LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

Community food drive under way this weekend

LA GRANDE — According to a press release, 12 percent of households in Union County experience hunger or food insecurity. Eastern Oregon University students are organizing a community food drive beginning this weekend to benefit Haven From Hunger, La Grande's emergency food bank, which helps to fill in the gaps for families in need. This food drive is specifically searching for nonperishable food items as well as personal and feminine hygiene products. To make a donation or arrange pickup, call 541-786-3663 or email lhurty@eou.edu.

Order a take-away Thanksgiving dinner by Monday

LA GRANDE — The Union County Senior Center's nutrition department is taking orders for take-away Thanksgiving dinners. These traditional turkey dinners will feed four people and cost \$32. The meals will be ready for pickup between 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Nov. 21. Order forms are available at 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande, or by calling 541-963-7532. These meals would make a wonderful gift for a busy and/or struggling family. Completed order forms must be returned by Nov. 19.

Transportation available to Thanksgiving dinner

ENTERPRISE — Wallowa County's annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Nov. 22 at the Cloverleaf Hall. The meal, which is put together by the Wallowa Resources Board and a group of local volunteers, is free. Those who attend may bring a donation for the local food bank and/or a dessert to share.

Rides to Cloverleaf Hall can be arranged through

Community Connection by calling 541-426-3840 before noon Nov. 19.

Imbler School Board meets Tuesday

IMBLER — The Imbler School District Board of Directors will meet for a regular session at 7 p.m. Nov. 20 in Room 1 of the high school. The public is welcome to attend all open sessions of the Imbler School District Board.

Volunteers sought for community Thanksgiving dinner

LA GRANDE — Neighbors Together of Union County is seeking volunteers to help with next week's Thanksgiving meal. People are needed to set up and clean up, prepare potatoes, cook and host. Most cooking, setting up and potato prep happens on Nov. 21. Those who volunteer to help with the remaining cooking, hosting and cleaning up will be needed on

Thanksgiving Day. For more information, call Neighbors Together at 541-963-9126 or email outreach.grv@gmail.

The traditional turkey dinner will be served at 1 p.m. Nov. 22 at the Presbyterian Friendship Center, 1204 Spring Ave., La Grande.

Turn in float applications for Christmas parade

LA GRANDE -La Grande's annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting takes place every year the day after Thanksgiving. The parade is in the evening and travels down Adams Avenue from Greenwood to Fourth Street — ending with the Tree Lighting ceremony in Max Square. The theme of this year's parade is "Christmas Bells." Parade float applications can be found at www. lagrandemainstreet.org. For more information call 541-963-1223.

Vendors sought for holiday bazaars

LA GRANDE — Vendors are being sought for early December holiday bazaars in La Grande. Information for vendors interested in participating in the Union County 4-H Holiday Bazaar, set for Dec. 1-2 at the Union County Fairgrounds, may send an email to karie.hoffman@oregonstate. edu. Vendors interested in purchasing a table at the Dec. 1 La Grande Nazarene Church Holiday Bazaar are asked to submit a vendor application. The fee to reserve a table is \$20. For more information, call 541-963-3402 or email nazarene@eoni.com or stop by the church 109 18th St., La Grande.

Sno-Park season is under way

SALEM — From Nov. 1 until April 30, 2019, a valid Sno-Park permit must be displayed in vehicles parked at Oregon's winter recreation parking areas.

Oregon's Sno-Park program helps provide snow removal at the approximately 100 parking areas across the state. There are three types of permits: a \$25 seasonal permit, a \$9 three-day permit and a \$4 daily permit. A list of areas designated as Sno-Parks and a directory of permit agents are available at www.tripcheck.com under "Travel Center." Oregon Sno-Park permits may also be used in California and Idaho.

Community Thanksgiving dinner served Tuesday in Union

UNION — The annual community-wide Thanksgiving dinner in Union will be held Nov. 20 at the Union United Methodist Church, 667 N. Main St. A social hour begins at 11 a.m., and the meal will be served at noon. Cash donations are appreciated but not required. To-go meals will also be available.

