

LOCAL BRIEFING

**Sunday's Fun Shoot includes traditional Irish fare**

WALLOWA — Wallowa Rod and Gun Club's St. Patrick's Day Fun Shoot will begin at 9 a.m. March 17 at the clubhouse located on Lower Diamond Lane. Breakfast and a traditional Irish lunch will be available. All are welcome. For more information contact Randal Johnson at 541-886-

3245, Curtis Bloom at 541-786-0814 or John Duckworth at 541-886-8802.

**GRH Auxiliary elects officers Monday**

ISLAND CITY — Grande Ronde Hospital Auxiliary's March meeting will be held March 18 at the Island City City Hall. Refreshments are available at 9 a.m., and the meeting begins at 9:30

a.m. On the agenda is the election of officers. Anyone interested in volunteering with the GRH Auxiliary is encouraged to attend.

**Safe rides offered for pub crawlers**

LA GRANDE — La Grande Main Street Downtown is hosting its annual St. Patrick's Day pub crawl on March 16, with 11 participating bars,

taverns and pubs offering drinks specials. Buy a \$10 pass at your first stop, then proceed to crawl, and get a free ride home between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. on the trolley and from 10 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. from the Loveland Safe Ride Program. The participating venues are American Legion Post 43, Benchwarmers, Bud Jackson's, Cinco de Mayo, Hideout Saloon, Jefferson Street

Depot, Long Branch, Moy's, Side A Brewing, Tap That Growlers and Ten Depot Street.

**Right to Life chapter plans gathering**

LA GRANDE — The Union County Right to Life chapter is having a fellowship gathering beginning at 6:30 p.m. March 18 in the parish hall at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church

in La Grade (use the entrance at K Avenue and Fifth Street). UCRTL is a chapter of Oregon Right to Life, affiliated with National Right to Life. Members include a broad base of diverse, dedicated people, united to focus on one issue, the right to life itself. For more information go to [www.union-countyrtl.org](http://www.union-countyrtl.org) or email [info@unioncountyrtil.org](mailto:info@unioncountyrtil.org).

OBITUARIES

Jeri L. Gilliland

La Grande  
Jeri L. Gilliland, 62, of La Grande, died March 12. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Daniel Pokorney

La Grande  
Daniel Pokorney, 65, of La Grande, died March 11 at Grande Ronde Hospital. An obituary is forthcoming. Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

Robert Upward

La Grande  
Robert Upward, 65, of La Grande, died March 11 at Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland, Washington. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Ryan W. Leavitt

La Grande  
1995-2019  
Ryan William Leavitt, 23, of La Grande, died March 9 at his residence. A viewing will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. March



14 at Loveland Funeral Chapel. A funeral service will begin at 2 p.m. March 15 at the La Grande First Baptist Church followed by a graveside service at Grandview Cemetery. A reception will be held immediately afterward at the First Baptist Church. Casual dress is preferred by the family.

Ryan was born Aug. 3, 1995, in La Grande, to Steven and Brenda (Rudd) Leavitt. He resided in Union and La Grande. Ryan attended Greenwood Elementary School, La Grande Middle School and La Grande High School, where he was on the wrestling team during his freshman and sophomore years.

Ryan formerly worked for a local farmer. Due to his health issues, he did not work for the past few years. Ryan enjoyed fishing, camping and hunting birds.

Survivors include his parents, Steve and Brenda of La Grande; brother, Ross of La Grande; aunts and uncles, Robert and Aleta Leavitt, Keith and Kathleen Williams, Joseph and Nicole Rudd and Robert and Shelly Kiser; grandparents, Kathy Rudd and Ken and Sharon Leavitt; and great-grand-

mother, Jerry Rudd.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Calvin Rudd.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Youth for Christ J House Youth Center, P.O. Box 1, La Grande 97850.

Virginia I. (Whitmore) Manning

Elgin  
1932-2019  
Virginia Irene Manning, 86, of Elgin, died Feb. 28 at her residence. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. March 15 at the Elgin Church of the Nazarene. Casual dress is preferred by the family.

Virginia was born Sept. 30, 1932, in Nevada City, California, to Jesse and Alice (Montgomery) Whitmore. She resided in Truckee, California; Othello, Washington; and Elgin. She married Mac McCormick, who has passed, and later she married Jerry Manning.

Virginia was a devoted mother and wife. She enjoyed fishing, traveling in her RV, taking care of her husband, reading, garden-

ing and watching Mariners baseball. She loved her dog, Benji, and was also very involved in the Elgin Food Bank.

Survivors include her stepchildren, Larry McCormick, Mike McCormick, Larry Manning and wife, Vicki, Donna Manning and Nancy Williamson.

She was preceded in death by her second husband, Jerry Manning; first husband, Mac McCormick; and parents, Jesse and Alice Whitmore.

