that several artists were invited to also be on the ballot but the families declined. They asked not to be on the ballot after learning of who had already been nominated.

"It was a beautiful thing," Dolge said.

If people would like to add an artist or art supporter to the ballot, this will be done if at least 10 individuals nominate the person by emailing Art Center East at info@art-centereast.org.

People can vote by going on to Art Center East's website, www.art-centereast.org, by calling the art center at 541-

624-2800, or in-person by coming to Art Center East's building at 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande. ACE is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Votes will be accepted through midnight on Thursday, March 10.

People are asked to vote just once but nobody will be checking to see if individuals are voting multiple times.

"It is on the honor system," Dolge said.

She said the results will have greater impact if the one-vote rule is followed.

"If I vote five times it is not as meaningful as when I vote once and four others also vote," Dolge said.

She said a difficult selection process awaits voters.

"There is no wrong choice because this is such a beautiful group of people," Dolge said.

The winner will be announced on Friday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m. during the Fiber Arts & Jewelry Exhibit's closing reception at the art center.

Following are brief looks at the candidates based on information provided by their families on Art Center East's website.

Dennis "Craig" Canoy

Canoy taught art and design at Hillsboro High School for three decades. He moved to La Grande in the 1990s after retiring.

Canoy

A pastel painter, he focused on depicting the beauty of the natural world. He exhibited his work in three galleries in Oregon, including Portland State's Littman Gallery, the Kathrin Cawein Gallery of Art at Pacific University and Peterson's Gallery in Baker City.

Canoy, who died in

2020 and was a University of Oregon graduate, left his art collection to ACE for the purpose of fundraising. The pieces in his collection are his own works and those of regional artists.

Kat Galloway

Galloway was an art professor at Eastern Oregon University where she taught printmaking and drawing starting in 1998.

Galloway

According to information submitted, Galloway had an encouraging teaching style, and "her students were able to find within them a way to overcome the impossible to not only create art but to also deeply appreciate art."

Galloway, as an educator, also worked with younger art students. For example, she was a big supporter of Central Elementary School's Art Literacy program.

Galloway was also a leader of the Union County Arts and Culture Center, which merged with ArtsEast in 2015 to become Art Center East. She played an important role in the process of Art Center East leasing the city's old Carnegie Library building, which ACE is now located in.

Thomas "Tom" Madden

Madden was a poet, writer and teacher.

Madden

Madden taught English, writing and journalism at Eastern Oregon University for 25 years and led poetry workshops at Art Center East after his retirement from EOU in 2000.

He enjoyed teaching community members to

write poems about many subjects, especially the natural environment, helping them craft short pieces about landscape, seasons, weather, plants and animals. He emphasized a constructive, friendly atmosphere in his classes and workshops, according to his family.

Early in his career, he worked as a reporter for several newspapers, including the Oregonian. Madden published three collections of poems: "Graves in Wheat" (1998), "Lessons for Custer" (2006) — a finalist for the Western Writers of America Spur Award in 2007 — and "This Dialect of Grass," which was published posthumously in 2019.

Sue Orlaske

A biologist who had no formal art training but had a lifelong interest in art, Orlaske became a full-time artist in the 1990s when she moved to Union County.

Orlaske

She produced ceramic art as well as two-dimensional art. Her themes often included abstract and representational natural elements — Eastern Oregon landscapes, critters, and plants.

She became well known in Northeastern Oregon for the quality of her work and for her willingness to help and teach others, according to her family. She was a member and actively involved with three art co-ops: Art Center East, Valley Art in Forest Grove and Crossroads in Baker City.

Orlaske won several regional art awards and was a featured artist on Oregon Public Broadcasting's Oregon Art Beat. Her work has been carried by several galleries in Oregon and Southern Washington.

As if it never happened

New law will expunge juvenile arrest records

By ALEX WITTWER

EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — A new law passed in the 2021 legislative session in Oregon is now taking effect, and will automatically expunge juvenile arrest records of everyone who turns 18.

