

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

Celebrate Veterans Day with breakfast, parade, spaghetti feed

LA GRANDE — Veterans, their families and the community are invited to a breakfast served from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Nov. 11 at the La Grande Baptist Church, 1702 Sixth St. The breakfast is free and all are welcome.

The annual Veterans Day parade in La Grande will begin at 11 a.m. and travel along Adams Avenue. This year, Fred Alexis will be honored as the grand marshal. Those participating in the parade will gather at 10 a.m. behind Globe Furniture.

Following the parade, the La Grande American Legion Auxiliary will have a spaghetti feed at the Post 43 Legion Hall, 301 Fir St. The dinner is free to all veterans and \$5 for non-veterans. The community is welcome.

Boy Scouts conduct food drive before and after Veterans Day parade Monday

LA GRANDE — Many food insecure families are working

families, senior citizens on a fixed income or single parents. Some are veterans who fought for our country. While Union County has a strong network of food bank distribution sites, a Friday Backpack program and harvest sharing sites, sometimes there are gaps. Emergency supplies make a difference when a parent has to escape domestic violence quickly or when a homebound elder has no food and no money until the next month. Sometimes, people need food they can prepare in their car or in a hotel room.

To help fill these gaps, on Nov. 11 the Boy Scouts of America Troop 514 along with local cub scouts will be conducting a Scouting for Food drive before and after the parade in La Grande. All are encouraged to help local veterans and food insecure individuals and families by donating nonperishable food items for the emergency food pantries at the Department of Human Services and Shelter From the Storm. Scouts will be at Grocery Outlet in Island City and at Safeway in La Grande from 9 a.m. to

10 a.m. and again from 12:15 p.m. to 2 p.m.

KATU will not be transmitted tomorrow

LA GRANDE — The Blue Mountain Translator District announced that viewers should anticipate an outage of KATU on Nov. 9. The current KATU transmitter will be replaced, and transmission is expected to resume by the evening. Viewers can follow updates on BMTD's Facebook page.

Imbler School honors veterans on Tuesday

IMBLER — The annual Imbler School celebration of veterans is planned for Nov. 12. Veterans and their families are invited to a breakfast at 9 a.m. in the elementary school gym. At 10:15 a.m., an assembly honoring veterans for their service to our country is open to the community in the high school gym.

RSVP for next senior lunch in Cove

COVE — The next senior lunch in Cove will be served Nov. 19 in Founders Hall at

the Ascension School. Celebrating Thanksgiving early, the meal will feature turkey, stuffing, glazed carrots, cranberry salad, green salad and rolls, with pumpkin pie for dessert. There is a \$5 charge per meal. Coffee and tea are available at noon, and the buffet meal begins at 12:15 p.m. To RSVP, call Imie Bristow at 541-568-4545 or Betsy Arnsen at 541-568-4902 by Nov. 14.

LG Rural Fire Protection Board meets Tuesday

ISLAND CITY — The La Grande Rural Fire Protection Board will meet at 6 p.m. Nov. 12 at the La Grande Rural Fire Hall, 10200 S. McAlister Road. The La Grande Rural Fire Protection District Board oversees the operation of the La Grande Rural Fire Department. The department, based in Island City, provides emergency medical and fire service throughout Union County.

Get tips on staying healthy this winter

LA GRANDE — “Beat Back Sickness with Your Own

Defenses” is a conversation on staying healthy this winter, led by Dr. Winters beginning at 6 p.m. Nov. 11 at Nature's Pantry, 1907 Fourth St., La Grande. The cost is \$10 and includes organic juice. To register, stop by Nature's Pantry or call 541-963-7955.

Brown Bag speaker recounts Mont Blanc hike

JOSEPH — The next Brown Bag lunch event at the Joseph Center, 403 N. Main St., Joseph, will feature Mark Lacey, a local hiker and harmonica player who in September hiked the Tour du Mont Blanc, which circles the Mont Blanc massif and is one of the most scenic and popular hikes in Europe. Hiking through parts of Switzerland, Italy and France, Mark covered a distance of approximately 82 miles in nine days with nearly

4 miles of ascent/descent. He will talk about his journey beginning at noon Nov. 12 at the free gathering, which is open to the public. Bring a lunch or a snack if you like. Coffee and tea will be available.

