

LOCAL BRIEFING

MENUS

City of Cove to set goals

COVE — The City of Cove will hold a work session for goal setting and a special council meeting beginning at 6 p.m. Feb. 26. The council meets at Cove City Hall, 504 Alder.

LG School Board updates meeting schedule

LA GRANDE — The Board of Directors of the La Grande School District will meet in executive session at 5 p.m. Feb. 27 in the superintendent's office to review and evaluate the superintendent pursuant. At 7 p.m., the board will have a regular meeting in the District Office Conference Room, 1305 N Willow St. Following this, the board will again meet in executive session to hear complaint(s) brought against employee(s).

Water resource planning on Wednesday

ISLAND CITY — The Place-Based Integrated Water Resource Planning meeting for the Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Partnership will be held at 4 p.m. Feb. 27 at the OSU Extension Office, 10507 N. McAlister, Island City. The meeting is open to the public. For more information, call Union County Planning Department at 541-963-1014.

March SNAP benefits will be issued early

SALEM — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has asked states to provide early issuance of March benefits for those who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for food security. This request is due to the

partial federal government shutdown that occurred in January. Oregonians who normally receive their SNAP benefits between the 1st or 9th of each month will get their March allocation on March 1. The early March issuance date will help to ease the burden on affected households who have had a longer than usual gap between their SNAP issuances. Anyone who is concerned about running out of SNAP benefits may contact 211Info, the Oregon Food Bank or the Aging and Disability Resource Connection to find resources in their local communities.

Gardeners learn about composting Tuesday

ISLAND CITY — The OSU Master Gardener program is offering its classes to

the public for \$5 each. The next class begins at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 26. "Soils and Composting" will be a Power Point presentation narrated by Gail Langelotto of OSU Horticulture Extension. This class will be held in the conference room at the Union County Extension office, 10507 N. McAlister Road, Island City. For more information and to RSVP call the OSU Union County Extension office at 541-963-1010.

Carbon reduction public hearing changes venue

BAKER CITY — The public hearing of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction set for Feb. 25, has been moved to the Baker County Fairgrounds. The hearing is scheduled for 5 p.m. The public hearing is a remote hearing with testimony being

offered from Baker City and Newport. The joint committee is hosting a series of public hearings around the state giving Oregonians the chance to voice their opinions and ask questions about House Bill 2020, which would make Oregon the second state in the nation to adopt an economy-wide cap-and-trade system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The Baker County hearing is sponsored by the Baker County Chamber of Commerce and OTEC.

Elgin School Board to meet Feb. 25

ELGIN — The Elgin School Board will meet Monday. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Stella Mayfield School Library. Elgin High School's gym roof will be one of the subjects discussed at the meeting.

UNION COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

1504 N. ALBANY ST., LA GRANDE
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Feb. 25-March 1

MONDAY: chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, steamed vegetables, salad greens, rolls, fruit.
TUESDAY: biscuits & sausage gravy, egg casserole, fresh fruit, orange juice.
WEDNESDAY: spaghetti, spinach salad, steamed vegetables, baked Italian bread, dessert.
THURSDAY: turkey sandwiches or hot ham and cheese sandwiches, tomato soup, fruit slices, cookies.
FRIDAY: Not available at press time.

OBITUARIES

Laurel "Joyce" (Sibbett) Madsen

La Grande
1931-2019

Laurel "Joyce" Madsen, 87, of La Grande, died Feb. 15. A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 23 at the Hermiston Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Burial will follow at the Hermiston Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

Known as Joyce, she was born Aug. 22, 1931, in Thayne, Wyoming, to Franklin James and Blanche Idell (Haderlie) Sibbett. She was raised and attended school in Star Valley, Wyoming, and later in Layton, Utah. She attended Davis High School in Bountiful, Utah, where she was a member of the Pro Schola Club and participated in other social activities.

While attending Davis High, Joyce met her future husband, Donald B. Madsen, and they were married June 30, 1950, in the Salt Lake City Temple. Joyce worked a variety of jobs over the next couple of years, including being a telephone operator, while Don pursued his education in Ogden, Utah, and later in Caldwell, Idaho. While in Caldwell, Joyce gave birth to their first son, Michael. They moved several more times before settling in Hermiston in 1956. In Hermiston she gave birth to their second son, Mark.

Joyce decided to return to college to become a teacher. She commuted to Pendleton for two years and then later to La Grande for two years to earn her degree. She went on to teach at Sunset Elementary in Hermiston for the next 25 years. Joyce retired in 1995 and enjoyed substituting for several more years.

Joyce had many hobbies, including cooking, baking, scrapbooking and gardening. She got much joy from being around her family and relished gatherings and traditional holidays with family and friends. Don was a coach and Joyce mothered ball players of all ages. She logged hundreds of hours on benches around the state and prepared countless team meals at their home.

Joyce was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served in many callings, including a Stake Mission with Don to the Willow Creek Branch for two years.

Survivors include her sons, Michael Madsen of Hermiston and Mark Madsen and wife, JoAnna, of La Grande; siblings, Jay Sibbett of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Cheryl Humphrey and husband, Wayne, of Maple Valley, Washington; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Don; parents; and brother, Kent Sibbett.