OBITUARIES

Betty 'Lou' Carpenter Formerly of La Grande 1928-2018

Betty Lou Carpenter, 90, formerly of La Grande, died Nov. 4 in Richland,



Washington. A celebration of her life has already taken place.

Known as

Lou, she was born Jan. 10, 1928, in La Grande, to Elmer and Verna (Kent) Carpenter. Lou attended school in both La Grande and Baker City, graduating from Baker High School in 1946. She attended her 70th class reunion in 2016.

Lou resided in La Grande the majority of her adult life. She and her father built a very successful restaurant/bar business, The Tropidara, and ran it together from 1953 to 1984. She was intuitive and practical, which led her to be an accomplished businesswoman. This success afforded her to travel, which she loved to do with family and friends. Destinations included Hawaii, the Caribbean, Spain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico and Africa. In 2017 Lou and her sister went on a memorable road trip to Yellowstone National Park. Lou loved the Oregon Coast and enjoyed many trips there.

Lou had a very gentle and caring nature. She loved and took care of not only her family and friends but also animals. She supported many causes that protected animals of all kinds. For 37 years, she donated to the ChildFund (formerly known

as Christian Children's Fund), a child development organization that provides assistance to deprived, excluded and vulnerable children in 30 countries, including the United States.

Lou and her life partner, Carl "Sleepy" Combs, spent a great deal of time on their yacht. They eventually made their way to Kennewick, Washington, where they joined the Clover Island Yacht Club. Along with great friends they enjoyed many excursions on the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. For several years Lou decorated their boat for the lighted boat parade.

According to her family, Lou was high class and known for her "bling." She enjoyed a great game of cribbage and other card games and for many years hosted a ladies' weekly card night. She had many dear friends, including Debbie Loftus of Kennewick, Washington, and Jeannie Gallagher of La Grande.

Survivors include her sister, Carla Carpenter of Hillsboro; cousin, Larry Knouse and his wife, Bev; and several other cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Verna and Elmer; life partner, Carl "Sleepy" Combs; and cousin, Helen Knouse, who was more like a sister.

Memorial donations may be made to an animal rescue of your choice.

Janice F. (Doty) Meyer Joseph 1942-2018

Janice Fave Meyer, 76, of Joseph, died Nov. 5 at

Wallowa Memorial Hospital. A celebration of her life will begin at 1 p.m. Nov. 14 at Bollman Funeral Home in Enterprise. A final celebration will be held at 1 p.m. Nov. 21 at Hale-Sarver Family Funeral Home in West Milton, Ohio. Interment will be at Royal Oak Cemetery in Brookville, Ohio.

Janice was born Sept. 12, 1942, in Dayton, Ohio, to James R. and Viola (Brock) Doty. She attended Randolph High School in Englewood, Ohio, and in 1960 married Richard Meyer.

After starting a family, Janice and Richard lived in Union, Ohio, and San Marcos, California. In 1985, they moved to Joseph. Janice worked at Pam's Country Inn with her brother, sisterin-law and niece for many

years. She also worked at Joseph High School and owned several restaurants before retiring.

Janice enjoyed working in her yard. Most of all, she loved being with her family.

Survivors include her brother, Bill Doty of Joseph; sons, Ron Meyer of Joseph, Jim Meyer of Hermiston, Jeff Meyer of Joseph and Jeremy Jared of Cove; daughter, Becky Dockery of Enterprise; 16 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Richard; siblings, Bob Doty, Don Doty, Jim Doty and Virginia Schultz; sisterin-law, Nancy Doty; daughter-in-law, Sheila Meyer; grandson, Ozzy; and beloved family friend, Sandy Jared.

Some Oregon pot stores consolidating to weather weak market

Associated Press

ASTORIA — Signs for Mr. Nice Guy, an ode to the 1998 stoner comedy "Half Baked," recently began popping up in Astoria.

The Daily Astorian reports that the marijuana retailer has merged with a sister company, Hi Cascade, absorbing its location at the foot of the South Slope. Mr. Nice Guy will open another store next month on Bond Street downtown.