Senate Bill 575, otherwise known as the Youth Expunction Reform Act, saw wide support in the Senate, passing 54-1 on Sept. 25, 2021, with the lone nay vote by Rep. Cedric Hayden of Oregon District 7.

Under this new law, notices will be sent to teenagers who have records with the juvenile department on their 18th birthday, notifying them of the expunction. The new law does not affect convictions, only arrest records and other records relating to a juvenile's arrest.

Nor is the law retroactive — anyone who is already 18 or older will have to file a request with the juvenile department through existing application processes for expungement in order to have their record cleared.

"Choices have consequences. Lord knows I made (mistakes) when I was a kid that had some pretty negative consequences," said Union County Sheriff Cody Bowen. "But I don't think they should be held over a kid's head. Once they learn from their mistake and pay for the consequences, if they turn 18 and it goes away, I'm all for that."

Bowen spoke from experience — in his youth, he was cited for disorderly conduct. A framed record of that 1993 citation hangs in his office as a reminder that people can change course in life.

He said that most juvenile criminal cases can be addressed through education, structure and consequence at the home. If the home life of a juvenile does not provide those elements, then the juvenile department can provide them, he said. Bowen noted that in some serious crimes, like ones that victimize a person, should stick for a considerable amount of time, if not life in certain circumstances.

The new law does not affect records relating to serious crimes such as assault, manslaughter and other sexual or violent crimes. It also does not affect education transcripts or medical records not related to insanity pleas. Those records will remain with the juvenile department and are exempt from expungement.

Under the new law, people with prior arrest records that are expunged will be able to say that the arrest never happened without having to file paperwork with the juvenile department. However, they will still have records for any federal-level arrests, which operate on a different system.

That distinction is important for individuals in the system if they seek out careers with exhaustive background checks, such as public service, military, or security clearance investigations. They may also face challenges when filling out a rental application.

"I think it's great for kids to be able to do this because a lot of them grow up and forget the original records," said Digna Moreno, Umatilla County Juvenile Division Supervisor. "And so I think it's great that we're able to do this for them. Some of them want to enlist in the service and sometimes their records may get in the way."

COVID-19 rate continues to rise in LG schools

153 students missed school during the week of Jan. 18-21

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande School District's COVID-19 infection rate is continuing to spike.

The school district's latest weekly statistics show that 153 students and 25 staff members missed school during the week of Jan. 18-21 because of positive COVID-19 tests,

COVID-19 symptoms or close contact with those who have COVID-19.

The new figures are an increase of 43 students from the week of Jan. 10-14.

The school district's Jan. 18-21 statistics indicate that 12 staff members — four from Central Elementary School, three from Island City Elementary, two each from Greenwood Elementary School and La Grande High School, and one from the school district office — were absent during the week due to positive COVID-19 tests.

This is up from the previous week when nine staff members were out due to positive tests.

The number of students

testing positive leaped from 16 the week of Jan. 10-14 to 58 the week of Jan. 18-21.

Twenty-two of the students were from Central, 11 were from La Grande Middle School, 10 were at Island City, eight were from La Grande High School and seven were from Greenwood.

A total of 80 students during the week of Jan. 18-21 missed school because of close contact with someone who was COVID-19 positive.

Thirty-three of these students were at Central, 21 were at Island City Elementary, 13 were at La Grande Middle School, seven were at Greenwood, five were at La Grande High School and one

was in the Rising Stars program.

Ten staff, five at Greenwood, three at La Grande Middle School and one each at La Grande High School and the school district office were out because of close contact to a positive case.

A total of 15 students and three staff members missed school because of COVID-19 symptoms.

The La Grande School District's statistics for Jan. 18-21 also indicated that two staff members and 64 students had close contracts but were able to stay in school under the state's test to stay program, because they tested negative for COVID-19 or because they were fully vaccinated.