Obituaries

Vangie S. (Turner) Guze

La Grande

1972-2019

Vangie Star Guze, 47, of La Grande, died Nov. 29 at her home. A celebration of her life will be held at 10 a.m. Dec. 7 at Loveland Funeral Chapel.

Vangie was born Aug. 28, 1972, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Rex and Jane (Jensen) Turner. She graduated from East High School in Utah and received a certificate in early childhood education from Salt Lake Community College.

Vangie was nicknamed "Angel" at her birth by the nurses who took care of her. She was often referred to as a "miracle child" because she overcame childhood leukemia twice as well as two brain surgeries with numerous complications. The biggest miracle was the birth of her beloved son, Austin, because she had been told that she would never be able to have children due to all the radiation she received as a child.

Vangie worked in retail in the shoe department at K-Mart in Roseburg prior to the birth of her son. She was married to Jason Guze in Roseburg and enjoyed a full life in their home prior to her last brain surgery in 2007. For the past 12 years, she has lived in La Grande with her son, mother and second father, Jim Howell.

Vangie loved to spend time with her family and friends. She also loved embroidery, holidays, games, going for drives, dancing at Mt. Valley, watching the TV series "Blue Bloods" and going out to lunch with her "other mother" and caregiver, Debera White Waters. Vangie's greatest gifts were her smile and never giving up or feeling sorry for herself.

Surviving relatives include her parents, Jane and Jim Howell of La Grande and Dr. Rocket and Julie Turner of Eugene; son, Austin Guze of La Grande; siblings Rachel Turner of Eugene, Cassie Vandenburgh of Eugene, Oscar Trujillo of Tuscan, Arizona, Emily Erb of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Wendell Howell of Seattle, Heather Pridgen of Eugene, Ian Woodin of Eugene, and Jesse Dearth of Eugene; and grandparents, Ray Jensen of La Grande and Ray and Kay Turner of Salt Lake City, Utah.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Sheila Jensen and Bruce and Lucile Howell.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America, Gift Processing, 1702 E. Highland Ave., Suite 400, Phoenix, Arizona 85016, or at www.wish.org.

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

Earl Wells

La Grande

Earl Wells, 89, of La Grande, died Nov. 29 at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Laura J. (Tierce) Chapman

Formerly of Elgin

1943-2019

Laura Jean Chapman, 76, of Baker City and formerly of Elgin, died Nov. 26 at a care facility in Baker City. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Elgin Cemetery. Casual dress is preferred by the family.

Laura was born April 30, 1943, in Salem, to William Carlos and Ellen (Oakes) Tierce. She resided in La Grande and Baker City. She was married to Eugene Chapman.

Laura worked in several canneries throughout the years and was a homemaker for most of her life. She enjoyed birdwatching, going on scenic drives, spending time with family, attending church, and vacationing with her sister, Lois. She would say her greatest achievement was becoming a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Surviving relatives include her daughters and sons-in-law, Tina and Terry Allen of Oxbow and Sandra and Junior Martinez of Bend; sister and brother-in-law Lois and Mark Royce of Creswell; and three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Chapman; parents, Carlos and Ellen Tierce; and brothers, Marvin Tierce, Jim Tierce and Jerry Tierce.

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

Gene A. Noland

La Grande

1939-2019

Gene Anthony Noland, 80, died Nov. 9 unexpectedly. As he requested, there will not be a public funeral. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Gene's ashes will be spread over his family property in the Grande Ronde Valley, as he desired.

Gene was born April 1, 1939, in La Grande. Born with cerebral palsy, he faced several challenges, but he did not allow his disability to define his life. After graduating from what is now Eastern Oregon University in 1962, Gene went on to attend law school at Willamette University in Salem, where he received a juris doctor degree in 1964 and was admitted to practice in Oregon and California.

Gene then went to work for Bancroft-Whitney Legal Publishers in San Francisco, California, where he worked until his retirement in 1992. An extraordinary legal writer and editor, Gene, for his last 20 years at Bancroft-Whitney, was the managing editor of a staff that published state and national law encyclopedias. One of Gene's loves was local theater and the arts, and he participated in the production of many plays in Berkeley and San Francisco.

Gene returned to his hometown of La Grande in 2003. In 2013, he built his dream home, where he lived with his two dearly loved cats, Julie and Shadow. He enjoyed hosting gatherings at his home and having friends visit him for lunch dates. Gene had a kind heart and generous spirit. He was the kind of person who turned friends into family and enjoyed celebrating the successes of others. He was incredibly grateful to those who helped care for him during the last few years of his life.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Carol Ormond of California, and cousins, Bob Kuchler and Marian Stuckman, both of La Grande.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence Noland, and mother, Eileen (Bull) Johnson.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Blue Mountain Humane Association, 3212 Highway 30, La Grande 97850.

