

# LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

## Union School Board to meet Wednesday

UNION — The Union School Board will meet March 13 for its regular monthly meeting. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at the high school athletic complex.

## Ten Depot hosts live music, wine tasting

LA GRANDE — Ten Depot Street hosts free live music by Amber Sweeney at 8 p.m. March 12. She is described as a soulful singer-songwriter. The restaurant's next Wine Tasting Wednesday has been rescheduled for March 20. This event begins at 5:30 p.m. and will feature selected Columbia Crest Wines paired with four small plates for \$30. Reservations are being taken for individuals and groups. Call 541-963-8766 for more information.

## February 2019: fourth-coldest, second-wettest on record

PENDLETON — According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at La Grande averaged much colder than normal during the month of February. The average temperature was 28.3 degrees, 6.1 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 35.5 degrees, 7.4 degrees below normal. The highest was 47 degrees on the 2nd. Low temperatures averaged 21.1 degrees, 4.8 degrees below normal. The lowest was 1 degree on February 7. There were 24

days with the low temperature below 32 degrees, and there were eight days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 3.44 inches during February, which was 2.30 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation (at least .01 inch) was received on 11 days, with the heaviest, 1.10 inches, reported on February 25. Precipitation this year has reached 5.60 inches, 2.83 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at La Grande has been 11.21 inches, 3.46 inches above normal.

In February, snowfall totaled 24 inches, with at least 1 inch of snow reported on four days. The heaviest snowfall was 12 inches reported on the 25th. The greatest reported depth of snow on the ground was 14 inches on the 25th.

The outlook for March from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for below normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for La Grande rise from 47 degrees at the start of March to 55 degrees at the end of March. Normal lows rise from 28 degrees to 33 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.46 inches.

This was the fourth-coldest February on record. The coldest was 23.9 degrees in 1989. It was also the second-wettest February on record. The wettest was 3.91 inches in 1986.

## Cove senior meal features Irish menu

COVE — The next senior meal in Cove will be served March 19 at Founders Hall at the Ascension School. The Tuesday lunch will feature corned beef and cabbage, baby carrots, red potatoes, Irish soda bread and green salad, with carrot cake for dessert. There is a \$5 charge per meal. Coffee and tea are available at noon and lunch begins at 12:15 p.m. RSVP by March 14 by calling Imie Bristow at 541-568-4545 or Betsy Arnson at 541-568-4902.

## EOU Trustees to discuss Learning House partnership

LA GRANDE — The EOU Board of Trustees will convene for a special meeting at 12:15 p.m. March 13 in Room 201 of Inlow Hall to discuss the evaluation of a potential partnership with The Learning House. The brief meeting will cover topics including operational discussions, enrollment and financial outcomes, and contract review. This is a public meeting, but the board plans to go into executive session for part of the duration.

## Workshop aims to empower girls

LA GRANDE — Soroptimist International of La Grande is hosting a "Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls" workshop from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 16 at Le BeBe Cakes Bakery

in La Grande. Open to girls age 14-18, the workshop is aimed at giving girls the tools, information and resources they need to achieve their education and career goals. Girls and their parents can learn more and sign up for the program at [www.lagrandesoroptimist.org](http://www.lagrandesoroptimist.org) or call 503-888-4476.

## Landmarks Commission considers Putman Building applications

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Landmarks Commission will meet at 6 p.m. March 14 for a regular session in the Council Chambers of La Grande City Hall, 1000 Adams Ave. Pending business includes discussing Dale Mammen's Putnam Building Project.

## Class of '54 meets for lunch Thursday

LA GRANDE — The members of the La Grande High School Class of 1954 will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. March 14 at the Flying J restaurant.

## Shamrock Shuffle set for Saturday

LA GRANDE — United Way of Eastern Oregon's annual Shamrock Shuffle Fun Run will begin at 8 a.m. March 16 at Eastern Oregon University Quinn Coliseum. Sponsored by Grande Ronde Road Runners, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. and Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, the Shamrock Shuffle is a fun way for community

members to help their local United Way in its mission to support charities, including Shelter From the Storm, MayDay Inc., CASA of Eastern Oregon, food banks and youth programs. Cost of attendance at the door is \$10 for adults and \$5 for age 5-22. For more information, visit [www.uweo.org](http://www.uweo.org) or call Executive Director Alex McHaddad at 541-962-0306.

