

MILESTONE

Help Betty Lou Hughes celebrate 90th birthday

Observer staff

LA GRANDE — Betty Lou Hughes of La Grande will turn 90 years old on Jan. 26. Friends are welcome to attend an early party in honor of her birthday from 1-4 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Dusty Spur Cafe, 1502 S Ave., La Grande. A taco bar will be provided. The reception is hosted by Betty’s boys: Wesly of Irrigon, Edgar of Summerville, Dale of La Grande, Vint of Hailey, Idaho, and Lantz of La Grande.

CALENDAR

Meetings

- LA GRANDE — The city of La Grande Landmarks Commission will meet for a work session at 6 p.m. Thursday in Council Chambers at city hall, 1000 Adams Ave.
- IMBLER — The Imbler School District Board of Directors’ regular meeting Tuesday includes an executive session. New business includes the 2020-21 school calendar and graduation requirements. The executive session’s agenda lists the superintendent evaluation and staff negotiations. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in Room 1 of the high school.
- LA GRANDE — The La Grande School Board’s regular board meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday. This meeting will be held at Central Elementary School, 701 H Ave.
- UNION — The Union Rural Fire Protection District’s board meeting will be held Tuesday. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the fire hall.

Help community by shopping at secondhand store

LA GRANDE — Community Kindness of Eastern Oregon’s secondhand store, 1315 Adams Ave., La Grande, is having a 50% off sale on all clothing, shoes and boots Friday and Saturday.

The not-for-profit organization supports and promotes community-wide benefit for

different projects throughout Eastern Oregon. The store serves as the organization’s fundraising arm and will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the sale.

Mother-Son Gym Jam is Saturday

LA GRANDE — Moms and their sons are invited to a special event, the Mother-Son Gym Jam, Saturday from 3-5 p.m. at the Riviera Activity Center, corner of Second Street and Y Avenue, La Grande. There will be music, prizes, food crafts and a Nerf gun range, hoop shoot and building pit. Cost is \$15 per family. For more information and to sign up, go to www.lagrandeparks.org or call 541-962-1352.

Shelter From the Storm seeks volunteers for annual supper

LA GRANDE — Shelter From the Storm is seeking volunteers for its annual fundraising Soup Supper. For more information, call 541-963-7226. Shelter From the Storm is a domestic violence and sexual assault organization located in Island City that offers both immediate and long-term assistance, free of charge, to victims/survivors, and their families, who have been impacted by abuse. The mission of Shelter From the Storm is to provide advocacy, education and awareness.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY

La Grande police at 8:41 a.m. received a report of a possible gunshot in the area of Depot Street and Washington Avenue.

A caller at 8:47 a.m. in La Grande complained about a male going through garbage cans on at U Avenue and Jackson Street. An officer responded and talked to the subject.

La Grande police arrested Rebecca Ann Loehr, 21, for unauthorized use of a credit card, five counts of identity theft and one count of third-degree theft. Police subsequently arrested her for trespassing and on warrants for failure to appear.

La Grande police at about 10:30 a.m. responded to the 2700 block of Island Avenue for a vehicle causing a traffic hazard. The vehicle left before police arrived.

La Grande police at about noon notified the city public works department about a damaged stop sign at North Avenue and Cherry Street.

A La Grande resident at 2:28 p.m. reported a burglary at a home on the 60900 block of Anson Road.

La Grande police at 7:10 p.m. received a report of a possible sex crime.

La Grande police at about 9:40 p.m. responded to Jefferson Avenue and Alder Street on a complaint about loud music coming from a vehicle. Police gave some advice to the person in the vehicle.

TUESDAY

Another call about loud music came in at 5:09 a.m. from the 1600 block of Albany Street. An officer responded and referred the matter to property management.

Emergency services at about 11:20 a.m. responded to a traffic crash with an injury on the 1500 block of Albany Street, La Grande.

12:47 p.m. responded to a vehicle crash at Sixth Street and O Avenue. There were no injuries.

A La Grande resident at 3:57 p.m. reported a restraining

order violation. Police checked it out and found there was no violation — this was service of court papers.

And firefighters responded to eight calls for medical assistance Monday and 18 Tuesday.

