

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

Wednesday night community dinners resume this week

LA GRANDE — Wednesday night community dinners at the Presbyterian Friendship Center, 1308 Washington, La Grande, will resume Sept. 12. The dinners are served at 6 p.m. and all are welcome. The food is prepared by Merlyn's Catering. There is a suggested donation of \$3.

Members of LHS Class of '54 meet for lunch

LA GRANDE — La Grande High School's Class of 1954 will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 13 at the Flying J Restaurant.

Josephy Center hosts en plein air painting competition

JOSEPHY — The Josephy Center will host its second en plein air painting competition and exhibit Sept. 13-16 as part of the Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts. According to the Josephy Center's director, Cheryl Coughlan, "En plein air is a French term for painting outdoors in the open air, and Wallowa County is a

great place for that, especially this time of year." Approximately 20 artists will bring the paintings they've created over the last two days to the Josephy Center at 3 p.m. Thursday for the "Quick Finish," framing and hanging of their pieces, which kicks off the Joseph Art Walk. A reception to celebrate the opening of the exhibit will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sept. 14, and the paintings will be on display through 2 p.m. Sept. 17. There will be prizes and artwork will be for sale. For more information, go to www.wallowavalleyarts.org/arts-festival or contact the Josephy Center at info@josephy.org or 541-432-0505.

DAR meeting open to anyone interested in family history

BAKER CITY — The next regular meeting of the regional Lone Pine Tree chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will begin at 11 a.m. Sept. 14 at the Sunridge Inn in Baker City. The program, "Apples and Bees," will be presented by Nancy Wilson. The meetings are open to anyone interested in researching

their family history. For more information, call Betty Milliman at 541-523-5752, Roberta Morin at 541-446-3385 or Joan Smith at 541-963-4861.

Transportation Council meets Thursday

ENTERPRISE — Community Connection of Wallowa County will hold a Transportation Advisory Council meeting at 3 p.m. Sept. 13 at Community Connection in Enterprise, 702 NW First St. The meeting is open to the public. Input, comments and questions concerning public transportation are welcome.

'Evening Under the Stars' benefits Wallowa schools

WALLOWA — The Friends of the Wallowa School District are holding their annual Evening Under the Stars dinner and auction Sept. 15 at the Pow Wow Grounds in Wallowa. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$50 per family. Social hour begins at 4 p.m., followed by dinner at 5 p.m. and the auction at 6 p.m. A no-host bar will be available. Call 541-886-4701

for more information.

Fiddler show and dinner set for Saturday

ELGIN — The Rockwall Grange of Elgin is sponsoring a Blue Mt. Old Time Fiddler show at 6 p.m. Sept. 15. General admission is \$5, Fiddle Association members are \$4, and those 12 and younger are admitted free. Musicians from all over the region will put on their final show of the season. A Tasty Tater Casserole supper that includes salad and dessert for \$7 starts at 5 p.m. Proceeds of the show and supper benefit the upkeep and activities of the Grange. The Rockwall Grange is located 3-1/2 miles north of Elgin at 71562 Middle Road. For more information, call Cindy Chandler at 541-437-3745 or Margie Vaughn at 541-962-7122.

Tickets on sale for Harvest Dinner

LOSTINE — The Wallowa County Farmers Market Harvest Dinner is Sept. 22 at the Lostine Tavern. Doors open at 5 p.m. for cocktails and appetizers, and dinner

will be served family style at 6 p.m. A celebrity pie auction and live band will follow. Tickets are available for \$45 at the Book Loft in Enterprise.

VA eye clinic announces expanded services

WALLA WALLA — The Walla Walla VA has expanded its hours for the eye clinic and optical services. Veterans can now book appointments from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday and from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Another service soon to be implemented is offering basic optical services, such as eye glass fittings and frame selection, which will be available in outpatient community clinic locations. To schedule an appointment

or for additional information, contact Walla Walla VA's Optometry Service office at 509-527-3491.

Foreign film shown Friday at library

LA GRANDE — Cook Memorial Library, 2006 Fourth St., La Grande, invites adults to the first Foreign Film Friday of the season on Sept. 14. The movie begins at 7 p.m. in the Community Room. The movie will be "The Gambler," a 2015 Lithuanian film that tells the story of a paramedic whose gambling addiction leads him to start a dangerous new game. Refreshments will be provided. Foreign Film Friday will be held the second Friday of the month. Contact Rose at the library with any questions at 541-962-1339.

