

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

Healing service offered during Christmas season

JOSEPH — Recognizing that the holidays can be a difficult time for some, a Blue Christmas Worship Service will take place Dec. 15 in Joseph. The Saturday service is designed to apply salve to emotional wounds and offers an opportunity for healing to begin. According to organizers, "This is what Christmas is really all about: the new life of the one who brings salve and healing and new life." All are welcome to join the 3 p.m. service at The Place, 303 S. Lake St. Call 541-432-3102, email jumc@eoni.com or go to www.jo-

sephumc.org with questions or for more information.

RSVP for next Cove senior meal

COVE — A senior lunch in Cove will be served Dec. 18 in Founders Hall at the Ascension School grounds. The meal will feature pork loin or chicken breasts, scalloped potatoes, glazed carrots, ambrosia salad and rolls, with bread pudding for dessert. There is a \$5 charge per meal. Coffee and tea are available at noon, and the meal begins at 12:30 p.m. RSVP by calling Imie Bristow at 541-568-4545 or Betsy Arnson at 541-568-4902.

Expand your gardening knowledge in 2019

ISLAND CITY — The Master Gardener Program offered by OSU Union County Extension is a great chance to expand your gardening knowledge. The 2019 classes begin Jan. 15 and a variety of classes and workshops are planned. Classes will be held Tuesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The cost for the full course is \$155, and individual classes are open to community members for \$5 per class (\$10 for weekend workshops). Classes are held in the conference room at the Union County Extension office,

10507 N. McAlister Road, Island City.

For a Master Gardener course application, go to www.extension.oregonstate.edu/union. For more information and to RSVP for individual classes, call the Extension office at 541-963-1010.

Novices welcome at Wallowa meat shoot

WALLOWA — A meat shoot will be held at the Wallowa Rod & Gun Club on Lower Diamond Land beginning at 9 a.m. Dec. 16. Prizes will be awarded, and all are welcome, including novices are welcome. There will also be games for non-shooters. The club will be open for

breakfast and lunch. For more information call Randal at Ram Auto & Hardware at 541-886-3245 or John at 541-886-8802.

Wreaths Across America placed in La Grande

LA GRANDE — American Legion Post 43 of La Grande is again sponsoring Wreaths Across America. At 9 a.m. Dec. 15, the group will begin placing wreaths on the headstones in the Veterans Circle in Grandview Cemetery on Foothill Road. The public is welcome to observe or help place the wreaths. There will be a brief public ceremony at 10 a.m. with Pastor Roger

Cochran officiating. The wreaths will remain up until Dec. 29.

Santa Mall helps children experience joy of giving

LA GRANDE — The Santa Mall will be open to children shoppers from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Blue Mountain Conference Center, 404 12th St., La Grande. The Santa Mall offers a variety of gifts with nothing priced more than \$7. Gift-givers age 17 and younger are welcome to shop for and with their families. Free gift wrapping will be available for everyone purchasing items at the Santa Mall.

Braden M. Manjarres

La Grande
1988-2018

Braden Michael Manjarres, 30, of La Grande, died Dec. 6 at his residence.



A celebration of his life will be held at 2 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Island City Light-

house Pentecostal Church. The family prefers casual dress.

Braden was born June 3, 1988, in La Grande, to Henry and Gail (Coleman) Manjarres. He was raised in La Grande and graduated from La Grande High School.

Braden was employed with Gary Wright Contracting as a loader operator. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, jet boating and doing anything outdoors with his friends and family. Braden was loving and smart and had an amazing sense of humor. A jack of all trades, there was nothing he couldn't do or fix.

Survivors include his parents, Henry and Gail; brother and sister-in-law, Jace and Kristyn Manjarres of La Grande; significant other, Nichole Andrews; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Arlene

Coleman, and grandparents, Henry and Lidia Manjarres.