Forest Service waives fees in honor of Veterans Day

PORTLAND — The USDA Forest Service will waive fees at day-use recreation sites in Oregon and Washington on Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day.

“This fee waiver is one small way of thanking and honoring our nation's veterans,” said Glenn Casamassa, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester. “We hope this fee-free day will encourage veterans, their families and all Americans to visit their national forests and enjoy the many benefits these public lands provide.”

UNION COUNTY SENIOR CENTER MENU**1504 ALBANY ST., LA GRANDE**

Nov. 11-Nov. 15; lunch served 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

age 60+ \$3 suggested donation; others \$6

Monday: stuffed cabbage rolls, broiled tomatoes, cottage cheese, fruit, rolls, oatmeal raisin cookies.

Tuesday: Mandarin chicken over rice pilaf, steamed broccoli medley with hollandaise sauce, spinach salad, rolls, fruit.

Wednesday: fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, steamed California blend veggies, Jell-O, rolls, cake.

Thursday: cheeseburgers, fries, sliced fruit, peanut butter cookies

Friday: chicken Alfredo, steamed Italian vegetables, Italian bread with Parmesan cheese, sliced oranges, lemon sorbet.

OBITUARIES

Michelle M. McCoy

Joseph
1967-2019

Michelle Marie McCoy, 52, of Joseph and formerly of La Grande, died Oct. 28 at

Wallowa Memorial Hospital in Enterprise. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Nov. 13 at Grace Lutheran Church (409 W. Main St.) in Enterprise. Committal will follow at Prairie Creek Cemetery.

Michelle was born Sept. 16, 1967, in La Grande, to Gerald “Gary” Ralph and Charlotte Vonne (Hought) McCoy. She was the youngest of four children.

Michelle grew up in the fellowship of the Zion Lutheran Church congregation, La Grande, and was baptized and confirmed into the Lutheran faith. She attended elementary school at the old Island City School and graduated from Imbler High School in 1985.

Michelle married Stuart J. Nichols on July 1, 1991, at Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande. She kept her maiden name, as she felt it connected her to her heritage.

In 1993, Michelle graduated from Oregon Health and Sciences University, La Grande campus, with a bachelor of science degree in nursing and was accepted into the OHSU Nursing Program. As a registered nurse, she began her career as a medical-surgical nurse and orthopedic nurse at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. Michelle was an advocate for her patients and respected by her health care peers. After more than 10 years working at Saint Alphonsus, Michelle began a career as a traveling nurse, and she and Stuart traveled to many cities across the U.S.

Michelle and Stuart were avid football fans and loved to fish, especially on the Snake River. Michelle had a favorite pet at her side beginning at an early age, with her childhood dog LuLu and her cats Princess and Blacky. Her recent companion and service dog was Chaser.

Surviving relatives include her husband of 28 years, Stuart; parents, Gary and Charlotte; brothers, Todd and Eric; sister, Stephani; aunt, Darlene; cousins, Terri, Marsha, Clay and Monty; nieces, Mandy, Elizabeth and Sylvia; nephews, Austen and Gerald; brothers-in-law, Steven and John; and sisters-in-law, Laura and Linda.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Clair

and Hellen Hought and Ralph and Margaret McCoy; uncle, Jim; nephew, Aaron; and father- and mother-in-law, Leon and Annabelle Nichols.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Wallowa County Humane Society, P.O. Box 565, Enterprise 97828, or Grace Lutheran Church, 409 W. Main St., Enterprise 97828.

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

Alta ‘Rose’ Moore

Union

Alta “Rose” Moore, 102, of Union, died Nov. 5 at Pioneer Place in Vale. An obituary is forthcoming. Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

Velma L. (Lewis) Johnson

La Grande
1927-2019

Velma Lorene Johnson, 92, of La Grande, died Nov. 3 at her residence. There will be a private family service.