To share memories of Joyce with her family, go to burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Floyde 'Dale' Bechtel

Formerly of Elgin

Floyde "Dale" Bechtel, 91, of Kennewick, Washington, and formerly of Elgin, died Feb. 14 at a care facility. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Elgin Cemetery, followed by a reception at the Elgin Community Center at 3 p.m.. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

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Rosalie M. Williams

La Grande

Rosalie M. Williams, 72, of La Grande, died Feb. 21 at St Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Neil Buchanan

La Grande

Neil Buchanan, 88, of La Grande, died Feb. 21 at a local care facility. 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.



PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Darren Lee Weaver, 48, unknown address, was arrested on a Wallowa County warrant charging a probation violation. The alleged probation violation was connected to an original charge of driving while suspended.

Arrested: Nathan A. Ladorff, 24, La Grande, was arrested on charges of reckless driving and second-degree criminal mischief.

Arrested: Dylan Douglas Greene, 27, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of fourth-degree assault, domestic.

Arrested: George Robert Kelly, 23, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County warrant charging unlawful possession of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of a schedule II controlled substance.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident at Fir Street and Monroe Avenue Thursday. The accident was reported at 1:13 p.m.

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Arrested: Christopher Alan Howell, 29, Elgin, was arrested on a charge of using an invalid license.

Arrested: Cynthia Renee Cox, 55, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of third-degree theft.

Arrested: Mindy Lee Melton, 41, unknown address and Harold David Bicknell, 47, unknown address, were each arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine; distribution of controlled substance methamphetamine; manufacture of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, and frequenting a place where controlled substances are used.

Arrested: Tyson James Burningham, 35, unknown address, was arrested by the Baker County Sheriff's Office on two Union County warrants. One was a parole warrant connected to an original charge of possession of meth and delivery of meth. A second warrant charged failure to appear in court on charges of driving under the influence of intoxicants, failure to drive within a lane and driving while suspended or revoked.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

La Grande Fire Department crews responded to eight calls for medical assistance on Monday, seven on Tuesday, nine on Wednesday and 10 on Thursday.

Public Safety Report

The Public Safety Report is compiled from police blotter information supplied by local law enforcement agencies and fire department reports.

Michael Allen Strickland

November 28, 1991 - February 13, 2019

Michael Allen Strickland, 27, of Elgin, passed away on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at his residence. A Memorial Service will be held at the Elgin Stampede Hall on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 1:00pm. Casual dress is preferred by the family.

Michael was born on November 28, 1991 in La Grande, Oregon to Mark and Pamela (DeChenne) Strickland. He was born on Thanksgiving Day. He was a happy, courageous, adventurous boy. He started Kindergarten in Elgin at the Catholic Church with friends he later graduated with at the Elgin High School in 2010. These friends were and are still inseparable.

Michael enjoyed sports. He loved baseball, starting out playing T-ball and on up to playing Varsity ball in high school. He was a third baseman with a heck of an arm. He also loved to wrestle (4 years) and went out for Cross Country his senior year, where he got to run with his sister. He also enjoyed wood shop and made a lot of furniture. His favorite class was metal shop. For his senior project, he restored and built a new flat-bed on his dad's 1949 Studebaker.

Michael has always been a hard-working young man. He knew about construction before he was in school. Went to work with his dad where he learned carpenter skills, concrete, sprinkler systems and the ability to operate equipment. He started work at Nash out of high school, where he became a lead in the chassis shop. He was an excellent welder. He worked there for 6 1/2 years. His latest job that he loved, was working for JD Mosley in La Grande for Rock Solid Builders. He had been there for 2 years.

Michael was a true outdoorsman. He loved the mountains. He learned to shoot a bow and firearms from his dad at a very young age. He loved to hunt with his mom and dad, but especially taking his sisters and grandad out to get the monster bucks or elk. He became interested in hounds, his 7 dogs were his passion. He loved to go bobcat hunting. He loved to



go shed hunting and mushroom picking. He also loved 4 wheeling, and snowmobiling with his cousins and friends. His favorite thing was cruising around the mountain roads listening to good old classic rock in his Suzuki Samurai.

Michael was involved in the Oregon Houndsman Club and was a member of the Suzuki Samurai club. He loved his little hoopie. Michael

was planning on getting married to his best friend, Justine English. Justine has a 2 1/2 year old boy, Lane, that Michael loved with all his heart and was a true father to this boy. He so wanted a family.

Michael was such a sweet, caring and loving young man, that would always have a helping hand for anyone who needed it. He will truly be missed.

Michael is survived by his fiancé, Justine English and step-son, Lane Lawrence of Elgin, OR; parents, Mark and Pam Strickland of Elgin, OR; sisters, Shelby Boltz of Junction City, KS, Shannon Murry (Josey) of Elgin, OR and Shay Fisher (Chad) of Weston, OR; 3 nieces and 2 nephews; aunts and uncles, Kim Strickland of Milton-Freewater, Pat DeChenne (Kris) of Elgin, OR, Ginni Davis (Bob) of Olympia, WA, Rhonda McRynolds (Cliff) of Milton-Freewater, OR; cousins, Kyle and Kevin DeChenne, Miko, Dax & Brad McRynolds, Marty and Gina Davis, Randy and Josh Strickland, and Michelle and Rosie Densmore; grandparents, David and Bonnie DeChenne of Elgin, OR, Betty Wales of Milton-Freewater, OR and Steve Strickland of Milton-Freewater, OR. He was preceded in death by 3 great-grandmothers, 4 great uncles, 2 great grandfathers, and twin baby daughters.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Go Fund Me account to help with funeral expenses.

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

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