

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

Community Choir begins rehearsals tomorrow

LA GRANDE — The Grande Ronde Community Choir will hold its first rehearsal from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sept. 20 in Loso Hall, Room 203, on the EOU campus. The chorus is open to singers of all ages and abilities. According to Director Michael Frasier, it is an energetic and welcoming group.

The Community Choir will perform at the Oct. 18 Choirs of the Valley concert along with the EOU Chamber Choir and area high school choirs and will also be a featured ensemble at the Holiday Music Festival in early December. For more information and to access registration information, go to www.artcentereast.org/music/music-ensembles or contact Frasier at 541-910-1149 or mfrasier@eou.edu.

Emergency Alert test postponed to Oct. 3

SALEM — The nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) that was scheduled for Sept. 20 has been postponed until Oct. 3 due to ongoing response efforts to Hurricane Florence. The test will be conducted by FEMA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

In Oregon, the WEA portion of the test commences at 11:18 a.m., and the EAS portion follows at 11:20 a.m. The test will assess the operational readiness of the infrastructure for distribution of a national message and determine whether improvements are needed. For further information on the test, go to <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-alert-test>.

Tickets on sale for Saturday's symphony concert and dinner

LA GRANDE — Grande Ronde Symphony's 13th annual fundraiser begins at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 22 at the Presbyterian Friendship Center, 1204 Spring Ave., La Grande. The event will include a concert, wine, beer, appetizers and dinner. Tickets are available to purchase at www.granderondesymphony.org.

All welcome at country club's pickleball Play Day

ISLAND CITY — The La Grande Country Club will be open to members and non-members alike Sept. 22 for a Pickleball Play Day on the club's outdoor courts at 10605 S. McAlister Road, Island City. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is free to participate in and free to watch. Equipment is available free of

charge. Tips and demonstrations will be offered for all levels and ages of players. Refreshments and beverages will be available. Call LGCC for more information at 541-963-4241.

Opera students give post-Italy concert Saturday

LA GRANDE — EOU students Jessica Grove, Avalon Bloodgood and Miguel Vasquez have returned from their opera program in Italy and will be giving a free concert featuring the pieces they learned at 4 p.m. Sept. 22 at the La Grande United Methodist Church, 1612 Fourth St.

Visit Dutch Bros Saturday and support LHS marching band

LA GRANDE — From 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 22, the La Grande High School Tiger Marching Band and Jazz Ensemble will be entertaining customers at Dutch Bros on Island Avenue in La Grande. Donations will be collected for the marching band's new uniforms. The band has almost met its goal of \$75,000 for 125 new uniforms and appreciates anyone who shows their support for band kids by tossing some change in a hat. For more information, contact Heather Null at 971-645-3248 or Tressa Seydel at

541-910-4318.

Bandits due to rob Sumpter Valley Railroad this weekend

SUMPTER — The Sumpter Valley Railroad will be running Sept. 22-23, offering the season's final bandit weekend with train robbery and fun. Train depart from McEwen to Sumpter at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and from Sumpter to McEwen at 11:45 a.m. both days. For ticket information, go to www.sumptervalleyrailroad.org.

Wallowology hosts free guided hike

JOSEPH — From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 22, Ecologist David Mildrexler, PhD, will lead participants on a free guided exploration of Wallowa County's diverse forests, picturesque views and beautiful creeks. Pre-registration is required for Wallowology's Huckleberry Roadless Area Outing. For more information and to reserve your spot, call the Wallowology Discovery Center at 541-263-1663.

Waste-Pro accepts hazardous waste on scheduled days

LA GRANDE — Waste-Pro, 3412 Highway 30, La Grande, is accepting hazardous waste on selected Tuesdays through

December. Appointments for disposal between 8:30 a.m. and noon may be made for Sept. 25, Oct. 9 and 23, Nov. 6 and 20, and Dec. 4 and 18 by calling 541-963-5459.

Waste-Pro's hazardous waste disposal services are open to residents of Union, Wallowa and Baker counties. For farms and businesses, additional paperwork may need to be completed prior to the appointment. For more information, contact Waste-Pro at the above number or go to www.facebook.com/WasteProLG/.

Fall beautification award nominations due by Oct. 1

LA GRANDE — The City of La Grande Community Landscape and Forestry Commission is accepting nominations for autumn beautification awards until Oct. 1. The commission recognizes efforts to maintain and improve the beauty of La Grande's environment through outstanding

landscape maintenance and design. Seasonal awards are given to residential and commercial properties that have been carefully landscaped and attract the viewer.

These landscapes must be seen from public access. For more details and nomination forms, stop by the Parks and Recreation Department, 2402 Cedar St., or go to www.lagrandeparks.org.

