

LOCAL BRIEFING

Granada and LG merchants sponsor free movies
LA GRANDE — In La Grande every year, the Granada Theatre and local merchants team up to present free movies during the holidays. This year free showings of “Abominable,” “Trolls” and “The Secret Life of Pets 2” will be offered at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Dec. 22-24. Admission tickets may be picked up at the Union County Chamber of Commerce, The Observer and other participating merchants.

Storytime features Mrs. Onjukka
LA GRANDE — Wendy Onjukka, well known to

Heidi-Ho families, will read Christmas stories, along with her daughter Misty, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec. 23 at Nature’s Pantry, 1907 Fourth St., La Grande. Parents are welcome to shop while their children are entertained with stories, crafts and treats.

BlueMountaineers perform before senior center’s holiday lunch
LA GRANDE — The Union County Senior Center, 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande, is having a special holiday meal and celebration Dec. 23. The

BlueMountaineers (who usually perform on Tuesdays) will entertain at 11 a.m., and a meal follows at 11:30 a.m., featuring “sing-along Christmas carols, great food and good fellowship.” All are welcome. The music and fun are free. The meal is served for a \$3 suggested donation for those age 60 and older, or \$6 for the younger set. The senior center will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday for Christmas.

Community Kindness offers Christmas lunch
LA GRANDE — Community Kindness of

Eastern Oregon is hosting a free light buffet lunch on Christmas Day from noon to 2 p.m. at the organization’s store, 1315 Adams Ave., La Grande. Anyone who would like to share a meal is welcome. Call the store at 541-805-1410 for more information. Guests may sign up ahead of time but this is not required.

Welcome winter at solstice party
SUMMERVILLE — The winter solstice is the day with the shortest period of daylight and longest night of the year, when the sun is at its lowest daily maximum elevation in the

sky: In 2019, the solstice happens at 8:19 p.m. Dec. 21. Pleasant Grove Grange invites all to celebrate the transition into winter, with brighter days ahead,

beginning at 4 p.m. at the grange, 67812 Hunter Road in Summerville. The free holiday gathering will include games, a potluck and Yule log fire.

UNION COUNTY SENIOR CENTER MENU
1504 ALBANY ST., LA GRANDE
Dec. 23-27; lunch served 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
age 60+ \$3 suggested donation; others \$6
Monday: pork roast, baked apples, mashed potatoes and gravy, Harvard beets, cashew-pea salad, rolls, dessert.
Tuesday & Wednesday: closed for the holidays
Thursday: fish and chips, baked beans, coleslaw, fresh fruit, cookies; alternative meal available.
Friday: sweet & sour meatballs over rice pilaf, steamed vegetables, tomato-cucumber salad, rolls, dessert; alternative meal available.

OBITUARIES

Charles ‘Ehrman’ Bates
La Grande
Charles “Ehrman” Bates, 94, of La Grande, died Dec. 17 at Grande Ronde Hospital. An obituary is forthcoming. Arrangements are under the direction of Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

David J. Hyde
Formerly of La Grande
1949-2019
David John Hyde, 70, of Eugene and formerly of La Grande, died Dec. 12 at his home. A memorial gathering will be held at the Cove Cemetery in the spring or summer.

David was born May 21, 1949, in La Grande, to Burleigh R. and Mildred (Wardell) Hyde. He attended Island City Grade School and La Grande High School, where he was a four-sport letterman and graduated with the class of 1967. He then moved to Eugene to attend the University of Oregon and was a member of the 1969 Oregon Ducks football team until a medical ailment sidelined his football career.
David worked for the Coca-Cola Company in Eugene for 14 years, becoming the vice president and divisional manager for the Southern District of Oregon the last five years. He returned to La Grande in 1988 and rebuilt Hyde’s Market in Island City on the site of the original store founded by his grandfather Sheldon Hyde in the 1930s, reviving the name of the store he had worked at as a young man when his uncle Gene owned it. He later moved back to Eugene where he owned and operated a building construction company until his retirement.

David spoke often of his Eastern Oregon roots and had a lifelong love for the beauty of the Blue Mountains and Grande Ronde Valley. He fondly remembered ski trips to Anthony Lakes, pack trips into the Minam and pheasant hunting the swales and wheatfields of the valley. One of his final wishes was to go home and fish the Wallowa River. He loved the Oregon Ducks, his springer Spaniels, the countless friends he made along the way, and his family.
Surviving relatives include his wife Charlotte Washburn of Eugene; daughters, Dana Hyde and husband, Jon Chambers., of Cabin John, Maryland, Hilary Brinkman, Ashley Horton and Meagan Hyde; sister, Barbara Hyde of Seaside; cousins and wives, Bill and Lee Ann Young and Ray and Betty Hyde of La Grande; and six grandchildren.

