

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

Community dance features live music, homemade ice cream

LA GRANDE — The end of the month community dance at the senior center will be held Aug. 25. Featuring live music by the Blue-Mountaineers and George Neer's homemade ice cream, the dance will run from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Union County Senior Center, 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande. There will also be a finger-food potluck (bring a favorite dish to share) and door prizes. All ages are welcome. Admission is \$3 with age 12 and younger free.

LGFD releases smoke awareness information

LA GRANDE — In response to multiple questions regarding the heavy smoke in the area, La Grande Fire Department Chief Les Thomas issued a press release Monday saying, "Do not be alarmed. The source (of the smoke) is not local."

The press release listed these online sources that provide answers to most questions residents have: www.centraloregon-fire.org, www.centraloregonfire.org/wildfire-smoke-your-health, and www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/

Preparedness/Prepare/Pages/PrepareForWildfire.aspx#health.

According to the release, it is important for individuals to know if current smoky conditions pose a health risk.

"Smoke from wildfires is a mixture of gases and fine particles from burning trees and other plant materials. Smoke can hurt your eyes, irritate your respiratory system and worsen chronic heart and lung diseases."

People most at risk are those with heart or lung diseases, and older adults and children. Those who suffer from chronic diseases

should call their doctor if their condition worsens. LGFD reminds everyone to pay attention to local air quality reports and to limit their exposure to smoke.

IC city councilor steps in as mayor pro tem

ISLAND CITY — Robb Rea, a member of Island City's city council for the past 16 years, is stepping in to serve as the city's mayor pro tem.

The announcement was made at Tuesday night's city council meeting.

Rea is doing so in absence of

Mayor Delmer Hanson, who suffered a cerebral hemorrhage July 18. Hanson was flown to St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise, Idaho where he underwent surgery for the hemorrhage. Hanson is now recovering at his home in Island City and doing quite well according to Island City's City Recorder Karen Howton.

Hanson has decided to take time away from his duties as mayor to fully recover.

Rea will take over Island City's mayoral duties until Hanson is able to return.

OBITUARIES

Catherine L. (Morgan) Wernlund

La Grande
1948-2018

Catherine "Cathy" Leona Wernlund, 70, of La Grande, died Aug. 8 at her residence.

Known as Cathy, she was born April 21, 1948, in Willits, California, to James and Olive (Criger) Morgan. She attended school in Willits and, after moving to Oregon, in Prairie City and Long Creek. During her life she also lived in Alturas, California; Grand Junction and Collbran, Colorado; and Reith and La Grande.

Cathy had four children, and her family says she was a devoted mother. She

enjoyed crocheting, sewing, flower gardening, canning, journaling, caring for her mother and, most of all, spending time with her family.

Survivors include her children and their spouses, Don and Jenny Cutright of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, Wendy Wernlund of Grand Junction, Colorado, Jeff Wernlund of Reith and Melissa and Neal Scott of Benton City, Washington; siblings and their spouses, Melody and Roger McKinley of Prairie City and Harvey and Marsha Morgan of Summerville; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and seven nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death

by her parents, James and Olive; sister, Sonja Johns; brother, John Morgan Sr.; and ex-husband and friend, John Wernlund.

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

Patricia E. Henderson

Formerly of Union County
1952-2018

Patricia Elaine Henderson, 66, of Caldwell, Idaho, and formerly of Union County, died Aug. 17 at a care facility. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Aug. 24 at the Summerville Cemetery.

Patricia was born July 1,

1952, in La Grande, to Howard and Lois (DeFries) Henderson. She was raised on a farm in Alicel, where she attended a one-room school through the fourth grade. When that school closed, she and her siblings were sent to the Imbler School District.

Patricia graduated from high school in 1970 and later attended and graduated from Boise State with an associate's degree in horticulture. In September 2017, she retired from Century Link after many years.

Survivors include her mother, Lois; daughter and son-in-law, Rachel and Jake Brobeck of Greenleaf, Idaho; two grandsons; twin sister, Peggy; siblings, Steve, Dave,

Linnea and Andy; 10 nieces and nephews; and 10 great-nieces and great-nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Canyon County Hospice, 504 N. 10th Ave., Caldwell, Idaho 83605.