## Reserve your seat for basketball excursion

LA GRANDE — The City of La Grande Parks & Recreation Department is now offering excursions to regional sporting events. The next will take place March 23, with a trip to see the Portland Trail Blazers play the Pistons. Enjoy the game without the stress of arranging the logistics. Spots on the bus are limited and registration must be completed by March 18. The excursion is open to anyone age 13 and older. Children 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$52, including tickets and transportation. To register or for more information, contact McKayla Nitz at 541-962-1352 or [mnitz@cityoflagrande.org](mailto:mnitz@cityoflagrande.org) or go to [www.lagrandeparks.org](http://www.lagrandeparks.org).

## Register now to learn life-saving techniques

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Fire Department will host a free Stop the Bleed/hands-only CPR class at 6 p.m. March 25 at the

station house, 1806 Cove Ave. The class provides training for properly applying a tourniquet as well as how to perform hands-only CPR. The total class time is approximately an hour to 90 minutes and both the LGFD and Grande Ronde Hospital are willing to teach it wherever and whenever. A similar class has been hosted at area organizations including the local school districts, Union County Search and Rescue and the Union County Sheriff's Office. This is a valuable class for anyone who wants to keep their loved ones safe. Registration is required by calling the La Grande Fire Department at 541-963-3123.

## MENUS

### UNION COUNTY SENIOR CENTER 1504 N. ALBANY ST., LA GRANDE

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
MARCH 11-15  
MONDAY: BBQ pork country ribs, pasta salad, coleslaw, baked beans, rolls, fruit.  
TUESDAY: chicken Alfredo, steamed cauliflower, salad greens, garlic bread, dessert.  
WEDNESDAY: fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable casserole, Jell-O, rolls, cake.  
THURSDAY: hot ham sandwiches, tomato soup, sliced fruit, chips, cookies.  
FRIDAY: corned beef & cabbage, red potatoes, sauerkraut, Irish soda bread, Key lime pie.

# OBITUARIES

## Neil D. Buchanan

Union  
1930-2019

Neil Darwin Buchanan, 88, of Union, died Feb. 21 at a local care facility. At his request, there will not be a service.

Neil was born Sept. 11, 1930, in Arnegard, North Dakota, to Roy and Pearl (Wright) Buchanan. He resided in John Day, Burns and Union. He graduated from Grant Union High School in John Day and served in the U.S. Army. Neil married Kathy Ridgeway and later divorced. He later married Jean Westfall, who preceded him in death.

Neil was employed with the CP National Power Company until retirement.

He was awarded for 31 years of service for CP National. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and football.

Survivors include his children and their spouses, Chuck and Cheryl Buchanan of Durkee and Michael and Connie Buchanan of Summerville; brothers and sisters-in-law, Myron and Pearl Buchanan of Eugene and Victor and Carol Buchanan of Federal Way, Washington; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and ex-wife, Kathy (Ridgeway) Wood of Union.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Pearl; wife, Jean (Westfall) Buchanan; and stepson, Steve Beardsley.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com).

## Donna Fuhrman

Formerly of La Grande

Donna Fuhrman, 82, formerly of La Grande, died March 7 at her residence in Monmouth. A celebration of her life will be held at 2 p.m. May 10 at Loveland Funeral Chapel. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

## Rene Stevens

North Powder

Rene Stevens, 90, of North Powder and formerly of Christmas Valley, died March 9. An obituary is forthcoming. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home of Halfway. Online condolences may be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

## Joel P. Bekowies

La Grande  
1949-2019

Joel Paul Bekowies, 69, of La Grande, died Feb. 6 of complications from cancer at his home. A memorial will be held in the spring.

Joel was born April 16, 1949. He graduated from Lake Oswego High School in 1967 but lived in La Grande most of his life. He graduated with honors from EOU in 2002.

Joel worked with his grandfather on the family farm for years in the Grande Ronde Valley. In more recent years he enjoyed being on the hospitality team at Denny's restaurant. Joel was an artist and an author. He raised beautiful house plants and loved to pick mushrooms with his friends.

