

PUBLIC SAFETY

SUNDAY

5:49 a.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred on Highway 730 in Umatilla.
 9:51 a.m. — Police responded to a reported assault on Wenatchee Street in Umatilla.
 5:07 p.m. — Police responded to a reported burglary on Southwest 41st Street in Pendleton.
 7:09 p.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred at Hat Rock RV Park on Hat Rock Road in Hermiston.
 9:26 p.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred on West Sunland Avenue in Hermiston.
 10:51 p.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred at a Rental Property on Southwest Sixth Street in Pendleton.

MONDAY

8:18 a.m. — Police responded to a reported assault on South First Street in Hermiston.
 5:41 p.m. — Police responded to the report of a missing person on West Main Street in Lexington.
 7:30 p.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred on Southwest First Street in Pendleton.

TUESDAY

7:44 a.m. — Police responded to a reported burglary on South Highway 395 in Hermiston.
 7:45 a.m. — Police responded to a reported burglary at Brittany Farming Company on North Columbia Street in Milton-Freewater.
 3:48 p.m. — Police responded to a reported assault on Chukar Lane in Umatilla.
 4:38 p.m. — Police responded to a reported burglary at Birch Creek Mini Storage on Northwest Cedar Street in Pilot Rock.
 5:55 p.m. — Police responded to a reported burglary on Southwest Kinkade Road in Boardman.
 6:45 p.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred at Irrigon Shell Station on East Highway 730 in Irrigon.
 7:16 p.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred on Stiller Lane in Milton-Freewater.
 9:20 p.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred at Stanfield RV Park on South Main Street.

WEDNESDAY

1:29 a.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred at the intersection of Birch Creek Road and Eastside Road in Milton-Freewater.

ARRESTS, CITATIONS

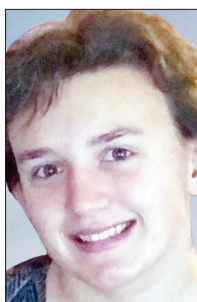
•The Umatilla Tribal Police arrested Natalie Lanae Key, 21, on two counts, including a felony count of the unlawful possession of methamphetamine and a misdemeanor count of the possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance.
 •The Milton-Freewater Police Department arrested Luis Alberto Ledezma Saldana on a felony charge of fourth-degree assault (domestic violence and harassment).
 •The Umatilla Tribal Police arrested Alex Rivera, 42, on three counts, including felony counts of identity theft and the unlawful possession of methamphetamine, and one misdemeanor count of false information (fraud/deception).
 •The Umatilla Tribal Police arrested Mathew Loring Murray, 29, on four counts, including felony counts of attempting to elude/flee law enforcement and first-degree criminal mischief, and misdemeanor counts of reckless driving and reckless endangering.
 •The Stanfield Police Department arrested Diego Vela Ibarra, 19, on three counts, including felony counts of first-degree criminal mischief and coercion, and one misdemeanor count of violating parole.
 •The Pendleton Police Department arrested Dillan Drake Massey, 30, on six counts, including contempt of court, two felony counts of violating parole, one felony and one misdemeanor count of failing to appear in court, and one misdemeanor count of second-degree theft.

OBITUARIES

Mary-Jane Elizabeth Faria

Pendleton
October 30, 2006 — December 29, 2020

Mary-Jane Elizabeth Faria, 14, of Pendleton, Oregon, died alongside her grandmother during a senseless act of violence on December 29, 2020. A celebration of life will be held at a later date (time and date TBA).



Faria

Mary-Jane “MJ” was born October 30, 2006, at 9:36 p.m. to parents Vera Francke and Dennis Faria in La Grande, Oregon.

She was raised throughout Eastern Oregon and spent time living in Milton-Freewater, Hermiston, Pilot Rock, Pendleton and Elgin. Her last year of school she attended Elgin High School. MJ was a 21st Century Scholar, participating in the Oregon GEAR UP program.

MJ’s hobbies included coloring, Legos, ice skating, sledding, swimming and singing. Her favorite color was pink, she loved daisies, and was a Raiders fan all the way! She was a unique soul and wasn’t afraid to learn or try something new. MJ was always caring and concerned and was always doing anything and everything to make her mom smile.

An evening tradition MJ and her mom shared when finishing a phone conversation was to end it in a competition of saying “Love you to the black and back, no returns; good night, sweet dreams, don’t let the bed bugs bite.” Then she would reply, “And

if they do, chew them like the monkeys do,” to which her mom responded, “Mmm protein” and MJ would finish with “Eeww gross ... good night Mom.”