Submit an event

Tell us about events, meetings and children's activities in Union and Wallowa counties. Service clubs, support groups and other nonprofit organizations are encouraged to notify us of regular meeting times.

Email news@lagrandeobserver.com or fax a letter to 541-963-7804 and include the event name, date, time, location, cost and contact information. Deadline is 9 a.m. a week prior

OBITUARIES

John P. van Belle Jr.

Enterprise
1933-2018

John Paul van Belle Jr., 85, of Enterprise, died Aug. 17. A gathering of friends and a dessert potluck will be held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 30 at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise.

John was born June 6, 1933, in Sunnyside, Washington, to John Paul Sr. and Alta van Belle. Many people called him Johnny, but his family called him Junior. He graduated from Sunnyside High School in 1951. John served in the U.S. Army from March 1953 to April 1955 and was stationed in Germany the entire time. He was married three times.

John grew up in Outlook, Washington, in a rodeo family and was cowboy to the core. He worked for van Belle Rodeo as a pickup man and behind the chutes

before being drafted into the Army. After his discharge, he and his first wife came to Enterprise to visit relatives. John really liked the area and they moved to Enterprise in 1955. He was a rancher for many years, running cows in the Elk Mountain, Joseph Creek, Shamrock Ridge and Flora areas.

Well-known for telling stories, John liked to go to Davis's Cafe for coffee to spin stories and tell jokes with others. He later migrated to the Cheyenne Cafe in Joseph for coffee and to tell more stories with those folks.

Survivors include his wife, Joann of Enterprise; daughter and son-in-law, Ellen and Doug Jones of Hermiston; sons, Tom of Joseph and Glen of La Grande; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; brother, Charles "Buster" van Belle of Everett, Washington; sister and brother-

in-law, Charlotte and Frank Beard of Ellensburg, Washington; and sister, Ellen Pederson of Prosser, Washington.

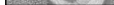
He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Betty and Jimmy; and daughter-in-law, Julie.

Laura L. VanDusen

Elgin
1947-2018

Laura "Lolly" LaRose VanDusen, 71, of Elgin, died Aug. 28 at St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. At her request, there will not be a funeral. Family and friends will be notified should a memorial gathering be planned in the future.

Nicknamed Lolly, Laura was born July 24, 1947, in La Grande, to Arnold Waelyt and Bernice (Southard) Bumgardner. Raised in Elgin, she attended Stella



Mayfield Elementary and graduated from Elgin High School in 1965. On Nov. 12, 1965, Laura married Ronnie Earl VanDusen. According to their family, people have said, "Ron and Laura are like a pair of shoes. One never went anywhere without the other." Laura was a school bus driver for the Elgin School District. She enjoyed hunting, fishing, mushrooming, camping, gardening and riding around in the woods on ATVs or the side-by-side. When she was younger, she spent a lot of time horseback riding. Laura loved spending time with family and good friends. She especially enjoyed being with her grandchildren and watching them participate in sports and school activities. She also dearly loved her many pets.

Survivors include her husband, Ronnie; children and their spouses, Sheila Rae and Bill Miller of Elgin

and Sheri Kae and Tommy Benitez of La Grande; brothers and sisters-in-law, Ken and Barbie Waelyt of Hermiston and Larry and Ginny Waelyt of La Grande; sister and brother-in-law, Judy and Jerry Ely of La Grande; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arnold Waelyt and Bernice Bumgardner; stepfather, Albert Bumgardner; and sister and brother-in-law, Patsy and George Gutierrez.

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

Vernon D. Powell

La Grande


Vernon Dewayne Powell, 58, of La Grande, died Sept. 5 at Grande Ronde Hospital. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Sept. 14 at

Loveland Funeral Chapel. Casual dress is preferred by the family. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Local funerals and visitations


Obituaries must be under 450 words and are edited for newspaper style. Paid advertising space is also available for those who want additional information included. For more information, call The Observer at 541-963-3161.

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Ryan Douglas Schaeffer, 30, La Grande, was arrested on two Washington County warrants. One warrant charged harassment and a second warrant charged fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident at Island Avenue and Pine Street Sunday afternoon. The accident was reported at 5:44 p.m.

