

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• **BAKER CITY** — The Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative Board of Directors will meet Tuesday at 9 a.m. at OTEC headquarters, 4005 23rd St., Baker City. Among other agenda items, the board is scheduled to discuss the electric vehicle charging rate and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Conference in April in Washington, D.C.

Save money at art center with coupon and by volunteering

LA GRANDE — Art Center East is offering \$5 off the registration of class of your choice. Registration must be completed by Jan. 31. The center, at 2006 Penn Ave., La Grande, is home to a variety of classes. See the schedule and redeem the discount (use coupon code: WINTERSALE) at www.artcentereast.org, call 541-624-2800 or stop by the center between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday or on Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

Every Thursday at ACE is “Volunteer Drop-In Day” from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The art center will have projects ready for volunteers every week. RSVP is welcome but not required. Volunteers receive 20% off a class or gift gallery item for every 10 hours of volunteering.

Oyster feed and sales benefit Wallowa firefighters

WALLOWA — The Wallowa Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual Oyster and Steak Feed from 3-8 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Wallowa Senior Center, 204 E. Second St. Cost is \$30 for all-you-can-eat oysters or a rib steak and sides, and wine and beer may be purchased. Hot dogs will be available for children (free for age 9 and younger).

Orders for oysters by the gallon must be made by Jan. 25. For more information or to place an order, call Wallowa City Hall at 541-886-2422 or

Gary Hulse at 541-805-5744.

Pool plans ‘Neverland’ adventure

LA GRANDE — All lost boys and girls are invited to join an adventure to Neverland this Friday at Veterans’ Memorial Pool, 401 Palmer, in La Grande’s Pioneer Park. Children can walk the plank at Pirates Bay, “hook” the croc at Crocodile Creek, collect pixie dust at Pixie Hollow, challenge friends to some mer-people races at Mermaid Cove and collect pearls to redeem for various prizes.

The “Dive in to Neverland” event will go from 7-8:30 p.m. and is recommended for ages 13 and younger, but older children are welcome. Cost is \$5 per person at the door. Go to www.lagrandeparks.org or call 541-962-1347 for more information.

Workshop helps farmers and ranchers plan for succession

PENDLETON — A workshop next month in Pendleton aims to help farmers, ranchers, foresters and family members who have questions about passing their land on to the next generation. “Changing Hands: A Workshop on Farm Succession Planning and Access to Land” also will help beginning farmers and ranchers understand how they can access affordable land.

The Oregon nonprofit Rogue Farm Corps is putting on the day-long event Feb. 13 at Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton. The workshop features the critical tools and resources farmers, ranchers, foresters and family members need to plan for the future or get started in agriculture.

Workshop sessions address multiple topics, including: how to work with your attorney to plan for succession; family dynamics and the logistics of land transfer; and financing, business planning

and resources for beginning farmers and ranchers.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes lunch. The BMCC Small Business Development Center is co-sponsoring the event. To register, go to www.roguefarmcorps.org/planning. For more information, contact Nella Mae Parks at 541-910-4098 or nellamae@roguefarmcorps.org.

North Powder students earn academic achievement

NORTH POWDER — By earning a grade-point average of 3.50 and higher, the following students in the North Powder School District were named to the first-quarter honor roll for the 2019-20 academic year.

■ **4.00**
Janie Bingham, Stran Bingham, Bella Brandt, Marli Lind, Jace Arvidson, Ayla Bingham, Hunter Bingham, Jodi Bingham, Abigail Cox, Dallee Bingham, Ariel Pointer, Viri Rodriguez, Brooke Allen, Keanna Bingham, Bailey Cole, Kenzie Leggett, Joey Richman, Tyler Olson, Michelle Williams

■ **3.50-3.99**
Range Bingham, Chloe Cox, Emmilya Dickson, Kellee Dixon, Wyatt Free, Breyton Golar, Ryleigh Guthrie, Fatima Herrera-Balderas, Eduardo Ibarra, Anastasia Leggett, Malachi Miller, Ian Sandberg, Silas Talbot, Whitney Wright, Jaydyn Dyke, Jaycee Gray, Emily McCall, Ruby Warner, Ambrosia Aldrich. Jacey Anderson, Caleigh Carpenter, Rose Christensen, Caleb Kerns, Paige Marlia, Abigail Orr, Jessup Orr, Lizandro Rodriguez, Nevaeh Schuldt, Jace Thompson, Madison Truscott, Madsen Leggett, Cade Lind, Pilar Olvera Torres, Reece Dixon, Rachel Free, Sarah Orr, Justin Ash, Nate Baker, Hunter Lind, Chaz McCall, Ethan Stephens, Roper Bingham, Autumn Davis, Josi Krieger

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY

La Grande police at 7:52 a.m. received a report of a careless driver on the 2700 block of Island Avenue. Police responded and stopped the driver on 1800 block of 26th Street. That led to the arrest of Raymond Anthony Jimenez, 22, for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

La Grande police at 8:46 a.m. received a complaint about a possible vehicle break-in on the 800 block of Washington Avenue. Police plan to provide extra patrols in the neighborhood.

