

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

New seniors eat free Friday at the senior center

LA GRANDE — In an effort to bring new seniors to the Union County Senior Center, on April 19 there will be a “Meet Me for Lunch at the Senior Center” event. First-time visitors who come to the special Easter dinner served at 11:30 a.m. at 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande, will eat for free. Seniors are urged to bring new friends on Friday, and

anyone 60 years or older who hasn’t been to the center are invited to come on their own — all will receive a warm welcome along with the warm meal. For more information, call the Union County Senior Center at 541-963-7532.

Make dragon eggs at Friday’s iCraft

LA GRANDE — The next Teen iCraft begins at 4 p.m. April 19 in the Cook Memorial Library Community Room, 2006 Fourth St.,

La Grande. The one-hour activity is free and open to anyone age 11-18. This month teens will make dragon eggs.

Hunt for Easter eggs underwater Friday

LA GRANDE — Veterans’ Memorial Pool at Pioneer Park in La Grande is hosting an Underwater Easter Egg Hunt April 19. Admission is \$5 to swim and dive for eggs and cash them in for prizes. The event will be divided into age groups:

up to 3 years at 7 p.m., 4-6 years at 7:30 p.m., and 7-9 years at 8 p.m. More details are available at [www.lagrandeparks.org](http://www.lagrandeparks.org).

Read Together La Grande hosts Saturday storytime

LA GRANDE — As part of the Read Together La Grande initiative, Cook Memorial Library is hosting special storytime readings. At 10:30 a.m. April 20, Jenell Zamora, GRH speech pathologist, will read, and

La Grande Fire Chief Les Thomas will be the guest reader on April 27. All are invited to the free events at 2006 Fourth St., La Grande.

City sells trees, seeks volunteers to plant

LA GRANDE — Residents of La Grande who have room for a new street tree are encouraged to consider purchasing one from the city for planting in the right-of-way. These trees are available for \$30. The City of La Grande

has a goal of planting 100 trees each year along the streets of town and in the parks and greenspaces. An annual Community Tree Planting Day is planned for April 27. Volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. at the Parks & Recreation Office (2402 Cedar St., inside Pioneer Park) for the Saturday outing. For more information on purchasing trees or volunteering to plant them, contact the Urban Forestry Division at 541-663-1952 or [trees@cityoflagrande.org](http://trees@cityoflagrande.org).

Barbara (Halsey) Rooslet

Formerly of Elgin

Barbara (Halsey) Rooslet, 85, of El Paso, Texas, and formerly of Elgin, died March 17.



Services were held April 11 at the Fort Bliss Cemetery, Texas, where she was laid to rest with her husband, Buddy.

Barbara was born in Joseph to Jack and Frances (Rynearson) Halsey. When she was 5 years old, she moved with her family to Cricket Flat near Elgin. Barbara attended country schools and graduated from Elgin High School in 1952. Barbara was married to Buddy Albert Rooslet. El Paso became her home after many moves as a military wife.

Survivors include her daughter, Candace Nelson and husband, Hans; son, Robert Calder and wife, Brenda; sister, Betty Knapp of Elgin; brother and sister-in-law, Jeff and Milla Halsey of La Grande; and multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; children, Laura Carter and Gerald Calder; and brother, Jerald.

Gary Baldwin

La Grande

Gary Baldwin, 68, of La Grande, died April 16. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel will be handling the arrangements.

Dorothy J. (Wagner) Hammack

Enterprise

1930-2019

Dorothy Jean Hammack, 89, of Enterprise, died April 4 following a short battle with lymphoma cancer. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. April 20 at the Enterprise Christian Church. Arrangements are entrusted to Bollman Funeral Home.



Dorothy was born April 1, 1930, in Enterprise, to Virgil and Helen (Bills) Wagner. She joined an older sister, Beverly. Dorothy attended school in Enterprise and graduated in 1948. While in school, Dorothy met and dated her future husband, Vernon “Dick” Hammack. They were married on Oct. 24, 1948, in La Grande and had 65 years of marriage together.

