

## MENUS

### UNION COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

1504 N. ALBANY ST.,  
LA GRANDE  
LUNCH MENU  
MARCH 25-30

MONDAY: chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetables, salad greens, rolls, fruit.

TUESDAY: sausage and kraut, potato salad, coleslaw, apple strudel.

WEDNESDAY: chicken cordon bleu, rice pilaf, steamed vegetables, Jell-O, bread, chocolate chip bars.

THURSDAY: baked potato bar with chili & cheese sauce, steamed vegetables, fruit, cookies.

FRIDAY: beef enchiladas, Mexi-rice, salad greens, chips, dessert.

## OBITUARIES

### UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS

Sponsored by



### March 30

Mildred Davis, of La Grande; 11 a.m. celebration of life (casual dress); La Grande United Methodist Church; potluck lunch follows service.

### April 6

Dorothy Keltz, formerly of La Grande; 2 p.m. celebration of life; La Grande American Legion Hall.

Rene Stevens, of North Powder; 2 p.m. memorial service; Summerville Baptist Church.

## OBITUARIES

### Marlene A. Eddy

Cove

Marlene A. Eddy, 75, of Cove, died March 21 at her residence. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

### Craig Gross

Formerly of Union County  
1962-2019

Craig Gross, 57, formerly of Elgin and Imbler, died Feb. 28 at his home in Cascade



Locks. Craig was born Jan. 18, 1962, in Council, Idaho, to Charles and Betty (Woods)

Gross, and has four siblings: Charlene Hampton, Cathy Worcester, Brenda Harris and Rodney Gross. Arrangements are under the direction of Anderson's Tribute Center of Hood River. To leave a note of condolence for the family, visit [www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com](http://www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com).

### Mildred B. Davis

La Grande

Mildred Beatrice Davis, 92, of La Grande, died Feb. 16 at Grande Ronde Hospital. A celebration of her life will be held at 11 a.m. March 30 at the La Grande United Methodist Church. Casual dress is preferred. Memories will be shared over a potluck lunch following the service. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is 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. Paid advertising space is also available. For more information, call The Observer at 541-963-3161.

### Union City Council to meet Monday

UNION — The Union City Council will meet March 25 for a work session. The work session will start at 6 p.m. at city hall. The city's old ranger station building will be one of the subjects discussed.

### GRH offers free blood screenings in April

UNION, ELGIN, LA GRANDE — Grande Ronde Hospital's annual free community blood screenings are happening in April. Residents have three opportunities to take advantage of more than \$150 worth of free blood testing: April 6 at the GRH Union Clinic; April 13 at the GRH Elgin Clinic; or April 27 in downtown La Grande at the GRH Pavilion. All screenings are on Saturday mornings from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. The screenings will be first come first serve with no pre-registration needed. Testing is limited to the first 100 people. Those who will have blood

drawn must fast 9-12 hours before the draw (drink plenty of water, though). Grande Ronde Hospital provides this free health service annually for essential screenings to monitor cardiac health, glucose and red blood cell count. For more information, call 541-963-1418 or 541-963-1480

### Participate in Union County Health Status review

LA GRANDE — Interested people who want to know more about what local residents consider to be Union County's most pressing health concerns are invited to attend the 2019 Union County Health Status Event April 2. Held from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Blue Mountain Conference Center, 404 12th St., La Grande, the event will include a review of the 2018 Union County Health Survey followed by roundtable discussion time. A light continental breakfast will be available for attendees. The event is free but RSVP is requested for the

## LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

breakfast count by calling Grande Ronde Hospital Community Relations at 541-963-1418. Go to [www.grh.org/about-us/community-benefit/](http://www.grh.org/about-us/community-benefit/) for more information.

### American Legion Auxiliary collects donations for yard sale

LA GRANDE — The American Legion Auxiliary of La Grande is seeking donations for its annual yard sale, to be held March 30. Beginning March 25, members will be accepting clean, usable items (no clothes, bedding or electronics) in the Auxiliary room at 301 Fir St. Large items will be accepted on March 29. For more information or to arrange an earlier drop-off, call 541-963-5141 or contact Jody Craig.