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

Raymond L. McVey

Formerly of Elgin  
1928-2019

Raymond Lee McVey, 90, formerly of Elgin, died Feb. 8 in Hermiston. A memorial service will be held at a later time. Arrangements are under the direction of Loveland Funeral Chapel of La Grande.



Known as Ray, he was born Sept. 29, 1928, in Lewis, Kansas, to Carl and Edith (Parr) McVey. The second of six children,

he lived with his family on farms near Rozel and Coldwater, Kansas. During high school, Ray excelled in academics and athletics. He graduated as class valedictorian in 1946.

Ray worked several jobs, including operating heavy equipment during the construction of Colorado's Bonny Dam. He married Vanetta Marteney on Sept. 5, 1950. Ray was drafted into the U.S. Army and completed military training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He achieved the rank of corporal before his honorable discharge in 1953. In 1965, the McVeys settled on a farm near Elgin, where they raised their five children. Ray retired in 1990.

Ray was an elder in the Christian churches of Elgin and Imbler, served on the Cove Christian Camp Board of Directors, and went on short-term missions to Haiti and Arizona. He was a member of Elgin's Rockwall Grange, worked many hours with the "Elgin 2010" group and was caretaker of a pioneer cemetery. Ray's community service was recognized in 1998 when he was named Elgin's Man of the Year.

Ray and Vanetta moved

into Elgin in 1999. In 2001, Vanetta died of cancer. In 2005, Ray married Rita Snyder. When they divorced in 2011, Ray's friends Ed and LaVeta Botz graciously welcomed him into their home. In 2012, Ray moved to the home of his daughter Kayla in Athena and lived there until he entered a dementia care facility in 2017.

Survivors include his siblings and their spouses, Leonard and Oretha McVey of Springfield, Missouri, Gene and Georgia McVey of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, Violet Beatty of Wink, Texas, Earl McVey of Arvada, Colorado, and Dixie Bailey of Coldwater, Kansas; children and their spouses, Julia and Phil Manley of Elgin, Diana and Norman Croucher of Elgin, Kayla and Delbert Durfee of Athena, and Tim and Carol McVey of Nashville, Tennessee; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Vanetta; and son, Michael Dean McVey.

Memorial donations may be made to Cove Christian Camp, P.O. Box 3352, La Grande 97850.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

**LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Arrested: Ian Fraser Brooks, 23, unknown address, was arrested on a Baker County warrant charging a probation violation connected to an original charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

**UNION COUNTY SHERIFF**

Arrested: Clifton Mitchell Carter, 26, unknown address, was arrested while lodged in the Union County Jail on two Union County warrants. One warrant was for order to show cause connected to an original charge of unlawful possession of methadone. A second warrant was for order to show cause connected to an original charge of unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

Arrested: David Alan Lillard, 29, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of second-degree theft by deception.

Arrested: Chelsi Lynn Witherspoon, 27, was arrested on a charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

**LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Firefighters responded to 10 calls for medical assistance on Monday and 10 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.

**Ruth Margaret (Murphy) Tuski**

November 18, 1931 - December 17, 2018



Ruth Margaret Tuski passed away peacefully on December 17, 2018 in Enterprise, Oregon. Ruth Margaret was born on November 18, 1931 in Baker City, OR to George Peter Murphy and Lennis Ruth (Wolfe) Murphy. Ruth's mother sadly died shortly after giving birth to Ruth and, as a result, Ruth's early years were spent with her paternal grandmother, Mary Murphy of Wallowa, OR; her older sister Pat in turn lived with her maternal grandmother, Cora Wolfe of Wallowa. Eventually, the two young girls joined their father who had moved to Portland, OR.

Upon graduation from high school, Ruth returned to Wallowa, marrying Buddy Dale Thomason in 1952. Ruth and Buddy had two children, Dovey Jo (1953) and Mark Kelly (1956). A tragic logging accident out of Wallowa took Buddy's life in 1957 at the age of 26. In 1959 Ruth married Robert (Bob) Nystrom and the couple moved to Milton-Freewater. Their son Robert Eric was born in 1961. After their divorce, Ruth again returned to Wallowa County where Ruth purchased Stockman's Bar in Enterprise, owning it from 1969-1973. Ruth always remembered her Stockman's days with fondness and enjoyed telling stories to friends and family about that time.

In 1972 Ruth married Tom Long from Wallowa and Tom became her sidekick at Stockman's. They divorced in 1977, and then in 1979, Ruth moved to Bend, OR where she enjoyed working as a caregiver for the elderly. In 1986 she married Jon Tuski and continued to reside in Bend until retiring in 1999 and moving to La Grande, OR. She enjoyed her time in La Grande with many friends and was actively involved in the Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church. She especially appreciated the priests of Our Lady of the Valley. All during her life she remained close to her aunt, Margaret McClain, and cherished the time she could spend with Margaret until Margaret's death.