MJ’s favorite poem: “What’s Mickey without Minnie, what’s Piglet without Pooh, What’s Donald without Daisy, that’s me without you, When Ariel doesn’t sing and Pooh Bear hates honey, where Tigger stops bouncing and Goofy isn’t funny, when Peter Pan can’t fly and Simba never roars, when Alice in Wonderland can’t fit through small doors, when Dumbo’s ears are small and happily ever after isn’t true, that’s when I’ll stop loving you.”

MJ is survived by her mother Vera Francke and father Dennis Faria, both of Pendleton, Oregon; grandparents Terry Franke, great-grandmother Donna Hallgarth and Karen Faria; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; and furbaby Smokey.

For those who would like to make a donation in memory of MJ, the family suggests the Crime Victim and Survivors Services (CVSS) through Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834.

Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

June Arlene Schmidtgall

Athens
December 5, 1928 — January 16, 2021



Schmidtgall

June Arlene Schmidtgall of Athens died Jan. 16, 2021, at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Washington. She was 92 years old at the time of her death. Due to COVID restrictions on gatherings and the inclement weather, a private graveside service will be held. In the spring or early summer, there will be a celebration of life for the public.

June was born in Lind, Washington, on Dec. 5, 1928, to Harry and Hilda Thompson Thomas. Part of her childhood was in Lind, Washington, and Elgin, Oregon, before moving to Athens. She attended schools in Elgin and Athens, and graduated from Athens High School. In November 1949, she married Garrett Schmidtgall in Athens. She lived in the house built by her husband and father-in-law for the next 71 years.

She began working in the U.S. Bank in Athens at 16 years of age, retiring as operations officer in 1985. June was 19 years old when the bank was robbed in 1948. At that time, the bank was located in the brick building directly across from the Sugar Shack.

She was baptized and became a member of Athens Baptist Church on March 29, 1942, where she held numerous positions over the years. She was also active in the Women’s Mission Society, American Legion Auxiliary, Seowan Sewing Group, Study Club, Jolly Circle, and Chamber of Commerce. She was instrumental in Cycle Oregon’s stop in Athens. In 1990, she was chosen as Citizen of the Year.

June was a sociable person and liked spending time with her close friends known as the “Cotton Tops,” due to the color

of their hair. Family was very important, and she especially enjoyed holiday gatherings. She loved being the hostess.

Some of the travels June enjoyed were to Hawaii, Israel, England, Minnesota, Kansas and Disneyland.

Some of June’s interests were reading, quilting, and pie baking. She took pride in maintaining her yard and flowers. Even in her 80s, she was still mowing her lawn. One day while mowing, the ambulance arrived at her home summoned by her medical alert device. It was a false alarm, as she had accidentally activated it. She turned off the lawn mower and asked the EMTs, “Why are you at my house?”

June was able to live independently in her home with help from family, friends, and her special caregiver, Amanda. The family will always be grateful for the wonderful care and friendship provided by Amanda.

June was preceded in death by her husband, Garrett; her parents; two brothers, Harry and Stan; and two sisters, Hazel and Harriett. She is survived by her children Connie (Dave) Johnson, Gary (Kathleen) Schmidtgall and David (Kathy) Schmidtgall; and grandchildren Tabitha Canada, Kristina (Kevin) Ormond, Adam (Rhonda) Schmidtgall, Michael (Jaclyn) Schmidtgall and Brandon (Kristin) Schmidtgall. Her 12 great-grandchildren were her pride and joy.

Memorial contributions may be made to Athens Baptist Church or the Friends of the Weston Library.

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

OBITUARY POLICY

The East Oregonian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Expanded death notices will be published at no charge. These include information about services.

Obituaries and notices can be submitted online at EastOregonian.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@eastoregonian.com, by fax to 541-276-8314, placed via the funeral home or in person at the East Oregonian office. For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 1-800-522-0255, ext. 221.

Ruben Thomas Wetherell

Arlington
February 27, 1955 — January 18, 2021

Ruben Thomas Wetherell, 65, passed away on January 18, 2021, in the comfort of his home surrounded by his family. He was born on February 27, 1955, to parents Ruben and Mary Wetherell of Arlington, Oregon.

He graduated from Arlington High School in 1973 and spent many years working around the United States before moving back to his hometown in 1986 where he met his wife. On June 25, 1988, he married the love of his life, Kristine Wetherell of Condon. They built their life in Arlington, Oregon, where they welcomed their daughters Nicole, Ashley and Emily.

Ruben was a wonderful and devoted father and husband. He loved his family, his church and his community. His three daughters were his world; he was their biggest supporter, always making sure he was at every game, play or concert they had. He even spent many years coaching Little League and basketball.

His frequent hobbies included going out on his boat, making his famous sausage, pepperoni, jerky and wine, along with spending time with his family and grandchildren

(granddogs too).

He spent 30 years working as a heavy equipment operator for Waste Management and was awarded the Waste Management National Operator of the Year for 2020, naming him The Best of The Best. (Which his family already knew).

