

VIGIL

Continued from Page A1

Today, Devin is responding to the devastating loss by starting a series of prayer vigils named "Shine A Light" aimed at rallying Union County residents to stand up against opioid use and get more people to support those fighting opioid addiction.

"This problem affects all of us," he said. "We want to raise awareness of it."

The first of these prayer vigils was conducted Saturday, March 5, early in the evening at Max Square. The prayer vigil was the first of about six Devin hopes to help to put on through April.

Devin told the 25 people who attended the vigil that if his actions can save one life it would ease at least a small portion of the guilt he feels.



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Jay Devin, organizer of the Shine a Light prayer group, hands out printed song sheets of "Amazing Grace" at a gathering in Max Square, La Grande, on Saturday, March 5, 2022. Devin plans a series of prayer vigils with the aim of raising awareness of opioid addiction.

Devin, who has lived in La Grande since the 1980s, said the prayer vigils are needed because people in Union County are dying as

a result of opioid overdoses.

"Opioids are killers, they take over your mind and body," he said.

Devin believes the key

to stop opioid overdose deaths is education. Devin said that if laws were in place that required people to attend classes on opioid

abuse each time they overdosed on them, the problem would be improved.

"You have to educate it out," he said.

Devin said people who want to tackle the opioid overdose and addiction problem must be prepared to address the issue tirelessly.

"There can be no quitting," he said.

Zoe Cleveland of La Grande, who also spoke at the prayer vigil, urged people to reach out to those battling drug addictions.

"We have to be there for each other," she said. "All we really have is each other."

Cleveland said the Shine A Light prayer vigils have the potential to make a difference.

"I think if people are genuine about making a change, then change will happen," she said.

Julie Bean, a drug abuse counselor, also spoke at the

prayer vigil. Bean said it is critical that people who want to help recovering addicts understand what they are going through. She said, all recovering addicts are just a moment away from falling back in the abyss of drug addiction.

Bean said there is a core of people those struggling with addiction can turn to in Union County for help.

"We will fight for you when nobody else will," she said.

The next Shine the Light Prayer Vigils set for 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 12. Devin said that if the turnout increases, the vigils may be moved to the Union County Fairgrounds.

The First Presbyterian Church was represented at the March 5 prayer vigil. Devin said he will be inviting all churches in La Grande to send delegations to upcoming Shine A Light prayer vigils.

SKIER

Continued from Page A1

Rescue Coordinator Nick Vora.

Search and rescue teams from the Union and Baker county sheriff's offices, plus crews from the La Grande and North Powder Rural fire departments, U.S. Forest Service law enforcement and the Anthony Lakes Ski Patrol all responded to the accident.

In addition to the responding ground resources, a Life Flight medevac helicopter was ordered, along with a hoist-capable medevac helicopter from the Oregon Army National Guard due to the steep terrain and reported severity of injuries.

The helicopter's hoist equipment would have allowed Carr to be pulled into the aircraft while it was hovering. Vora said it would have been impos-

sible for a helicopter to land at the site.

About one hour and 20 minutes after the initial call of the accident was received, a ski patrol and Anthony Lakes staff managed to climb up the approximately 38-degree slope and reach Carr. They assessed the situation, and then initiated transport down to the base of the peak where arriving La Grande Fire Department paramedics, search and rescue teams from the Baker and Union County sheriff's offices, USFS law enforcement and additional ski patrol personnel had begun accessing the area.

Tracked utility vehicles and snowmobiles were used to reach the base of the peak, but the slope of the peak itself was accessible only by foot due to hazards and the steepness of the terrain. The team of ski patrol and Anthony Lakes staff navigated down the steep slope and



Baker City Herald, File

Anthony Lake reflects (left to right) Gunsight Mountain, Lees Peak and the Lakes Lookout in this 2006 photo. A 20-year-old woman died following a ski accident on the northwest slope of Gunsight Peak, southwest of the Anthony Lakes Ski Area, on Saturday, March 5, 2022.

met with incoming SAR and medical personnel. It was confirmed by paramedics that Carr had died at the scene from injuries sustained in the ski accident.

Carr had gone up to Gunsight Mountain by using backcountry ski equipment, including skis with a fabric that allows skiers to go uphill, Vora said.

"Gunsight Mountain is a fairly popular place for people to ski," Vora said. "It is not uncommon for people to traverse up the mountain."

Vora said many places

in the Anthony Lakes area do not have cell coverage. He said Carr's companion was likely able to get cellphone service because of the height of Gunsight Mountain, which has a top elevation of 8,342 feet.

"If he had been lower he might not have been able to get cellphone service," he said.

Vora said weather in the area at the accident site was cold but good overall for rescue operations because no snow was falling.

"Overall there was good visibility," he said.

Vora credits members of the Anthony Lakes Ski Patrol and the Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort staff with getting to the accident site quickly. He said without their help it would have taken at least an hour longer for rescue personnel to reach Carr.

"I can't thank them enough," he said.