During their early years, Dorothy and Dick farmed and ranched on Alder Slope, raising livestock and crops. In 1968, they purchased the International dealership, forming Hammack’s Inc., where Dorothy was the secretary and “go-fer” person for 22 years. She and Dick enjoyed traveling to Greece, Turkey, Japan, South America and parts of the United States through various franchises of their business.

After they sold the business to their son, Dorothy and Dick wintered in Yuma, Arizona, for the next 32 years. During their sum-

mers, they enjoyed spending time with family, watching grandchildren, going to the fair, camping and boating on their pontoon boat.

Dorothy was a member of the Enterprise Christian Church, joining in 1944. She taught Sunday school and helped the treasurer. She was also a Lady Lion and a 4-H leader and belonged to the Wranglers, a family horse club. An avid reader, she especially loved the history of Wallowa County.

Dorothy was gifted at cooking, tatting, knitting and sewing when she wasn’t doing bookkeeping for the family’s farm and business. Nothing thrilled her more than to be with family.

Survivors include her son, William “Bill” Allen Hammack; daughter and son-in-law, Audry Jean and Timothy Melville; two grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; nieces, Joyce (Daggett) Raymond, Carol (Botts) Erwin and Karen Botts; nephew, David Daggett; and first cousin, Lynden Sanford.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 2014; parents, Virgil and Helen Wagner; and sister, Beverly Tippet.

Memorial contributions may be made to the memorial fund at Enterprise Christian Church.

Ruth C. Andrews

La Grande

Ruth C. Andrews, 64, of La Grande, died April 16. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Cha-

pel will be handling the arrangements.

Mike O’Rourke

Joseph

1922-2019

Mike O’Rourke, 96, of Joseph, died Feb. 3 in Enterprise. Military services



will be held at 1 p.m. April 26 at the Joseph Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Bollman Funeral Home.

Mike was born June 23, 1922, in Waubun, Minnesota, to William and Francis O’Rourke. He was the 9th of 11 children.

When Mike was 18 he joined the U.S. Coast Guard and became a skilled mechanic. He was sent to work for General Motors, where he worked on engines, transmissions, steam engines, distillation and refrigeration equipment. Later Mike was sent to build navigation systems in the Pacific, and one of these systems was used in the Battle of Midway.

After serving in the military, Mike was a master mechanic for Dewitts Construction, which brought him to Monument, where he met his future wife, Willa Mae Jones. Mike and Willa Mae had three children: Larry, Patrick, and Mavis.

In 1955, Mike and Willa Mae settled outside of Joseph. During Mike’s employment at Kit Construction, he worked with many fine men of Wallowa County com-

Bernice Page

who passed away March 18 will be celebrated in a gathering of friends and family for lunch on

**May 14th, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.** at the Union County Senior Center on Cove Avenue in La Grande, Oregon.

Metta Lois Johnson

February 25, 1925 - April 11, 2019

Metta Lois Johnson, 94, of La Grande, passed away on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at a local care facility. At her request, there will not be a service.

Metta was born on February 25, 1925 in Springdale, Arkansas to Billy and Maude (Sizemore) King. She was one of three siblings.

Metta moved to Union with her family in 1949. She enjoyed cooking and gardening. Loved spending time with family and loved her grandchildren. Miss Metta will be dearly missed.

Metta is survived by her children and their spouses, Gary and Lou Johnson of Union, Glenda and Ron McDonald of La Grande and Nila Sanchez and Murrah Howard of Union; 5 grandchildren; 7 great grandchildren and 6 great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Billy and Maude, son, Roger Johnson in 2008 and husband, Burnies Johnson in 2016.

The family would like to extend our gratitude to all the staff at Wildflower Lodge and Heart-n-Home Hospice for their attentiveness and loving care.

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



pleting jobs on the county’s roads, buildings, campsites, water, sewer and such.

In 1982, Mike became a Wallowa County Commissioner and completed many projects for the betterment of Wallowa County.