Edna Landers
La Grande
1927-2019
Edna Landers, 92, of La Grande, died Nov. 29 at a local care facility. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Dec. 20 at Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center. (the day of the service has been changed since a previous announcement.)
Edna was born Aug. 15, 1927, in Wallowa, to Jesse Edward and Nancy Leona (Hilton) Landers. She enjoyed animals, shopping, flowers and going to senior meals.
Surviving relatives include her sister, Lois McLaren of Pendleton. She was preceded in death by her sister, Dorothy Hamlin.
Memorial contributions may be made to Uniting Together.

Ray G. Murphy
Island City
1932-2019
Ray Gene Murphy, 87, of Island City, died Dec. 17 at his residence. A private service will be held in the spring.
Ray was born Sept. 1, 1932, in Flora, to William and Elizabeth (Wakefield) Murphy. He was married to Phyllis Bowman.
Ray is survived by his wife, Phyllis; children and their spouses, Jay Dean Murphy of La Grande, Howard Thomas and Becky Murphy of Umatilla, and Marilyn Fae and Randy Fleshman of Scio; and three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Robert D. Miller
La Grande
1938-2019
Robert Dean Miller, 81, of La Grande, died Dec. 13 at his residence. A memorial service will be held next spring.
Robert was born Oct. 1, 1938, in Jerome, Idaho, to Ivan and Opal (Lee) Miller. He served in the U.S. Army, earning a Purple Heart. Robert married Brenda Behrend on July 10, 1965, in St. Bernard’s Catholic Church in Blackfoot, Idaho.
Robert was employed with the Union Pacific Railroad for 36-1/2 years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and cutting firewood. He also enjoyed carpentry and remodeled several houses. He was a member of National Association of Retired Veterans Railway Employees.
Surviving relatives



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Robert was employed with the Union Pacific Railroad for 36-1/2 years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and cutting firewood. He also enjoyed carpentry and remodeled several houses. He was a member of National Association of Retired Veterans Railway Employees.
Surviving relatives

include his wife, Brenda; children and their spouses, Annet and Tom Enter of La Grande, Phillip and Pam Miller of North Carolina, and Cheryl and Brad Benet of Killeen, Texas; brother and sister-in-law, Roy and Judy Miller of Burley; sisters and brothers-in-law, Linda Lighter of Ash Fork, Arizona, Susan and Don Baird of Twin Falls, Idaho, Kathrine and Bob Berg of Twin Falls, Idaho, Vicki Coss of Mancos, Colorado, Teresa and Tony Kissinger of Buhl, Idaho, and Sharon and Norris Enloe of Gilbert, Arizona; five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.
He was preceded in death by his parents, Ivan and Opal; brother, Donald Miller; and sisters, Donna Miller and Diane Parsons.
Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

Marilyn R. Roberts
Union
Marilyn R. Roberts, 71, of Union, died Dec. 18 at her residence. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS
Sponsored by
LOVELAND
FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY
Dec. 20
Edna Landers:
3 p.m. memorial service, Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.
Dec. 28
Nellie Lathrop:
11 a.m. memorial service, Joseph Baptist Church.

Union County sees increase in flu activity

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer
LA GRANDE — State and local authorities reported Union County is seeing an increase in flu activity. The Center for Human Development and Grande Ronde Hospital, both in La Grande, are urging people to get the latest flu vaccine to help prevent the spread of the illness.
According to the data in the Flu Bites report from the Oregon Health Authority, there has been a steady increase over the last several weeks of emergency room and urgent care visits regarding the flu. Eastern Oregon has the highest percentage of all of the regions at nearly 7% of visits being flu-related.
Elizabeth Sieders is the immunization coordinator

and communicable disease nurse at the Center for Human Development. She reported Amy Miles, the infection prevention nurse at Grande Ronde Hospital, alerted the center about the increase in flu cases. Sieders said the virus, for example, caused students to miss school in the Imbler School District, and anecdotal reports in other districts have indicated similar situations across Union County.
“It’s important that people do not take chances, and protect themselves and their loved ones by not only getting vaccinated but reducing transmission by staying home and good hand hygiene,” Sieders said.
Sieders in a news release from the center also reported it is not too late for anyone to get the flu

vaccine, and children older than 6 months, adults over 65, pregnant women and people with a weak immune systems or a chronic medical condition should not wait.
“For these groups,” according to Sieders, “flu can cause severe illness and even death.”
Grande Ronde Hospital has not implemented visitor restrictions due to the illness, but Miles stated the hospital is tracking new cases daily and may restrict visitors should the number of cases continue to escalate.
To receive the flu vaccine, contact your primary care provider, your local pharmacy or the Center for Human Development at 541-962-8800. The center also can provide information on reduced cost or free vaccinations.



Christmas Eve: CLOSE at 3 PM
Christmas Day: CLOSED
There will be NO PAPER published on Wednesday, December 25th
We will reopen for business Thursday, December 26th • 7:30 AM - 5 PM



New Years Day: OFFICE CLOSED
There WILL BE a paper published January 1st



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