Velma was born Oct. 7, 1927, in Stigler, Oklahoma, to Oliver and Florence (House) Lewis. She resided in Stigler and McAlester, Oklahoma. When she married, she lived in Ely, Nevada. Later Velma lived in Pendleton, Umatilla and Hermiston, and in 1961 she moved to La Grande. She attended schools in Shady Grove and McAlester, Oklahoma.

Velma married Silas James Johnson on Feb. 15, 1945. She was employed as a nurse with hospitals in Tulsa, McAlester, St. Joseph, Hermiston and La Grande. Velma also owned her own business, Fashion Fabrics, for 13 years. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting, conducting Bible studies and spending time with her children.

Surviving relatives include her children and their spouses, Carol Ann and Stephen Craig of Summerville, Paul Terry and Patsy Johnson of Elgin, Sandra Jean and Jon Crawford of La Grande, David Lee and Marta Johnson of Umatilla, and Thomas Wayne Johnson of La Grande; brother, Harold Jean Lewis of Oklahoma; sister and brother-in-law, Geraldene and James Sims of Coolidge, Arizona; and 15 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Silas; sons, Jerry James Johnson and Robert Neal Johnson; parents, Oliver and Florence;

stepmother, Bertie Lewis; daughter-in-law, Patricia Johnson; and brother, Jay Lewis.

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

Verlo L. Hocks

Formerly of La Grande
1955-2019

Verlo L. “Cowboy” Hocks, 64, of Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, and formerly of La Grande, died Nov. 2 at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Nov. 10 at the Hoffman Funeral Home



and Crematory in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Verlo was born Aug. 3, 1955, in Walsenburg, Colorado, to Vernon and Lori (Vigil) Hocks. He attended grade school and high school in La Grande.

Verlo served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1973 to 1977. He was a heavy equipment operator for 40-plus years and owned Cowboy's Greenwood Tavern in Delaware. Verlo was an officer in the Milford Moose Lodge #2316 and was a member in various VFW and American Legion organizations. He loved riding his Harley-Davidson, but most of all he loved having a good time with his family and friends.

Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law, Angelia and Kyle Hardman of Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania; son, Bruce Hocks of Carlisle, Pennsylvania; four grandchildren and another on the way; sisters and brothers-in-law, Vickie and Ron Hill of Nampa, Idaho, Valerie and Michael Schenk of Palm Desert, California, and Vernalee Hocks of Salt Lake City, Utah; and dearly loved close friends whom he considered family, Bif Coyle and Annie and Randy Mountz.

He was preceded in death by his eldest son, Wesley C. Hocks; brother, V.L. Hocks; mother, Lori Hocks; and father, Vernon Hocks.

Condolences may be made at www.hoffmanfh.com/obituaries/Verlo-L-Hocks?obId=8726128#/celebrationWall.

Rex Weems

North Powder

Rex Weems, 60, of North Powder, died Nov. 4 at his residence. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

John Cummings

La Grande

John Cummings, 83, of La Grande, died Nov. 7 at his residence. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Donna L. Courtney-Dickenson

Enterprise

Donna L. Courtney-Dickenson, 61, of Enterprise, died Nov. 3 at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. An obituary is forthcoming.

UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS

Sponsored by

LOVELAND
FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY

Nov. 9 Wendy Cox Booth:

12:30-1:45 p.m. viewing, followed by 2 p.m. funeral, La Grande First Christian Church.

Nov. 12 Phillip Mendiguren:

2 p.m. Rosary and Mass of Christian Burial, Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, La Grande.

Nov. 13 Michelle McCoy:

11 a.m. memorial service, Grace Lutheran Church (409 W. Main St.), Enterprise; committal follows at Prairie Creek Cemetery.

Words can't express what I feel for my family, friends and community. You are what is helping my recovery. A sincere thank-you for all the cards, flowers, food and concerns. Thank you to all. Sincerely, Phyllis Bechtel