The new addition to Astoria's growing number of marijuana stores is also part of a trend toward consolidation, as many shops try to weather a weak market, sometimes taking on outside investment capital.

Will Wiedenmann, an assistant director of operations with Mr. Nice Guy, said the two companies' ownership felt they needed to make a universal brand behind Mr. Nice Guy. The company now has 16 locations in Oregon, including former Hi Cascades.

"Strength in numbers is a big thing," Wiedenmann said.

Five Zero Trees, a Portland-based retailer that recently opened stores in

DENTAL

Cannon Beach and Astoria, has six locations on the North Coast and around Portland. Sweet Relief has five locations on the North Coast and inland to Columbia County. Cannabis Nation, with a location in Seaside, has four stores

around the state. Marijuana stores have faced increasingly tight margins since overproduction after the drug was legalized in Oregon led to a sharp decline in prices. Having more places to sell allows retail chains to buy at a larger scale for a lower price, said Beau Whitney, a cannabis economist with New Frontier Data.

"That creates a pricing differential relative to the smaller mom and pops that don't have the purchasing power," he said. "To me, this is a natural evolution of the market. It's starting to increase now lately."

It seemed like Oregon was reaching saturation when it recorded nearly 600 dispensaries, Whitney said. But the state had focused on getting more licensees and offering lower entry fees to help take consumers away from the illicit

Insurance

market.

"In retrospect, when you think about it, having unlimited licenses in a closed environment . at some point there was naturally going to be a consolidation in the marketplace," Whitney said.

State regulators in June placed a moratorium on new licensees until they could work through the backlog of applicants seeking entry into the marijuana industry. That backlog is exacerbated by companies changing ownership as they take on investors, Whitney said. The process was made easier by the state Legislature in 2016 rolling back requirements that more than half of a marijuana store be owned by an Oregon resident.

Now out-of-state investors can contribute as much as they want to Oregon cannabis businesses, bankrolling new franchises.

"Investors are coming in," Whitney said. "They see an opportunity. They are seeing a certain level of distress in the market. That distress is allowing them to buy high-value properties at a discount. They see this as an arbitrage opportunity."

Another reason for the rush of outside capital is that marijuana business owners can't access traditional financing, such as loans, because of federal prohibition, Whitney said.

The clearest example of outside investment locally is Hashstoria, a marijuana store in Uniontown. The business is registered to Charles Delvalle from Eugene and Canty Ventures, an angel investment firm from Florida embracing nontraditional, emergent industries from cannabis to cryptocurrency. Hashstoria's ownership was not immediately available for comment. On his Instagram profile, Canty founder Jedd Canty announced the company would be establishing a second location in Springfield.

Whitney sees smaller shops and growers being squeezed out of the cannabis market as prices continue to stagnate. "Those mom and pop shops that don't have access to capital, they're the ones that are going to be priced out of the market first," he said.

April Smith and her family bought out the previous

owners of The Farmacy, a standalone marijuana store in Astoria, earlier this year. Previously a behavioral health and addiction treatment therapist in Washington state, Smith said she had seen how well cannabidiol, a nonpsychoactive compound in cannabis with medical uses, had helped people escape addiction to hard drugs.

The Farmacy includes

a retail shop and a grow operation under a separate company in the basement. The vertical integration from seed to sale allows more tax write-offs under the section of the IRS tax code limiting cannabis producers to business deductions attributable to production activities."To be able to be successful, you have to have a way to optimize everything," Smith said.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident on Island Avenue Wednesday, The accident was reported at 1:45

Arrested: Clifford Eugene Bradley, 52, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of driving while suspended, misdemeanor.

Arrested: Mykell Dawn Hansell, 33, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County warrant charging a probation violation.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident Wednesday at Red Pepper Road and Gekeler Lane. The accident was reported at 4:08

Cited: Megan Riva Shepherd, 19, unknown address, was

arrested on a charge of third-

LA GRANDE FIRE **DEPARTMENT**

degree theft.

The La Grande Fire Department responded to six calls for medical on Wednesday and nine calls for medical on Thursday.





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