HISTORY

Continued from Page A1

The Bobcats relied on a strong showing from their seniors to defeat Salem Academy. Senior guard Callie Glenn led all scorers with 20 points, while senior forward Kaylin Nowak scored 16.

"It was extreme bliss, like living out a dream that I've had since I was a little girl," Nowak said. "Every single person on the team wanted it equally as bad. It's a feeling of being so proud of the team and being able to represent the community."

The Bobcats capped off an immaculate season, finishing the year 25-3. Despite entering the state tournament as the No. 3 seed and facing the top-ranked Crusaders, Union found itself cutting down the nets.

Union head coach Jordan Klebaum-Johnston did not mince words before the start of the season, expressing confidence in the team's potential. In fact, the Bobcats' coach saw the vision well before this year's senior class even entered high school.

"I told their parents in seventh grade that there is a state championship in this room," she said. "Thank God I wasn't wrong."

Throughout the season, Union has leaned on the senior group of Glenn, Wells, Nowak and Audrey Hill to lead the way.

Glenn, Wells and Nowak combined for 45 of Union's 52 points, providing a big spark to overcome an early deficit and closing out the game in the final minutes.

The Bobcats trailed 8-2 early in the game, with a heavy dose of Salem Academy's defensive pressure focused on Glenn. The Blue Mountain Conference first-team player averaged just under 20 points per game in the state tournament and has been the focal point of the team's offense.

Trailing early in front of a packed house at the Pendleton Convention Center, Union's mindset was to stick to its game plan.

"It was just about taking a deep breath and realizing that we can do it," Wells said. "We've been playing basketball for a long time and we know how to do it. We just took a deep breath and knew that we were there for a reason."

Despite going scoreless in the first half, Glenn managed to get teammates involved to overcome the deficit.

"I have confidence in every single player on our team," Glenn said. "We all have that confidence that anybody can step up at any given time. Our whole entire team played a strong game in the state championship and everybody contributed in one way or another."

Nowak in the first half hit four three-pointers to help Union go on a 23-7 run to take a 25-15 lead into halftime.

"I just fell in a rhythm and let it fly," Nowak said. "In my mind I just had to believe it's going in, instead of hoping not to miss."


It was only a matter of time for Glenn to find her way onto the score sheet, making a huge impact in the second half. The senior scored five points in the third quarter and converted 12 out of 15 attempts at the free-throw line as the Bobcats looked to hold off any late comeback attempts.

There is no better end to a basketball season than to cut down the nets, which is exactly how things transpired for the Bobcats. Union's core of seniors ended their careers on top, while Klebaum-Johnston coached the Bobcats to history in just her second year as head coach.

"It just felt so good to end it that way with my best friends," Glenn said. "It feels good to do something great for our community. It's amazing to be a part of something that will be history forever."

After breaking a historic championship drought, the Union girls basketball team's accomplishment will not soon be forgotten by those involved.

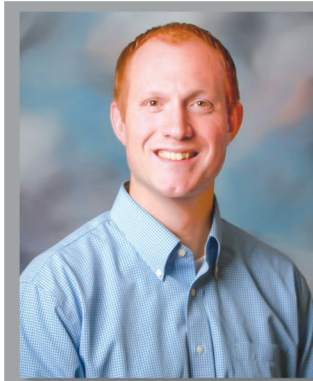
"Every time I walk back in that gym, our banner is going to be hanging up there," Nowak said. "Hopefully one day I can show my children and they can be proud of me. I'll always remember these memories for the rest of my life."

 Follow us on Facebook!

Union County Business Grants Available
 The 2022 Union County Business Assistance Grant Program is currently accepting applications from small businesses financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible applicants may receive up to \$10,000. Applications, eligibility requirements, and additional information is available on the Union County website at www.union-county.org or by calling 541-963-1001. Completed and signed applications packets must be received via email at bizgrant@union-county.org or hand delivered to 1106 K Avenue by 12:00 noon on Friday, April 1, 2022.
This grant program is being made available due to federal funding received from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

Hosted by the Island City Lions Club
Locked & Loaded 2022 La Grande Gunshow
 Sat. March 12 • 9 to 5 & Sun. March 13 • 9 to 1
 @ the Blue Mountain Conference Center • 404 12th Street
 Background checks will run and ATM on site.
 Breakfast and lunch to be served Saturday.
 In Memory of Shelia Evans who did so much for our community.
 Sponsors & Vendors call Kayla at 541.786.7210

Charles & Eileen Stewart
 10304 A 1st St. Island City, OR
cstewartpc@gmail.com
541.910.5435
 Pay cash or Rent to own
OLD HICKORY BUILDINGS & SHEDS
 Authorized Dealer



Turning 65?
 We're here to help!

Joel Myer
jmyer@valleyinsurance.com



1603 Washington Ave, La Grande
(541) 963-3121

Let us take the **mystery** out of Medicare for you!

Kathy Rienti
krienti@valleyinsurance.com