### Gardeners learn about plant pathology

ISLAND CITY — The OSU Master Gardener program offers classes to the

general public for \$5. The March 26 class, "Diagnostics and Plant Pathology," will be led by OSU Extension Plant Pathologist Ken Frost. The class will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Union County Extension Office, 10507 N. McAlister Road, Island City. For more information and to RSVP for classes, call the Extension Office at 541-963-1010. For photos, upcoming classes and links to research-based gardening info, visit the Union County Master Gardeners Facebook page.

### Tai Chi class won't meet next week

LA GRANDE — The Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance class at the Presbyterian Friendship Center will not meet during spring break. Classes will not be held on March 26 or 28 and will resume April 2. The free class, which is open to all ages and abilities, normally meets at 9 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Instruction is provided.

### OTEC Board meets in Baker City

BAKER CITY — The Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative Board of Directors will meet at 9 a.m. March 26 at OTEC headquarters, 4005 23rd St., Baker City. Decision items on the agenda include the Scholarship Committee's recommendations. There will also be an executive session.

### Submit an event

Tell us about events, meetings and children's activities in Union and Wallowa counties. Service clubs, support groups and other non-profit organizations are encouraged to notify us of regular meeting times.

Email news@lagrandeobserver.com or fax a letter to 541-963-7804 and include the event name, date, time, location, cost and contact information.

# Intoxicated driver injures Baker man on Wednesday

By Chris Collins

WesCom News Service

The first day of spring started out much like any other day for Jay Wilson.

But it would end with a trip to the hospital and a prayer of thanksgiving that although he was sore, no bones were broken and he was going home to his family.

Wilson, 43, who with his wife, Kristin, owns Appliances and More, was back on the job Thursday after being blindsided by a driver who police say was under the influence of drugs and alcohol when her Ford Aerostar van rammied Wilson's pickup truck as he prepared to get into it.

Wilson was finishing up a service call at Fifth and Campbell streets when he was hit about 1:25 p.m. Wednesday.

The driver, Virginia Joan Soderholm, 46, of 2610 14th St., is being held at the Baker County Jail on \$37,500 bail (release could be granted upon the posting of \$3,750).

Soderholm is charged with one count each of driving under the influence of intoxicants, fourth-degree assault, reckless endangering, failing to maintain lane of travel, no insurance and second-degree criminal mischief.

Police drove her to the hospital to be examined before she could be released to the jail because of her high level of in-

toxication, Police Chief Dustin Newman said.

Soderholm was driving east on Campbell Street on her way to the Courthouse when the crash happened. She was scheduled to appear at 1:30 p.m. for a sentencing hearing on charges of two counts of first-degree theft.

Newman said police called Circuit Court officials to tell them Soderholm would not make her court appearance.

After the crash, Wilson was taken by ambulance to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center where he was treated in the emergency room, underwent three X-rays to determine whether he'd broken any bones, and sent home about two hours later.

The crash itself happened much more quickly.

"I was putting my tools in the truck and I heard no brakes or nothing," he said Thursday. "The next thing I know I heard a crunch and I was on the ground. And I was like, 'What was that?'"

Wilson says the open door of his pickup truck pushed him to the ground as the pickup was shoved by the oncoming van and traveled 12 to 13 feet from where it had been parked in his customer's driveway.

"I was just standing there," he said. "If my truck wasn't there (the van) probably would have hit the house."

Once Wilson was able to get up, he realized his

body was hurting.

"My head hurt, my elbow, my shoulder and my back hurt," he said.

With his experience working as a firefighter for 19 years and as a paramedic for 14 years, Wilson knew he'd better call for an ambulance and head to the hospital.

"It's most probably soft-tissue damage," Wilson said of his injuries. "My back is pretty sore today."

He was on light duty Thursday after returning to the appliance store he and his wife have operated for the past two years. The couple live at Haines with their four children, ages 9, 7, 5 and 3.

"All I know is I'm super lucky to be here," Wilson said. "Two inches to the left and it would have killed me."

"It could have been way, way, way worse," he says.

"The kids don't know or comprehend what happened or could have happened," he said. "They just know Daddy's truck got smashed."

Wilson said he has no hard feelings toward Soderholm, who police say had a blood-alcohol content of .14, nearly twice the legal driving limit of .08, when she was arrested.

"I don't even blame her," Wilson said. "I blame the drugs and alcohol. Everybody makes mistakes. I just hope she learns from it."

Wilson, who believes in God and attends church regularly, credits his faith with helping him maintain his positive attitude about life in general and about the woman who hurt him and damaged his pickup Wednesday afternoon in particular.