Rosabell Laurel Vermillion

La Grande

1920-2019

Rosabell Laneal Vermillion, 99, of La Grande, died Dec. 2 at Wildflower Lodge. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Dec. 6 at the Summerville Cemetery Chapel.

Rosabell was born March 6, 1920, in Meridian, Idaho, to Carson and Gladys (Heater) Emery. When she was a child, the family moved to Summerville. Rosabell graduated from Imbler High School. She married Jesse Vermillion Aug, 21, 1937, in La Grande. They moved to Spokane, Washington, in 1949 and back to La Grande in 1954.

Rosabell worked as a seamstress for various dry cleaners in both Spokane and La Grande. She also made quilts and was a dressmaker. A 60-year faithful member of the LDS Church, Rosabell was a former Relief Society president and Sunday school teacher.

Surviving relatives include her son and daughter-in-law, Larry "Butch" and Sharon Vermillion of La Grande; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband and a brother, Phillip Anderson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the LDS Humanitarian Fund in care of Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, 1502 Seventh St., La Grande.

Daniel R. Jorgensen

La Grande

Daniel R. Jorgensen, 55, of La Grande, died Dec. 2 at his residence. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Local Briefing

From staff reports

Women's Connection lunch includes ornament exchange

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Women's Connection reunion Christmas luncheon will be held Friday at The Urban Vine, corner of Island Avenue and First Street in Island City. A program begins at noon, followed by the program. Those who attend are asked to bring a wrapped ornament for an ornament exchange. RSVP at 541-786-0305.

'Boondockers' movie premieres at fundraiser for Avalanche Center

LA GRANDE — A fundraiser for the Wallowa Avalanche Center begins at 6 p.m. Saturday at hq, 112 Depot St., La Grande. The event will feature the premiere of the film "Boondockers 16" plus auctions and raffles with prizes from sponsors including Outlaw Motorsports, Oregon Trail Sports, Cliffs, Extreme Heights and more. There also will be pizza and Mexican cuisine from Local Harvest and Raul's and cold beer from Side A. All proceeds go to WAC to keep people safe this winter. Admission is $10 at the door, free for kids younger than 12.

LG Landmarks Commission meets tomorrow

LA GRANDE — The city of La Grande Landmarks Commission will meet in regular session beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Council Chambers of La Grande City Hall, 1000 Adams Ave. Pending business includes consideration of the historical appropriateness of the Lottes Building, 1413 Adams Ave. A work session immediately will follow.

Santa Paws raises funds for La Grande animal shelter

LA GRANDE — A Santa Paws photo op event aims to raise funds and awareness for the local animal shelter, open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Santa Claus will be available for "Take your Own Photos" with your fur babies or children, for a $10 minimum donation, at Le Bebe Cakes Bakery Coffee House, 1101 Washington Ave., La Grande.

Transportation commission meeting held in La Grande

LA GRANDE — The Northeast Area Commission on Transportation will meet from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday at the Oregon Department of Transportation Region 5 Headquarters, 3012 Island Ave., La Grande. The public is invited to attend.

Public Safety Report

SUNDAY

La Grande police at 10:06 a.m. received a report of possible animal neglect on the 2400 block of Riddle Road. The code enforcement officer made contact.

Oregon State Police at about 1:45 p.m. responded to a single vehicle rollover near milepost 269 on Interstate 84. The trooper arrived to fide the Toyota Tacoma on its top and in the median, but the five occupants were unharmed.

The group — two adults and five children, all males from West Jordan, Utah — were heading east when the 31-year-old driver lost control of the Toyota and it rolled at least once. The trooper determined the scene fit the story and gave the group a ride to the Flying J, La Grande.

MONDAY

A caller at 12:10 a.m. on the 1500 block of 21st Street, La Grande, complained about noise from a neighbor. An officer responded, and the neighbor agreed to turn down the music.

La Grand police at about 10:15 a.m. responded the 100 block of Aries Lane for a cat that was struck by a car. The enforcement officer transported the cat to the Animal Health Center, 10302 Wallowa Lake Highway, La Grande.

TUESDAY

La Grande police at about 6:30 p.m. took a report of a dog bite victim who was at the emergency department at Grand Ronde Hospital.

La Grande police throughout the day made the following arrests:

Timothy Lamar Ferguson, 57, of La Grande, for third-degree assault.