Gary ‘Snuffy’ E. Sirrine
Elgin
1948-2019

Gary “Snuffy” Earl Sirrine, 71, of Elgin, died Dec. 25, 2019, at a hospice care facility in La Grande. A memorial service will be held in the spring.

Known as Snuffy, he was born in 1948 to Florence Anna (Scott) Shaffer and LaMar Earl Sirrine.



Snuffy loved the outdoors and was an avid hunter and fisherman. Due to his many years as a logger and trail maker, he was very knowledgeable about the trees and wildlife in the area. He operated various rock crushers, skidders and loaders, and ran his own logging business at one time. Snuffy was a sports fan and enjoyed reading Westerns and sci-fi novels. He also enjoyed playing pool and card games and socializing with his family and friends.

In his lifetime Snuffy went on many adventures, such as trying for a state championship in football, gold mining in California, stock car racing, visiting Arizona and the Redwoods, and even surviving breaking his neck in a car accident.

Snuffy considered many family whether they were blood related or not. He was devoted to his friends and family and loved his children and grandchildren deeply. He was often laughing, teasing and joking. Snuffy was an all-around handyman who helped with car or home repairs, building fences, or cutting wood, and he was always there when anyone needed him.

He leaves behind his beloved lifelong friends Nora Pearl and Leo Kepplinger, and his dog, Wilbur.

Surviving relatives include his daughter, Desta

Lee Sirrine of Salem; stepchildren and their spouses, Nora Jo “Joie” and Kelly Becker and Billy Duane and Janice Lanning of Blue River; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; siblings and spouses, Bruce Lee and Kathy Sirrine, Pamela Sue and Gordon Rhine of Stanfield, Glen Allen Sirrine, Terri Lynn Sebastian, and Teresa “Tess” Marietta Wagner; stepfather, Larry Shaffer; uncles and aunts, Albert “Dutch” and Maxine Scott of Wallowa, Beverly Jacobs of Arizona, Alberta “Mert” and Loren Eckstein, and Ione and Charlie Hobick; many cousins, nieces and nephews; and former spouse, Terria Lee Tucker.

He was preceded in death by his parents; stepson, Jeremiah “Maya” Adam Johnston; and sister and brother-in-law, Tonja Ann and Bob Gruis.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 4380 SW Macadam Ave., #210, Portland 97239, or the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, 5705 Grant Creek, Missoula, MT 59808.

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

Richard ‘Rick’ D. Stephens

Haines

Richard “Rick” Delbert Stephens, 33, of Haines, and formerly of La Grande, died Jan. 11 at Rock Creek near Haines. Visitation will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Jan. 17 at Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel in Baker City. A memorial service will begin at 1 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Old North Powder Gym in North Powder, followed by a reception.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Rick Stephens Memorial Fund in care of Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City 97814. To light a candle for Rick or to share a memory or condolence with the family, visit www.grayswestco.com.

Eunice E. (Lathrop) Skillings

Wallowa
1948-2020

Eunice Elma Skillings, 71, of Wallowa, died Jan. 7 at Wallowa Memorial Hospital in Enterprise.



Eunice was born Aug. 21, 1948, in Enterprise, to Leo “Tuff” and Ursula E. (Young) Lathrop. She grew up on a farm on Parsnip Creek in the Leap area and attended school in Lostine and Wallowa. In 1965, Eunice married Elvin Wilks, and they later divorced. On June 27, 1971, she married Jonny Skillings.

Eunice loved to be the first out in the hills to find the first buttercups of the spring. She also loved to go out mushrooming. Her favorite thing was going on drives all over the county with Jonny. Eunice always had a sense of humor. She loved peanut butter pie, Hershey bars and Mug root beer.

Surviving relatives include her husband, Jonny Skillings Wallowa; children and their spouses, Lisa and Randy Barton, Zene and Shelly Wilks, Jason and Patty Skillings, Weldon Skillings, Gaylen and Sally Skillings, and Cindy and Rod Comstock, all of Wallowa; siblings and spouses, Mary Ann and Richard Wheeler of Pendleton, Kathy and Dan

Moffit of Union, Leo and Nona Lathrop of Wallowa, and Leslie and Patty Lathrop of Meacham; and 20 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Leo “Tuff” and Ursula Lathrop.