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

Clifford 'Jasper' Parker

Formerly of La Grande

Clifford "Jasper" Parker, 87, of Hermiston, died Dec. 2 in Eatonville, Washington. He was born Jan. 21, 1931, in La Grande. A private celebration of his life will be held. Arrangements are entrusted to Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. To leave a condolence for Jasper's family, go to www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Fredrick R. Freels

La Grande
1937-2018

Fredrick "Freddy" Ray Freels, 81, of La Grande, died Nov. 30 at a local care facility. Services are not planned at this time.

Known as Freddy, he was born July 14, 1937, in Enterprise, to Loren and Louis (Vannaache) Freels. He resided in Wallowa, Summerville and La Grande and graduated from Wallowa High School. On May 1, 1965, Freddy married Irma May Lindsay.

Freddy was employed in various mechanical positions in Eastern Oregon over the years. His passion was restoring antique cars and trucks with his lifelong friend Leon Peroz of Imbler. In the early 1950s, Freddy played an Indian in the movie "Pillars in the Sky," which was filmed in Eastern Oregon.

Survivors include his wife, Irma; children, Gary Freels of Milwaukie, Greg Freels of Scappoose, Paul Freels of Imbler; and Lisa Crawford and husband, Joseph, of La Grande; and four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, JoAnne Johnson.

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

Gloria D. (Walden) Spears

La Grande
1930-2018

Gloria Darlene Spears, 88, of La Grande, died Dec. 5 at her residence. At



her request, there will not be a service.

Gloria was born May 15, 1930, in North Platte, Nebraska, to Robert

and Mildred Walden. The family moved to La Grande due to her father's employment with Union Pacific Railroad. Gloria attended schools in La Grande, where she met and later married her husband, Leonard Spears.

Gloria and Leonard raised three sons. When they reached school age, Gloria worked at the La Grande Medical Clinic for seven years and then worked as a secretary/bookkeeper for the La Grande High School for 25 years, retiring in 1991. She was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church, Beta Theta Sorority, Impact 100 and Retired Educators.

Survivors include her husband, Leonard; sons and their wives, Robert and Kathy Spears, William Spears, and Douglas and Cheryl Spears, all of La Grande; half brother and wife, Steve and Marilyn Walden of New York; half sister, Connie Foster of Fruitland, Idaho; and seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and daughter-in-law, Sonja "Sonny" Spears.

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

Verda K. (Olsen) Harmon

La Grande
1946-2018

Verda Kathlyn Harmon, 72, of La Grande, died Dec. 4 at a local care facility. A celebration of her life will be held at the Oregon Coast at a later date.



Verda was born March 11, 1946, on the kitchen table, in Harper, to Albert and Arrietta Olsen. Verda was blessed with a very large, blended family. She attended school in Harper and Elgin. She married Nathan Kennedy and had two daughters, Sandee and Cindy. They later divorced and she married Dick Harmon, gaining another daughter, Pamela. The family lived in several places over the years including Hermiston and La Grande.

Verda had a variety of occupations, including waitress, housekeeper, pilot car driver and commercial truck driver. She loved to crochet and to make ceramics, quilts and redwood clocks. Verda loved to take trips to the Oregon Coast, especially with her grandkids. A skilled cook, she loved to share her treats with family and friends and taught her grandchildren how to cook some of her special recipes like fry bread. Verda lived

for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and took any opportunity she could to spoil them.

Anyone who knew Verda would say she was spunky and had a wicked sense of humor. She grew very fond of her caregivers and the family will treasure the stories they shared of her antics while residing in the Memory Care Unit at Wildflower Lodge in La Grande. Alzheimer's took her away too soon, but she will forever live on in the memories of her family and close friends.

Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Sandee Kennedy of Stanfield, Cindy and Keith Lowman of Lynden, Washington, and Pamela and Jeff Scott of La Grande; siblings, Anita, Charles, Donald, Etta, Gene, George, Gordon, Jack, John, Joyce, Marilyn, Mary, Maxine, Patty, Penny, Roberta and Tomie; and 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Dick; and siblings, Diana, Duane and Larry.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to a fund at Umpqua Bank (c/o Pamela Scott, account ending 2733) or to the Alzheimer's Association.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident on Highway 203 Monday. The accident was reported 7:07 p.m.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident Monday at Hunter Road and End Road in the Summerville area. The accident was reported at 9:48 a.m.