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

Paul E. Kubler

La Grande

Paul Ernest Kubler, 66, of La Grande, died Aug. 21. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Rebecca 'Becci' A. Scott

Elgin

Rebecca "Becci" Ann Scott, 77, of Elgin, died Aug. 17 at her home, after a six-year battle with cancer. A celebration of her life will be held at 11 a.m. Aug. 25 at Elgin Community Center. The family prefers casual dress. A reception and potluck will follow the service at the same location. A meat dish accompanied by potatoes and gravy will be provided. Those attending are encouraged to bring a salad or dessert. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

Four arrested by Drug Task Force

Observer staff

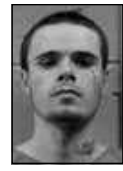
The Union County Drug Task Force arrested four people in La Grande on Monday on multiple drug charges.

At 9 p.m., the Drug Task Force stopped a car near Adams Ave and Fir Street in La Grande on suspicion that one of the passengers was wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant, according to a press release from the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Cody Tanner Colton, 22, one of the passengers in the vehicle, attempted to elude the Task Force on foot. He was quickly captured, despite actively resisting arrest and found



Precourt



Colton

to be in possession of two handguns.

On Monday, the deputies observed evidence of drug activity in the car and requested Oregon State Police drug-detecting K9. The specially trained dog did alert of drugs in the vehicle, which was subsequently searched, according to the release.

Deputies recovered a quantity of heroin, packaging materials and weighing equipment consistent



Paxton



Emery

with the sale of illegal narcotics, approximately 3-ounces of methamphetamine and another handgun.

Anthony David Dean Precourt, 25, was arrested on charges of possession of meth, distribution of meth, manufacturing of meth, possession of heroin, distribution of schedule-2 pills, distribution of a schedule-2 pills and unlawful possession of a firearm.

Colton, La Grande, was arrested on two counts of felon in possession of firearms, resisting arrest, conspiracy to commit distribution of meth and two counts of unlawful possession of firearms.

Tamara Jo Paxton, 25, La Grande, was arrested on charges of possession of meth, distribution of meth, manufacturing of meth, possession of heroin, distribution of heroin, two counts of possession of a schedule-2 substance and two counts of distribution of a schedule-2 substance.

Ostan Lee Emery, 23, transient, was arrested on a warrant charging a probation violation.

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Michael Todd Silva, 50, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County warrant on a charge of a probation violation. The alleged probation violation is connected to an original charge of possession of a controlled

substance, methamphetamine.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The La Grande Fire Department responded to 10 calls for medical and two burn complaints on Monday and eight calls for medical on Tuesday.

Public Safety Report

The Public Safety Report is compiled from police blotter information supplied by local law enforcement agencies and fire department reports. Individuals named as arrested and/or charged with crimes in this report are presumed innocent until proved guilty in a court of law.

EOFF

Continued from Page 2A those traveling from out of town need lodging and the festival can't oversell tickets due to capacity issues. Though the Granada will remain a central venue, its seating capacity is limited, as is the space in hq, a creative mixed-use space/music venue downtown that hosts some festival screenings and the after parties. With renovations of another downtown venue, the Liberty Theatre, ongoing, Jennings hopes EOFF will eventually utilize that space to support a bigger boom of attendees in the future.

Jennings said that being backed by the city would provide the additional funding and operational support needed to bolster the festival, but securing the city's investment in the program has so far been a losing battle.

"We've worked hard to garner (the support of) the city, chamber, tourism (and) county over the years and haven't

been able to land that," he said. "We just don't have the civic support that most organizations (like ours) have in their communities."

Jennings plans to meet with the Union County Chamber again soon and is hopeful his efforts won't be in vain.

"We really do need to get a commitment from our civic organizations and our municipalities, the people who are getting taxes specifically to pay for this type of stuff," he said. "We need to start organizing those funds, charge that energy and put it into something that's working, help fund those things that can actually make a big impact and

by doing so create themselves some sustainability."

Current funding for EOFF is mainly based on membership and local sponsors, and the team is planning to host a "Big Lebowski"-themed party/fundraiser at hq Sept. 21. In the meantime, Jennings is curating a "Sneak Peek and Pass Sale," where festival-goers can lock in their tickets, binge watch trailers for the films and be the first to find out who's the "big player" due to appear at this year's fest. (Spoiler: It's not Steven Spielberg).

For Jennings, the crux of the film festival has always, and will continue to be, about

community.

"I like getting as many people together (as I can), around some common themes, to provide something new for all of them. That's kind of (at) the heart of my efforts," he said. "Start bringing groups that normally wouldn't get together, together and incubate conversations and ideas. The more time people talk and come up with ideas, that's when (things) start happening. I think the festival is good proof of that model working over time. If we can invest in that, it could really do something. I hope the community can see that or take the time to learn about it."

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