

Regional art centers collecting data for national study

The Observer

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — Nonprofits across the nation are joining to learn more about the economic impact of arts and culture through Arts and Economic Prosperity 6, the sixth economic impact study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry in the U.S.

The study is conducted approximately every five years to gauge the economic impact — on employment, government revenue and household income — of spending by nonprofit arts and culture organizations and the event-related spending by their audiences. The sixth study runs May 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023.

“The arts bring so much to Northeast Oregon communities: opportunities to connect with others, creative learning, and economic growth. We at Art Center East and our nonprofit arts and culture organization partners throughout the region aim to raise awareness among local leaders and community members through the AEP6,” said Darcy Dolge, Art Center East’s executive director.

Art Center East (La



The Observer, File

Art Center East, La Grande, rests in the summer heat Tuesday, July 6, 2021. ACE is joining other Northeastern Oregon art centers in a national study, which began May 1, 2022, on the economic impact of spending by nonprofit arts and culture organizations and the event-related spending by their audiences.

Grande), Josephy Center for Arts and Culture (Joseph) and Crossroads Carnegie Arts Center (Baker City) are joining Americans for the Arts, Travel Oregon, Oregon Arts Commission and nearly 400 communities in all 50 states in distributing surveys at live events. Americans for the Arts provides arts and culture nonprofits with final reports containing survey outcome data after the study concludes.

“NEOEDD is serving as the lead organiza-

tion for the AEP6 survey because we want to learn more about the impacts of the nonprofit arts sector in our region,” said Lisa Dawson, executive director of Northeast Oregon Economic Development District. “We appreciate the boots-on-the-ground role taken by Art Center East, Crossroads Carnegie Art Center and Josephy Center for Arts and Culture to ensure that data is collected from around the region.”

To help, community members and organiza-

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

A press release from Art Center East encourages Union County residents to visit artcentereast.org/aep-survey, email info@artcentereast.org or call 541-624-2800 for more information about being part of this study.

tions are encouraged to tell arts and culture centers about live events or volunteer to distribute and collect AEP6 surveys. For additional ways to get involved, contact a local art or culture center:

- Art Center East: 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande; 541-624-2800, www.artcentereast.org
- Crossroads Carnegie Art Center: 2020 Auburn Ave., Baker City; 541-523-5369, www.crossroads-arts.org
- Josephy Center for Arts and Culture: 403 N. Main St., Joseph; 541-432-0505, www.josephy.org

“The NE Oregon team thanks the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District, Oregon Arts Commission and Travel Oregon who are helping with all the costs associated with this process,” said Ginger Savage, Crossroads’ executive director.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

MEETINGS

• **LA GRANDE** — The Union County Board of Commissioners will meet Wednesday, June 8, at 9 a.m. in the Joseph Building, La Grande. Buffalo Peak Golf Course and Grande Ronde Hospital are among the topics on the agenda.

Public comments for the board can be submitted via writing to the county office, via email to amooore@union-county.org or in person during the public comment section. Participation via Zoom videoconference

also is available. For access information, go to www.union-county.org/commissioners/agendaminutes.

• **LA GRANDE** — The Budget Committee of the La Grande School District will convene Wednesday, June 8, at 5:30 p.m. Following that meeting, at 7 p.m., the district’s Board of Directors will have a regular meeting. Both meetings will be in the District Office Board Room at 1305 N. Willow.

The meetings will be available in person, online and via phone. See the

agendas at www.lagrandesd.org for meeting access information.

• **ELGIN** — A public meeting of the Wallowa Union Railroad Authority Board of Directors will be held Monday, June 27, at 6 p.m. at the Elgin Depot. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the 2022-23 operating year and to adopt the fiscal year 2022-23 budget. The call-in number is 1-888-520-8955, code 89625#.

— The Observer

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

9:26 a.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about the theft of a vehicle on the 2300 block of Q Avenue. An officer responded and determined the vehicle was repossessed.

2:22 p.m. — A resident on the 1100 block of Bryan Street, Cove, reported flooding.

2:35 p.m. — A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded to a resident who asked for assistance at Evanston Street and North 10th Avenue, Elgin. The deputy took a report for a dog bite.

4:15 p.m. — A caller reported a juvenile causing a disturbance on the 1400 block of X Avenue, La Grande. Officers responded and counseled the juvenile.

5 p.m. — La Grande police on the 2900 block of Second Street made two arrests.

Police arrested Ian Fraser Brooks, 26, for two counts of first-degree attempted theft, one count each of second- and third-degree attempted theft, four counts of attempted fraudulent use of a credit card, four counts of identity theft and one count of theft of lost or mislaid property.

And police arrested Michael Robert Richardson, 38, for two counts of conspiracy to commit first-degree theft, conspiracy to commit second-degree theft, conspiracy to commit third-degree theft, four counts of conspiracy to commit fraudulent use of a credit card and one count of theft of lost or mislaid property.