Survivors include his

sister, Karla Maughan of Spokane Valley, Washington; children, Allysa Lambert, Jeremy Joel Shankel, Jennifer Wilson and Lillian Wilson; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and nieces, Sherrill Van Zante of Lewiston, Idaho, and Bonnie Gellatly and Trish Hansen, both of Spokane, Washington.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Paul and Bertha Knautz of La Grande; mother, Lillian Bekowies of Spokane, Washington; and father, Helmuth Bekowies of West Linn.

Online condolences may be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

# PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

## LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mill fire: Firefighters from the La Grande, La Grande Rural, Imbler, Elgin and North Powder fire departments responded to a fire at the Woodgrain Millwork mill on Highway 82 on Saturday morning. The fire was reported at 12:39 a.m. and firefighters were at the site until 6 a.m. Nobody was injured and there was minimal damage.

## LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Doug W. Bartlett, 68, unknown address, was arrested on charges of second-degree

disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and attempting assault on a public safety officer.

Arrested: Chad Austin McCoy, 23, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Arrested: Brandon R. Gaines, 34, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of violating a no contact agreement.

Arrested: Wendy Kae Cox, 51, La Grande, was arrested on parole and probation detainer and on a charge off being a felon in possession of a weapon.

Arrested: Jason Michael Eggert, 48, La Grande, was arrested on a charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

## UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Cited: A Union County juvenile was cited on charges of possession of marijuana and

unlawful delivery of marijuana.

Arrested: Dillan James Fuestenberg, 25, La Grande, was arrested on charges of fourth-degree assault, harassment and second-degree disorderly conduct.

## What's Cooking ?

by Sandy Sorrels of

### TEN DEPOT STREET



We have lots of great food and music this week at Ten Depot Street. Tonight our featured Monday Night Barbecue is Hawaiian Barbecued Chicken for just \$12.95.

Tuesday, "one of the most powerful voices around the Northwest" jazz singer-songwriter Amber Sweeney will be entertaining us, beginning at 8:00.

Then Thursday, a rather interesting band from Portland called the Jack Maybe Project is playing. They specialize in "New Folk, Blues, Jazz, Classical and Experimental." Jack Maybe, who writes the music and sings, says that everything he has musically "goes into this project." Saturday, March 16, we are celebrating Saint Patrick's Day! Join us for our American tribute to Ireland. Not only do we have excellent Corned Beef and Cabbage complete with red potatoes, and Irish Soda Bread for just

\$12.95, but wonderful Irish music from local band, Celtic Ceilidh (pronounced kay-lee).

Of course for Saint Patrick's Day there will be plenty of Guinness Stout on tap. We also will be pouring Irish Whiskeys and making authentic Irish Coffees.

And be sure to save room for the Daily Dessert—Irish Trifle, layers of sponge cake, rich custard, sherry, raspberry jam, whipped cream and toasted almonds for just \$3.50.

The musicians will play from 7:30 to 10:00. We begin serving dinner at 5:00.

Wednesday, March 20, we are holding another Wine Tasting Wednesday. This time we will be tasting four wines from the Columbia Crest Winery. Each wine will be paired with a small course prepared by our chef. Make reservations at 541-963-8766.

## BLUE PLATE SPECIAL \$10.95

Baked Alaskan Salmon, fettuccine Alfredo, green salad, bread (served Monday through Friday)

**FAMILY OWNED**

**NORTHWEST FURNITURE & MATTRESS**

215 Elm Street La Grande (541) 963-5440

[northwestfurnitureandmattress.com](http://northwestfurnitureandmattress.com)

Like us on Facebook

## Grande Ronde Hospital Home Care Services Home Health & Hospice

# We are on the move!

**NOW located in the GRH Pavilion**  
**909 Adams in downtown La Grande.**

The GRH Home Care Services—Home Health & Hospice has moved to the GRH Pavilion to serve you even better!

Our new location gives us more flexibility and greater mobility to get to where you need us most — **AT HOME!!**

Our location may change, but we are the same folks you have trusted with your care for nearly 30 years.

**Call us at 541.963.CARE**

2012 TOP AGENCY  
2014 TOP 500 HOME CARE AGENCY  
2017 TOP 100 AGENCY