Forget Me Not Trot raises funds for Alzheimer's awareness

LA GRANDE — The community is invited to join Wildflower Lodge in the fight for Alzheimer's awareness at the fourth annual Forget Me Not Trot 5K and Memory Mile Sept. 22. Cost is \$25 per person, or register as a team for \$20 per person. Children 10 and younger participate for free. Registration includes a Forget Me Not Trot event T-shirt and gift bag. The event begins at 8 a.m. at Wildflower Lodge 508 16th St., La Grande.

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.

OBITUARIES

Gregory H. Fischer
Elgin

Gregory Hal Fischer, 59, of Elgin, died Sept 15 at his residence. A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. Sept. 22 at Indian Creek Cemetery on the Fischer Ranch, off Dutton Road in Elgin. Casual dress is preferred by the family. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

Izah N. Gonzalez
Formerly of La Grande
2003-2018

Izah Nicholas Gonzalez, 14, of Baker City and formerly of La Grande, died Sept.



5. A private celebration of his life will be held Sept. 22.

Nicknamed "Gonzo," Izah was born Nov. 20, 2003, in La Grande. His family moved to Baker City in the winter of 2017. Izah had just started high school in Baker City. He previously attended La Grande Middle School, where he touched many lives — as one student said, "he made the school happy." He was a great friend to many and as close as a brother to some.

Since Izah was a young boy he dreamed of being in the military. As he got older he had a passion for basketball and wanted to play in the NBA. He always wanted to get to school early so he could play with his friends on the basketball court.

According to his family, Izah always strived to be the best at everything he did. He enjoyed playing

sports, being with his family and spending time with his girlfriend, Taylor Brown. He also liked to listen to music and go to the mountains.

Over the last few years, Izah spent the summer with his aunt, uncle and cousins in Hillsboro. There he enjoyed eating peanut butter and banana french toast and bowling with his uncle.

Survivors include his mother, Tammi jo Eaton; father, Joseph Gonzalez; brother, Damian Gonzalez; grandparents, Mickie Sharp and Jesus Gonzalez, Linda and Lloyd Wallingford, and Dale Eaton; aunts and uncles, Monique Gonzalez, Natasha Gonzalez, David Gately, Christopher Eaton, Natasha and Guy McCarthy, Sasha and Michael Oylear, and Allysa and Daniel Hosford; and 12 cousins.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandma and great-grandpa Casteel, great-grandma Voyles, and great-grandma Wallingford.

Memorial contributions to assist the family may be sent to Gray's West & Co. Pioneer Chapel at 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City 97814.

To light a candle in memory of Izah, or to leave a condolence for the family, visit www.grayswestco.com.

Marianne Kaplan
Formerly of La Grande

Marianne Kaplan, 75, formerly of La Grande, died Sept. 16 at her home in Walla Walla, Washington. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Local funerals and visitations

The Observer publishes obituaries that conform to its obituary policy at no cost. 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.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Arrested: Damion R. Martin, 28, La Grande, was arrested on a Union County warrant charging failure to appear in court on a charge of driving while suspended or revoked.

Arrested: Stephanie Kay Keller, 32, unknown address, was arrested on an order to show cause warrant connected to an original charge of unlawful manufacture of meth.

Cited: Charles James Washburn, 72, Elgin, was cited on a charge of second-degree trespassing.

Arrested: Steven Brett Burright, 61, Imbler, was arrested on a

charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Arrested: Steven Eric Slouf, 32, unknown address, was arrested by police in Junction City on a Union County warrant on a charge of failure to appear in court on a charge of first-degree trespassing.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident at Second Street and Washington Avenue on Monday. The accident was reported at

12:41 p.m.

Arrested: Pamela Ann Yundt Barnes, 60, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of a restraining order violation.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident on Chestnut Street Monday. The accident was reported at 5:02 p.m.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The La Grande Fire Department responded to six calls for medical, one odor check and one fire alarm on Monday and six calls for medical, one mutual aid call for a fire and one fire alarm on Tuesday.

IMBLER

Continued from Page 1A virtually eliminating the chance there will be any odor.

The status of the seismic upgrade work being conducted at Imbler High School was also discussed at Monday's meeting. The work is being paid for by a \$1.47 million seismic grant from the state.

Upgrades include roof restoration, reinforcing the walls of the high school gym, strengthening the floors of two classrooms and improving the structural integrity of the

weightlifting deck behind the west bleachers of the gym.

Lakey-Campbell said the roof work was among the most important done during the upgrade project.

"The roof wasn't attached to the walls correctly (before project started)," the superintendent said.

Lakey-Campbell said all of the upgrades have been completed except for some of the roof restoration work, which should be finished in less than a month. She said a small portion of the gym floor was damaged this summer by

rainfall because part of the roof had been opened during the roof restoration. As a result, a 5-by-5-foot portion of the floor warped as a result but the damage was repaired by Griffin Construction, the firm in charge of the upgrade work.

The repaired section of the gym floor now has a moderately different appearance than the rest of the floor following the repair work. Griffin Construction will finish the entire gym floor at no extra cost next summer to address this problem, Lakey-Campbell said.

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