5:34 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1200 block of Adams Avenue on a report of a domestic disturbance. The parties involved separated.

5:44 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2100 block of Adams Avenue on a report of a domestic disturbance. Police warned the parties for disorderly conduct.

8:17 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1900 block of H Avenue on a complaint about harassment. Police counseled both parties.

9:46 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about gunshots on the 1800 block of 26th Street. An officer responded and determined this was fireworks.

11:15 p.m. — Union County Sheriff’s Office receive a complaint about a loud party at Bryan and Caddie streets, Cove. A deputy responded, heard no music upon arrival but told the parties to keep the noise level down.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

12:13 a.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about noise on the 3200 block of Alder Street. An officer made contact, and the caller would ask them to quiet down and call back if it continues.

10:12 a.m. — A resident on the 57300 block of Hawkins Road, La Grande, reported a burglary. A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded and took a report.

10:58 a.m. — La Grande police responded to a residence on the 1800 block of G Avenue on a report of a domestic disturbance. Officers arrested Andru James Pauley, 35, of La Grande, for menacing, coercion and unlawful use of a weapon.

3:17 p.m. — Union County Sheriff’s Office responded to the 59700 block of Foothill Road, La Grande, on a burglary call. A deputy took a report.

8:07 p.m. — A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded to the 71300 block of Follett Road, Elgin, on a report of a disturbance. The deputy determined this did not rise to the level of a mandatory arrest.

8:58 p.m. — A caller reported possible gunshots on the 2100 block of Adams Avenue, La Grande. Law enforcement responded and determined the cause of the sound was a firework.

9:53 p.m. — Union County sheriff’s deputies responded to the 69200 block of Ruckle Road, Summerville, for a disturbance. The parties involved separated.

10 p.m. — A caller reported fireworks in the area of South Bellwood and West Delta streets, Union.

10:25 p.m. — La Grande police responded to Safeway, 2111 Adams Ave., on a report of a disturbance. Officers determined this was verbal only and the parties separated.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

12:42 a.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about fraud. An officer made contact and found there was no fraud but the subject has some mental health issues.

5:55 a.m. — Local law enforcement responded to the 10700 block of Fruitdale Lane, Island City, on a call about a stolen vehicle and took a report for information only.

8:51 a.m. — La Grande police responded to C Avenue and First Street on a call about a suspicious vehicle. An officer found the driver was OK.

12:03 p.m. — A caller made a complaint about disorderly conduct on the 1200 block of Adams Avenue, La Grande. An officer responded, explained options and the person moved along.

2:04 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about harassment at a residence on the 1800 block of G Avenue. An officer responded and explained options.

6:38 p.m. — A caller on the 1900 block of H Avenue, La Grande, made a complaint about fraud. An officer made contact and took a report.

7:27 p.m. — A caller on the 200 block of Cedar Street, Elgin, reported a juvenile was smoking. A Union County sheriff’s deputy made contact and took information.

8:10 p.m. — A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded to South Main and Second Street, Union, on a report of fireworks. The deputy resolved the situation.

10:41 p.m. — A caller reported a suspicious vehicle on the 400 block of Baltimore Street, Elgin. A Union County sheriff’s deputy found the vehicle broken down. The deputy gave assistance.

Carol Ann Bouchard

August 22, 1941 – April 22, 2022

Carol Ann Bouchard, 80, of North Powder, Oregon, passed away April 22, 2022, at Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande, Oregon. A graveside military service will be held on June 10, 2022, at 3 p.m. at North Powder Cemetery. A celebration of Carol’s life will be held following the interment at the Wolf Creek Grange in North Powder.

Carol was born Carol Ann Plante on Aug. 22, 1941, to Edward and Hope Plante in Providence, Rhode Island. She joined the United States Army in 1959, and was honorably discharged in 1962. Carol was a huge supporter of the veterans of Union County.

Carol was Grand Master of the local Wolf Creek Grange No. 596, which she took great pride in and worked tirelessly to maintain its status. She was also on the board of the North Powder library and the South County Health District in Union, Oregon.

Carol was dedicated to improving all aspects of her community. She worked tirelessly to help in any and whatever way she could to improve all. She never knew a stranger and was never negative. Carol will be missed. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Carol is survived by her sister, Cindy Andrukiewicz of Duncan, South Carolina; nieces, Rebecca Andrukiewicz and Tanya Allen; brother, Edward; stepsons, Scott Craig and Shawn Craig. Shawn kept in close contact with Carol, calling her daily.

Those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Carol may do so to the charity of their choice through Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.