Arrested: Victor Edward Marlitt, 30, La Grande, was arrested on a parole and probation detainer.

Arrested: Heath Albert Horn, 34 unknown address,, was arrested on charges of harassment, first-degree criminal trespassing. Horn was also arrested on a parole and probation detainer and for an alleged restraining order violation.

Arrested: Robert West Huttenpiller, 32, a Florida resident, was arrested on a charge of misuse of 911.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident Friday afternoon at Fourth Street and Washington Avenue. The accident was reported at 5:27 p.m.

Arrested: Christopher Lee Cox, 34, La Grande, was ar-

rested on a parole and probation detainer

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident on 10th Street Saturday morning. The accident was reported at 3:54 p.m.

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF

Arrested: Shane Alexander Hubble, 41, Island City, was arrested on a charge of interfering with making a report.

Arrested: Donald Loren Kemble, 44, unknown address, was arrested on charge of first-degree trespassing.

Arrested: Adam Alexander Green, 20, a transient, was arrested on charges of unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, failure to carry/present an operator license and providing false information to a police officer.

Accident: Nobody was injured Saturday in a traffic accident at Progress Loop and Cove Avenue. The accident was reported at 7:15 p.m.

Arrested: David Robert LaSalle, 40, La Grande, was arrested on charges of driving under the influence of intoxicants, eluding in a vehicle and on foot, driving while suspended (felony) and recklessly endangering. LaSalle was also arrested on two Umatilla County warrants.

One warrant charges a probation violation connected to original charges of first-degree burglary, driving under the influence of intoxicants, interfering with making a report, driving while revoked, criminal mischief and third-degree theft. A second warrant charged failure to appear in court on a charge of driving while suspended (felony). LaSalle was also arrested on a state parole board warrant for an alleged parole violation connected to an original charge of driving under influence (felony) and distribution of a controlled substance/manufacture of a controlled substance, schedule I.

Cited: A juvenile was cited on a charge of unlawful possession of marijuana.

Arrested: Ivory Benjamin Jackson, 51, a Texas resident, was arrested on a charge driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Arrested: Robert Elwood Kast, 31, Elgin, was cited on charges, of second-degree criminal trespassing and second-degree criminal mischief.

OREGON STATE POLICE

Arrested: Brandon James Campbell, 38, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County warrant on a charge of a proba-

tion violation connected to an original charge of fourth-degree assault (domestic). Campbell was also arrested while lodged in the Union County Jail on three warrants from outside Northeast Oregon.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The La Grande Fire Department responded to two calls for medical, one gas leak, one smoke check and one grassfire on Friday, nine calls for medical on Saturday and six calls for medical and one public assist on Sunday.

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.

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What's Cooking ?

by Sandy Sorrels of

TEN DEPOT STREET



We are quickly approaching the end of our growing season here in Eastern Oregon, but there is now a bounty of harvest available to use. This week our **Blue Plate Special** takes full advantage with **New Mexican Harvest Stew**. Made with chunks of our premium Prime Rib, local corn, green peppers, tomatoes and onions, the stew is a flavorful end of season comfort food.

And we have fresh tomatoes from the *Platz Family Farm* and basil and cucumbers from *Nella Mae's Farm* that we will be making into *Gaspacho* later in the week, available as a soup option.

We have had some requests for one of the customer favorites from the old *Mamacita's*, the *Tostada Suprema*. So this week we will be offering it as our **Salad Special**. It is a crisp flour tortilla, topped with refried beans, lettuce, cheese, chicken, bay shrimp, guacamole and sour cream and served with our homemade salsa. The price is \$10.95.

Sum People, *Unplugged* is playing Tuesday, September 11. The band *Sum People*, with lead Scott Nearing and many other talented musicians, has been playing in LaGrande for many years now and are enjoyed by a wide range of fans. They play reggae, ska, funk and punk.

Then on Thursday September 13, The *Mutineers* are playing. The Mutineers describe their music as country/folk/Americana/punk. Originally from Santa Barbara, California, the band is now based in Portland. They travel extensively throughout the Northwest playing what they call a mix of "scrappy, stein-swinging anthems, peppered with a few slow tracks." Should be great fun. Both nights the music starts at 8:00.

BLUE PLATE SPECIAL \$10.95

New Mexican Harvest Stew,
green salad, corn bread
(served Monday through Friday)

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