He is survived by his wife Kristine, daughter Nicole and her children Tyler, Aubree and Emmett,

daughter Ashley, and daughter Emily and her husband Austyn Zamora, all of Arlington; and siblings Sharon Conz, Mike Wetherell, Jeanne Liesegang and Tim Wetherell, and their spouses.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Ruben and Mary Wetherell.

A graveside service will be held on January 25, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Arlington Cemetery in Arlington, Oregon, following current state COVID-19 guidelines.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Arlington United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 417, Arlington, OR 97812.

Sweeney Mortuary of Condon is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

Each of us has a light inside



SARAH HAUG
 LIGHT OF UNITY

Vast distances separated continents and travel and communication were difficult. And when people from different continents and cultures did mingle, the plain fact of looking, dressing, and acting differently erected insurmountable barriers. These differences were all anyone could see.

As humans, we have a distressing tendency to view the world through a zero-sum lens, an us versus them mentality. You’re either on our team or you’re an opponent.

Photos from space confirm that state and national borders are not God-given demarcations. Rather they are lines on maps we ourselves have drawn. Sometimes those lines are a matter of administrative expedience. More often, unfortunately, they act as a means to separate one group of

people from another.

As a planetary community, we have chosen to perpetuate that division. We fear that tearing down barriers between people and countries means we all have to be the same.

But that’s where we’re wrong. We don’t have to think that way anymore.

We are all battling for the same team.

We can not only accept our differences, we can celebrate them. What’s more, our diversity, those differences, make us a stronger, better team.

When I was 25, I went with my husband and two small children to live in Punta Gorda, a little town in Belize, where I studied ethnicity and nationalism in children for my doctorate in anthropology. I was constantly amazed at the way children could ignore,

and even transcend, their elders’ conceptions of identity. They could become friends with all other children, regardless of ethnic group or religion. They knew, because they were growing up in a diverse society, that unity was possible even amid diversity.

The Belizean government realized it too. Their slogan for their independence day celebrations in 1994 was “from many cultures, one nation.”

The Baha’i Faith expands that idea further to say “from many nations, one planet.”

Each of us has a light inside. If we can find a way to all shine together, we can illuminate the whole earth.

Sarah Haug is a member of the Baha’i Faith and has called Pendleton home since 2002. You can find her most days walking on the riverwalk with her husband, Dan.

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

BMCC launches IMPACT Campaign

PENDLETON — People are invited to make an impact on students at Blue Mountain Community College.

As the heart of the college’s community, students are first at BMCC. They provide the leadership, academic achievement, energy, and enthusiasm that defines the institution. Recognizing this, the BMCC Foundation is making available scholarships and emergency funding, and providing additional student financial aid, among other things.

Now, more than ever gifts, no matter the amount, will

make an impact and provide educational opportunities and support for BMCC students during these tumultuous times. The public is invited to participate in the BMCC IMPACT Campaign by becoming an Impact Donor. The tax-deductible contributions will provide help to students in need.

People can make an Impact Donation via www.bluecc.edu/about-bmcc/foundation. The foundation hopes to meet its goal of 600 IMPACT Donors by Feb 1. For more information, contact Ken Daniel, BMCC Foundation executive director, at 541-278-5775 or kdaniel@bluecc.edu.

—EO Media Group

Pendleton Lions Club donate \$3,000 to BMCC Foundation



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Rita Campbell, second from left, presents Dennis Bailey-Fougner, left, and Roman Olivera, of Blue Mountain Community College, with a \$3,000 check for the Blue Mountain Community College Foundation on behalf of the Pendleton Lions Club. The money, which was raised through various fundraisers, is earmarked for the college’s veterans resource center and student urgent care. Also pictured, from right, Ken Daniels, Janice Stewart and Randee Bronson.

LOTTERY

Monday, Jan. 18, 2021
MegaBucks
 01-09-19-26-30-45
 Estimated jackpot: \$7.2 million
Lucky Lines
 04-08-10-14-19-23-27-31
 Estimated jackpot: \$17,000
Win for Life
 30-49-61-74
Pick 4
 1 p.m.: 7-7-3-5
 4 p.m.: 5-9-6-5
 7 p.m.: 6-9-6-0
 10 p.m.: 4-0-7-7
Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021
Mega Millions
 10-19-26-28-50
 Mega Ball: 16
 Megaplier: 2
 Estimated jackpot: \$865 million
Lucky Lines
 01-06-09-15-17-21-26-30
 Estimated jackpot: \$18,000
Pick 4
 1 p.m.: 1-1-6-5
 4 p.m.: 5-7-3-6
 7 p.m.: 3-5-3-9
 10 p.m.: 2-5-6-7
Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021
Pick 4
 1 p.m.: 7-5-9-6

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:

www.EastOregonian.com