DEATH & SERVICE NOTICES

Guy R. Francy

La Grande

Guy R. Francy, 95, of La Grande, died June 5, 2022, at his home. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Arlan W. Taal

La Grande

Arlan W. Taal, 85, of La Grande, died Feb. 1, 2022, at a local care facility. A celebration of his life will be held June 12 at 11 a.m. at the La Grande Country Club. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Jeffrey, James and Joanne Wiseman

Cove and La Grande

Jeffery Wiseman, 57, of Cove, died Oct. 31, 2020. James Wiseman, 85, of La Grande, died Feb. 7, 2021. Joanne Wiseman, 86, of La Grande, died March 15, 2022. A joint celebration of their lives will be held June 11 at 2 p.m. in the Mount Emily Building at the Union County Fairgrounds, La Grande. Casual dress is preferred by the family. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

UPCOMING LOCAL SERVICES



June 7 — **DICK O’DELL**: 2 p.m. celebration of life, Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande.

June 8 — **HELEN COCHRANE**: 11 a.m. celebration of life with lunch and music, Union County Senior Center, La Grande.

June 10 — **CAROL BOUCHARD**: 3 p.m. graveside military service, North Powder Cemetery; celebration of life follows at Wolf Creek Grange, North Powder.

June 11 — **BARBARA WEISHAAR**: 10 a.m. celebration of life, La Grande Methodist Church (casual dress preferred).

June 11 — **HOWARD BAILEY**: 11 a.m. memorial gathering and lunch, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

June 11 — **BOB POLLOCK**: 11 a.m. celebration of life, Pine Valley Fairgrounds, Halfway.

June 11 — **JEFFREY, JAMES AND JOANNE WISEMAN**: 2 p.m. celebration of lives, Mount Emily Building, Union County Fairgrounds, La Grande (casual dress preferred).

June 12 — **ARLAN TAAL**: 11 a.m. celebration of life, La Grande Country Club.

June 16 — **DORIS ROBERTSON**: 11 a.m. graveside service, Island City Cemetery.

June 17 — **JOANN “JOEY” BECHTEL**: 2 p.m. graveside service, Elgin Cemetery (casual dress preferred).

June 18 — **ARDIS KLAGES**: 11 a.m. graveside service, Enterprise Cemetery; gathering follows at Enterprise VFW Hall.

June 18 — **RODNEY MCKEE**: 11 a.m. celebration of life, Blue Mountain 4-H Center, 66501 End Road, Summerville (casual dress preferred).

June 18 — **GERRY KEFFER**: 11:30 a.m. celebration of life and lunch, Island City City Hall.

June 18 — **SAMUEL ORR**: 1 p.m. celebration of life, Haines City Park.

June 20 — **BUZ CATES**: 3 p.m. celebration of life, home of Cody and Brooke, 78995 Upper Imnaha Road, Imnaha (behind the Imnaha Store and Tavern).

June 23 — **DAN KRAMER**: 2 p.m. graveside service, Grandview Cemetery, La Grande.

June 25 — **LARRY HANEY**: 1 p.m. graveside military service and celebration of life, Wallowa Cemetery.

— Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

JoAnn “Joey” Bechtel

November 20, 1950 - February 28, 2022

JoAnn “Joey” Bechtel, 71, of Pendleton, passed away at her home Feb. 28, 2022, after a long battle with breast cancer. A graveside service will be held at the Elgin Cemetery on Friday, June 17, 2022, at 2 p.m. Casual dress is preferred by the family.

Joey was born in La Grande, Oregon, on Nov. 20, 1950, to Clarence Bechtel and June (Hug) Bechtel. She grew up in La Grande and graduated from La Grande High School in 1969 and later achieved her associate degree from BMCC.

Joey settled in Pendleton, Oregon, and retired from DHS, Community Developmental Disabilities Program for Umatilla County. Joey had three children: Sybil Tremper, Mark George and Josh Swegle. Joey’s pride and joy were her grandchildren: Andrew, Brayden, Caleb, Dawson, Owen, Gavin, and granddaughter Olivia. Joey married John Straughan in 2009. In marriage, Joey gained two children, Bryn Stamets and Nick Straughan, and more grandchildren: Michael, Kenzie and Mady.

Joey was known for her love of gardening. She was a member of Pendleton’s Dirt Dabblers club and took pride in their work throughout Pendleton’s city gardens. She also loved her animals, nature walks, garden tours, bird-watching, antiques, estate sales, farmers markets, her grandchildren’s sporting events and family trips. Joey’s beautiful free spirit will be missed by all who knew her.

Joey was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and June Bechtel of La Grande, Oregon. Joey is survived by brother, Douglas Bechtel of Cornelius, Oregon; niece, Teresa Bechtel of Oregon City, Oregon; daughter, Sybil and Rob Tremper and their children, Andrew, Brayden, Caleb and Dawson of Pendleton, Oregon; son, Mark and Jaymi George and their children, Owen and Olivia of La Grande, Oregon; son, Josh Swegle of Pendleton; grandson, Gavin Swegle of Nimitz, Alaska; husband, John Straughan of Pendleton, Oregon; and her dog, Murphy.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Joey’s honor to the Dirt Dabblers Garden Club, care of Mary Jane Peterson, 2600 SW Goodwin #34, Pendleton, OR 97801.

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