Accident: No injuries were suffered in a motor vehicle accident on Morgan Lake Road Monday. It was reported at 12:30 p.m.

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Michael Paul Lubeck, 36, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of second-degree trespassing.

Arrested: Christopher Shane Meuser, 39, La Grande, was arrested on a Union County warrant charging contempt of court, five counts.

cal on Monday and six 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.

Addicts in Oregon bypass controls, get many prescriptions

By Andrew Selsky

Associated Press

SALEM — Standing behind a photograph of her nephew, a state official on Tuesday described his drug overdose as she released an audit that found holes in a prescription drug monitoring program aimed at fighting the opioid epidemic.

Alex Eliot died four years ago at age 29 in Mount Airy, Maryland, after taking a combination of drugs that included opioids, said Debra Royal, chief of staff to Secretary of State Dennis Richardson.

"There are far too many families in Oregon and across this country who understand exactly what I'm

talking about," Royal said. "Guilt, loneliness, sorrow replace the space where the loved one used to be."

Because Oregon has some of the highest opioid-abuse rates in the nation, averaging one overdose death every three days, Richardson ordered an audit of the state's prescription drug monitoring program, or PDMP.

The rate of prescriptions for opioids in Oregon is 13 percent higher than the national average, said audit manager Jamie Ralls. The state has the highest rate in the nation of those 65 and older who are hospitalized for opioid-related issues. The audit noted Oregon is

one of only nine states that do not require prescribers or pharmacies to use the PDMP.

The audit's 12 recommendations include requiring a caregiver to check a patient's history in the PDMP database before prescribing controlled substances. Another would require pharmacists to do the same.

The audit identified 148 people who received controlled-substance prescriptions from 30 or more different prescribers. One person amassed 290 prescriptions for opioids, primarily Hydrocodone, from 232 prescribers, 218 of whom were dentists. They were filled by 75 pharma-

cies.

The audit calls for the Oregon Health Authority to work with the Legislature to expand statutes to allow the PDMP to conduct and share analyses on prescription data. State laws limit the agency's ability to examine practitioners' activities and do not allow analyses focused on patients.

"If there's political will to get the statutes changed, it could really fast-track," said Audits Division Director Kip Memmott.

House Republican leader Carl Wilson said in the coming days his caucus will propose legislation based on the recommendations.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

La Grande Fire Department responded to 11 calls for medi-

Gloves
Wool Socks
Goggles
Accessories
Stocking Stuffers

Mountain Works Bicycles
1301 Adams Ave. La Grande, OR
541-963-3220
www.mountainworksbicycles.com

Ageing Together...

Through Holidays
Past, Present, & Future

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Residents & Staff of Grande Ronde Retirement - the Valley's only Premier assisted living community.

GRANDE Ronde
Retirement & Assisted Living
1809 Gekeler Ln. • La Grande
541-963-4700

An invitation to enjoy an evening of Music

Händel's Oratorio "THE MESSIAH"

Free Admission
La Grande High School Auditorium
2nd Street & J Avenue
Sun, Dec. 16th, 2018 @6:30 pm

Nativity Collections on Display: open at 5:30 PM

When should you be treated in the Emergency Room?

- When a loved one is unconscious or unresponsive
- When you suspect a heart attack - chest pain, shortness of breath, etc.
- When you suspect a stroke - facial droop, weakness on one side, slurred speech
- After an accident or injury where you suspect a concussion, broken bone, internal injury, or other serious condition.

For most other health concerns, call your primary care doctor or provider. For life-threatening emergencies, call 9-1-1.

This message brought to you by the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization & Wallowa Memorial Hospital.

Wallowa Memorial Hospital
We treat you like family
601 Medical Parkway, Enterprise, OR 97828 • 541-426-3111 • www.wchcd.org
Wallowa Memorial Hospital is an equal opportunity employer and provider.