Survivors include his children, Larry of La Grande and Mavis of Joseph; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Willa Mae; son, Patrick; and one sister and three brothers.

F. Lamar Lazenby

La Grande

1928-2019

Foster Lamar Lazenby, 90, of La Grande, died April 11. A service will begin at 10 a.m. April 20 at Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center. A committal service will follow at the Island City Cemetery.

Known as Lamar, he was born Oct. 12, 1928, in East Los Angeles, California. After high school, Lamar began working in the grocery business. He worked his way up to become manager of a Safeway store before becom-



Richard Henry Hamilton, 89

November 23, 1929 - December 8, 2018

Richard Henry Hamilton, formerly of La Grande and Wallowa, died December 8, 2018 at a private care facility in Caldwell, ID, just two weeks after his 89th birthday. Born in La Grande on November 23, 1929, he was the second of two children born to Charles Hamilton, and Edna J. (Loock) Hamilton. He attended school in La

Grande, where he was a four-year letterman, and president of the Lettermen’s club, graduating from La Grande High in 1947.

Richard enlisted in the US Marine Corps Reserve in April 1948, and served as a Marine Corps sergeant in Korea from 1950 to 1952. During that time, he endured starvation and torture as a POW in North Korea, a subject about which he never spoke. Rice was never served in his home.

Upon his discharge from active duty in 1952, Richard returned home to marry Shirley (Frizzell) Cleaver, and adopt her two children, Rick and Lee. At the same time, he began an impressive career with the Oregon Department of Forestry. Starting as a basic firefighter-trainee, he advanced steadily to become the resident ranger stationed in Wallowa. After several years of overseeing the district, despite having no post-high school degree, he was transferred to the Medford district, where he specialized in arson investigation, and prevention. Eventually, he earned promotion to the position of Prevention Director at the state offices in Salem. After his ‘official’ retirement, he served for many years as a contract consultant in Prevention and Arson Investigation for several agencies in the western states. He was always extremely modest about his many accomplishments. Few people ever realized that it was his



voice narrating the Tillamook Burn video in the Sate Forestry building at OMSI.

Richard was a quiet man of unflinching integrity, who cared deeply about two things: family, and the land and its proper stewardship. A young nephew once asked him, “uncle Richard, whose trees are those?” He said, “Those are your trees, John. They belong to you,

your Dad and Mom, and your brother and sister; and it’s up to you to take care of them.” He held himself to standards learned from his stepfather, Ernie Milbert, and he expected, and received, the best from others. No one ever wanted to disappoint him. While he was firm in his expectations, he was also a man of deep compassion, with a gentle sense of humor, who know how to forgive. Throughout his later years, he took responsibility for the health and welfare of his sister, his wife, and his daughter, among others. He joked that he couldn’t decide whether he had three wives, or three daughters.

A quiet hero who spent his life in service to his country, other people, and the land, Richard will be deeply missed by those privileged to know him well. He was preceded in death by his stepfather, Ernie Milbert, mother, Edna Milbert, wife, Shirley, stepbrother, Roy Milbert, sister, Bette Hardin, and daughter, Leitha. Richard is survived by his son, Rick Hamilton, of Riggins, ID, granddaughter, Stacy Hardy, of Caldwell, ID, grandson, Cory Hamilton, of Eugene, OR, two nephews, a niece, and several great-grandchildren. At his request, there will be no services. His ashes were spread at the same site as those of his late wife, Shirley. His family suggests that those who wish to honor his memory plant a tree in his name.

dolences can be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS

Sponsored by



April 19

Keith Hescok: celebration of life, 5 p.m., Elgin Stampede Hall; potluck dinner follows (meat provided, bring a side dish or dessert).

Laryl “Buck” Schaffer: celebration of life, 3 p.m., La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church, followed by a reception.

May 4

Leyton Lindsey: memorial service, 2 p.m., North Powder School gymnasium. Phillis Mardis: celebration of life, 2 p.m., 10801 Walton Road, Island City.

May 10

Donna Fuhrman: celebration of life, 2 p.m., Loveland Funeral Chapel.