As Ruth's health declined, and she sensed the end of her life drawing near, her wish was to spend her final days back in Wallowa County, the home she loved so much. Her family made this move possible, and she spent her remaining days content and receiving exemplary care at the Wallowa County Senior Living Center in Enterprise.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, husbands, Buddy Thomason and Bob Nystrom and, son, Kelly Thomason. She is survived by her daughter, Dovey Jo Collins and, son, Rob Nystrom, 5 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren and numerous great great grandchildren.

Ruth Tuski loved to be around people and had many friends of all ages. She enjoyed telling and hearing a saucy joke, was a mean poker player, an excellent home decorator and a sharp dresser. Her lively, fun and funny personality will be dearly missed by those who were fortunate to know her.

Funeral services will be held at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Enterprise, beginning at 10:00 AM on March 23. A graveside service will follow at the Wallowa Cemetery. At 2:00 friends and family are invited to gather for a celebration of life and dinner at the VFW Hall in Enterprise. Those wishing to make a donation in honor of Ruth can do so to the Wallowa Valley Senior Living Center.

**Loretta Marie McDaniel**

December 21, 1938 - March 7, 2019



Loretta Marie McDaniel (80) of Kennewick, WA, went to her heavenly home on March 7, 2019 due to complications from Alzheimer's.

Loretta was born to Wilfred "Johnny" Lyon and Margaret (Briggs) Lyon on December 21, 1938. She grew up in Elgin, Oregon where she met her one true love, Gale McDaniel, while sitting on her front porch one summer evening eating a giant bowl of ice cream. They married on July 28, 1956 and got started right away on their family. They were blessed with three children within three years, Larry, Peggy Sue and Kevin. Loretta was a wonderful loving mother and wife. She and Gale agreed on how they wanted to raise their children and never wavered in their commitment to each other and their family.

Loretta was a child prodigy on the piano, truly gifted. By the time she was 12 years of age, she was taking lessons at Eastern Oregon College in LaGrande because she had surpassed the knowledge and skills of her piano teachers. Loretta could hear a song on the radio and play it on the piano exactly as it sounded on the radio. She loved music and loved sharing her musical talents with her family and friends. The most requested songs from her kids were the Flight of the Bumblebee and Bumblebee Boogie. They loved listening and watching her play, her fingers flying over the keys.

Loretta was a member of the Cove School Board and served until her children graduated high school. She worked as a clerk at the Union County Courthouse in La Grande, Oregon for many years until she decided to return to college and get her degree. She graduated magna cum laude from the Eastern Oregon University. She used her degree to help others and went to work for Jack Schut at the Union County Juvenile Department. She worked there until she and Gale moved to Kennewick, Washington in 1979. Never one to sit around, Loretta immediately found work in Kennewick which led to her final job before retirement, the Director of Trend College in Kennewick. She retired in the late 80's.

Loretta was an excellent cook and she blessed her family with many memorable meals. It wasn't at all uncommon for an extra kid or two to show up at the dinner table over the years on any given night. It was a happy house and a happy table. She also made sure all of her children could cook and encouraged them by giving them free reign in the kitchen to create.

Loretta had many hobbies. She was an excellent seamstress and loved to sew. She led the 4-H sewing club for many years in Cove. She also loved to knit and crochet and her family benefitted greatly from the many beautiful afghans she made. Loretta also loved to travel and loved to drive. When her children were young, she and her mom would pack them up and vacation every year at the Oregon coast. After they had grown and moved, she would travel and visit them frequently, especially after her grandkids, whom she adored, started arriving. She loved driving so much she drove completely by herself to the East Coast and back. She also traveled to Zambia, Australia and Hawaii.

She loved to laugh and will be remembered for her beautiful smile and wonderful laugh that would light up a room and put a smile on everyone's face.

Following Gale's retirement, Loretta and Gale traveled to and spent their winters in Arizona until Gale's health declined and they could no longer travel. Loretta missed their time and friends in Arizona and after losing Gale in 2009, she made the trip alone until she could no longer drive.

Loretta loved the Lord and attended and became involved in her church wherever she lived.

Loretta was preceded in death by her husband Gale, her parents and her little brother Larry Lyon. She is survived by her son Larry McDaniel and grandchildren Kjell (Karissa) and Kirsti McDaniel, daughter Peggy Sue Ridings, her husband Ron Ridings and granddaughter Nicole (Ridings) Shannon (Jon), and her son Kevin McDaniel, his wife Mary, and grandchildren Colin (Hannah), Carly, Alec (Cassie) and Conor (Emily). She is also survived by her great-granddaughters Makenzie and Aven and great-grandsons Angus, Owen, Glen, Elliott, Cooper, Oliver and Cormac, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Burial will be Thursday, March 14, 2019, 1:00 pm at Desert Lawn Memorial Park, 1401 S. Union St., Kennewick WA. A memorial service will be held at a later date, time and place to be announced. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Loretta's name to Alzheimer's Association, 8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 400, McLean, VA 22102.

The family invites you to sign their tribute wall at [www.muellersfuneralhomes.com](http://www.muellersfuneralhomes.com).