William A. Davis

La Grande

William A. Davis, 84, of La Grande, died Jan. 13 at home. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Grace A. Gray

Joseph

Grace A. Gray, 88, of Joseph, died Jan. 12 at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. An obituary will be published and a memorial service held in May. Bollman Funeral Home is entrusted with the arrangements.

UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS

Sponsored by

LOVELAND

FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY

Jan. 18 Virginia Linkenhoker:
2 p.m. memorial service, La Grande United Methodist Church; reception follows in the Fellowship Hall.

Rick Stephens:
1 p.m. memorial service, Old North Powder Gym; reception follows.

Feb. 8 Justice Clark:
4 p.m. celebration of life, Presbyterian Friendship Center, La Grande; casual dress preferred.

Leal Walter Graham

1928 - January 9, 2020

Leal Walter Graham, 91, of La Grande, passed away on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at his residence. Leal’s life will be honored this spring. The family will announce the time and location at a future date.

Leal was born in Portland, Oregon in 1928 and was adopted in 1929, when he moved to La Grande. Leal graduated from La Grande High School in 1946.

Leal worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Wallowa County and then enlisted with the U.S. Army. Leal spent 1946-1948 in Japan.

Leal met his future wife while attending Eastern Oregon College before he graduated from Oregon State College with a degree in General Agriculture in 1952. On June 16, 1950, he married Bonnie McCanse from La Grande. He and Bonnie were married for 64 years.

From 1950-1964, Leal worked on the family ranch in North Powder, mainly with livestock. From 1965-1969, Leal was a farm appraiser for Farm Credit Services based in La Grande and doing appraisals in Oregon and Idaho. In the 1970’s, Leal raised cows in North Powder.

In 1972, Leal and Bonnie started their Christmas Tree Farm, selling both U-cut and wholesale trees. The business operated on Hunter Road at the base of Mt. Emily, putting smiles on family faces for well over a generation. Most notable was the Graham’s three-legged Old English Sheep Dog, who helped Bonnie hand out candy canes to Christmas tree buyers in Northeast Oregon.

Leal’s commitment to public services benefitted many through his commitments to the North Powder School Board and North Powder City Council. He also served as a board member for the Union County Economic Development Corporation.

Leal was also a member of the Oregon Cattleman’s Association, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Wolf Creek Grange Hall, and the Grande Ronde Valley Masonic Lodge in North Powder.



Leal’s favorite stomping ground was exploring little-known places in the West with his beloved wife Bonnie. These excursions included horse trips into the Wallowa Lake Basins and floating the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon and the Owyhee River in Southeast Oregon. Leal enjoyed hunting with close family and friends. Leal also appreciated time with family at the cabin at Wallowa Lake.

Leal was preceded in death by his wife, Bonnie, and by his oldest child, Rand Leal Graham. Leal is survived by his twin brother, Lee and three children: Nancy Cannon (married to Terry Cannon of Cathlamet, Washington), Mauri Seehawer (married to Brent Seehawer of La Grande, Oregon) and Suzy Cole (married to Brian Cole of Baker City, Oregon). He leaves behind seven loved grandchildren and seven loved great grandchildren. Leal’s grandchildren include; Sean, Cory and Dylan Jensen; Jared and Jesse Seehawer and Krysti and Kelsey Cole.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 3101 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland, OR 97239-3095.

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

La GRANDE AUTO REPAIR

975-2000

www.lagrandeautorepair.com

Joe Horst

MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE

ACDelcoTSS

FAMILY OWNED

NORTHWEST FURNITURE & MATTRESS

215 Elm Street La Grande (541) 963-5440

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

northwestfurnitureandmattress.com

Like Us On facebook

www.CountrysideSheds.com

For New Years Start Growing Season early in your Greenhouse

STORAGE BUILDINGS

(541) 663-0246

Locally owned and operated for over 25 years

Countryside SHEDS

“More Than Just a Shed”

10505 N. McAlister Road (Corner of Hwy 82 & N. McAlister Rd.)

Weather Barrier Side

Sunlight Panel Side

Our Greenhouse is more than a shed

RENT to OWN starting at \$68 Month