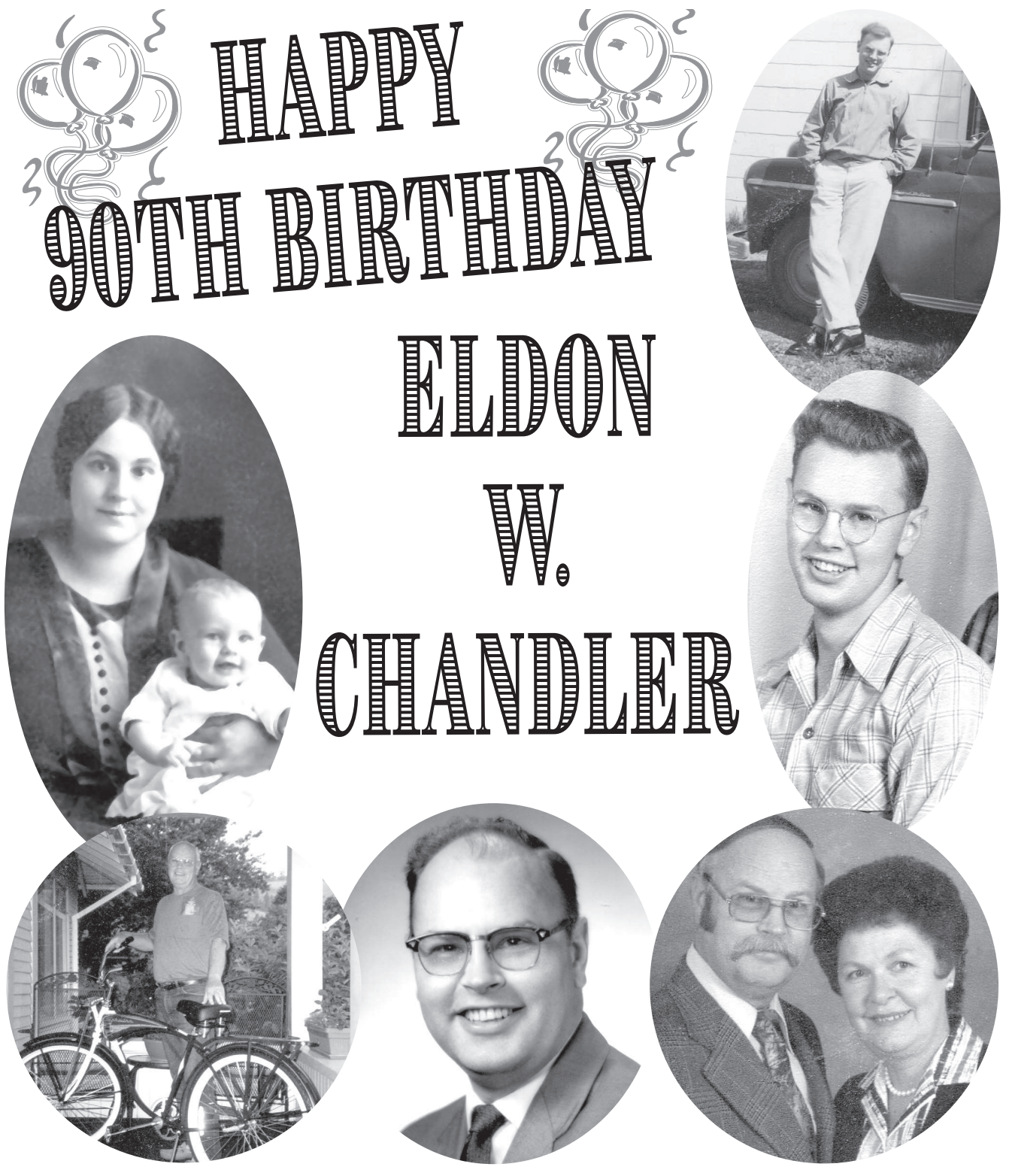
Robert David Rose, 37, of Cove, for third-degree assault.

Sam D. Witty, 49, of La Grande, for driving under the influence of intoxicants, felony driving while suspended, third-degree theft and on a warrant.

Caleb Andrew Woodworth, 24, of La Grande, for DUII, reckless driving and second-degree criminal mischief.

And firefighters responded to eight calls for medical assistance on Tuesday and four on Monday.

Celebrating the champions

Staff photo by Ronald Bond

La Grande High School held a pep rally Monday afternoon to celebrate the Tigers' state championship victory over Banks. The Tigers' win in Saturday's state championship game earned the school's first football title in 45 years.