"Life goes on," he says. "She's messed up her life for a while. Hopefully she can recover."

His upbeat manner belies the challenges he faces as a double amputee. Wilson, who stands 6 feet 4 inches tall, was

born with two club feet. His right foot was amputated when he was a baby and his left foot was amputated after he injured it at the age of 22.

He wears a prosthesis to the knee on both legs, which hold the running blades he walks on through the day.

Wilson says he'd like to run a marathon some day, but that will take preparation and training.

"We're all given different challenges for different reasons," he says philosophically. ■

### Sharlene Kay Crabtree

March 12, 1941 - March 6, 2019



Our beautiful mom, granny, gma, maga, sister, aunt and friend left us after a difficult journey with Parkinson's Disease. Our hearts are hurting, but we know she is free.

Sharlene was born in rural Kansas and moved with her family to Salem, Oregon in her teens. She graduated from North Salem High School and married shortly after graduation. The relationship ended and she took an office job and worked full time while raising her two

young daughters. She was a hard worker and instilled a strong work ethic in all of us.

She met the love of her life while working for a restaurant in Albany and married Huey "Doug" Crabtree in 1967. Doug drug her along on outdoor adventures that she came to love. They had great fun fishing, camping, and playing with family and friends. Doug and Sharlene moved to Bend in 1979 when Doug opened his own welding shop. They loved and laughed together for 32 years until Doug passed away in 1999.

Sharlene started work in the accounting department at Western Communications in 1981 and grew with the company to become the Director of Human Resources until her retirement in 2011. Her career was very important to her and she was proud of the role she held. She cared deeply about the people that she worked with throughout the organization.

Sharlene loved to spend time with friends and family. She had a dry sense of humor and loved a good joke. She enjoyed going to craft classes with her sister, finding a great garage sale or bargain, spending time with her grandkids, shopping in Portland with her girls, planting flowers, trips to the beach, reading romance novels, making desserts and sipping a glass of wine. She hated losing at bunco, but always had a great time planning the party and spending time with her friends.

Mom was the anchor of our family, taking care of and supporting everyone. She took great pride in sharing stories and pictures of her daughters and grandkids. She always knew the best way to spoil us and was our biggest fan and cheerleader. She was smart, funny, kind, thoughtful and loving. We miss her greatly and know she will always be with us.

She is survived by daughters Kim (AJ) Johnson and Connie (Bob) Looney; grandchildren Meagan Looney (Holden), Kendal (Kim) Johnson, Sarah Looney; sister LaDonna (Nick) Daviscourt, brother Vishwananda Ron Eisele, and her nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Doug, and parents Richard and Glenna Eisele.

Friends are invited to a Celebration of Life for Sharlene on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2 to 4 pm at the Riverhouse (Deschutes Room).

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Partners in Care Hospice [www.partnersbend.org](http://www.partnersbend.org) or the Humane Society of Central Oregon [www.hsco.org](http://www.hsco.org).

## PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

### LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Angella Farrell Thamer, 41, Elgin, was arrested on a parole and probation detainer.

Arrested: Eric Lee Keller, 53, La Grande, was arrested on a charge of driving while suspended, misdemeanor.

Arrested: Zachary Hillis Tyler Long, 27, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of trespass.

Arrested: Kory Michael Hubbard, 29, unknown address, was arrested on a state parole board warrant charging a probation violation connected to an original charge of burglary and on new charges of resisting arrest and second-degree escape. Cited: Two Union County juveniles were cited on charges of second-degree disorderly conduct.

### UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Arrested: Kevin Don Anglin, 36, unknown address, was arrested while lodged in the Powder River Correctional Institution on a Union County warrant charging failure to appear in court on an original charge of second-degree disorderly conduct.

Arrested: Matthew Allen Bennett, 33, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County warrant charging failure to appear in court on a charge of criminal driving

while suspended. Arrested: Kirk Alan Looslie, 44, unknown address, was arrested by law enforcement officers in Arizona's Maricopa County on a Union County warrant charging a probation violation connected to an original charge of being a felon in possession of a weapon.

### LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firefighters responded to nine calls for medical assistance on Wednesday and five 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. Individuals named as arrested and/or charged with crimes in this report are presumed innocent until proved guilty in a court of law.