An Island City caller at 10:07 a.m. reported possible fraud case. A Union County sheriff’s deputy contacted the person and explained options.

A Elgin resident at South Sixth Avenue and Cedar Street flagged down a Union County sheriff’s deputy to report the theft of firewood.

A caller at 7:15 p.m. complained about a loud party on Ladd Creek Road, La Grande.

SATURDAY

A caller at 8:32 a.m. asked law enforcement to check on the welfare of a horse at 26th Street and Mulholland Drive, La Grande.

Another animal call came in at 11:12 a.m., about a dog possibly harassing livestock or wildlife in the area of Mount Glen Road and Igo Lane, La Grande.

A caller at 1:06 p.m. reported a domestic disturbance on the 500 block of Fourth Street, La Grande. Police arrested a woman for violating a restraining order.

La Grande police at 10:21 p.m. received a complaint about a loud party on the 2100 block of Oak Street.

SUNDAY

La Grande police at 12:57 a.m. received a report of multiple loud bangs on the 1800 block of Cove Avenue.

A caller at 1:56 a.m. reported a person on Cove Avenue, La Grande, was suffering mental or emotional duress. Police responded and requested medical help.

La Grande police at about 6:10 a.m. responded to the 2700 block of Island Avenue on a report of trespassing. Police arrested a man for trespass and misuse of 911, both misdemeanors.

La Grande police at about 7 a.m. responded to a call about vandalism on the 2200 block

of Adams Avenue. The Union County Sheriff’s Office at 12:24 p.m. received a report of domestic violence in Elgin. A deputy responded, determined there was no crime and had the parties separate.

A caller at 4:53 p.m. reported juveniles were spray painting a building and other items on the 2000 block of Gekeler Lane, La Grande. Officers responded and took a report.

La Grande police at 8:49 p.m. received a report of possible child abuse.

A caller at 9:11 p.m. reported a burglary on the 2000 block of Gekeler Lane, La Grande.

MONDAY

A caller at 1:58 a.m. reported a possible theft and location of a wanted person on the 1900 block of H Avenue, La Grande.

La Grande police at 4:04 a.m. received a report of a vehicle theft on the 1800 block of Washington Avenue. Police took a report.

And firefighters responded to 12 calls for medical assistance on Sunday, eight on Saturday and four on Friday.

OBITUARIES

Carol R. (Yerkes) Garnett

Formerly of Elgin and Enterprise 1935-2019

Carol R. Garnett, 84, formerly of Elgin and Enterprise, died Christmas Day, her favorite day of the year, 2019, at a care facility in Hermiston. Arrangements

are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center in La Grande.

Carol was born April 29, 1935, in Marysville, California, to Willard Evert and Leora Andree (Phillips) Yerkes. She was educated in Marysville and graduated with the class of 1954. On June 13, 1954, Carol married Robert Jackson Garnett in Marysville.

Carol and Robert had a small dairy farm and she worked at the Yuba City auction yard and at the Del Monte Cannery during peach and pear harvest. Later, they had a ranch at Imnaha and worked on ranches in Central and Southern Oregon. They lived in Enterprise before moving to Elgin.

Carol was devoted to caring for her family. She enjoyed sewing, doing cross stitch and crocheting. She was an avid reader and loved cooking and feeding people. Carol was a member of the Cowbelles in California and was very involved in the Imnaha Grange.

Surviving relatives include her children and their spouses, William and Debbie Garnett of Warden,

Washington, Randol and Liz Garnett of Joseph, Joseph and Shelley Garnett of McCall, Idaho, and Roberta and Ray Temple of Hermiston; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; siblings, Flora Agnew of Tucson, Arizona, Elanor McBride of Enterprise, and Jim Yerkes of Marysville, California.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Roland; and husband, Robert.

Memorial contributions may be made to any FFA chapter.

Michael Tannlund

Formerly of Imbler 1960-2020

Michael Tannlund, 60, formerly of Imbler, died Jan. 10 in Boise, Idaho. Michael was born May 24, 1960, in Bremerton, Washington, and was raised in Imbler.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Diana Tannlund; children, Philip Tannlund and Jessica Tannlund; sisters, Faith Hohstadt and Cathy Moore; brother, Patrick Tannlund; and seven grandchildren.

Bertha L. Thompson

La Grande

Bertha L. Thompson, 69, of La Grande, died Jan. 18 at Grande Ronde Hospital. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Doralee Powell

Union

Doralee Powell, 84, of Union, died Jan. 17 at her

residence. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

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

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Lostine River project lawsuit gets hearing

By Steve Tool
EO Media Group

WALLOWA — People seeking peace and solitude are drawn to the Lostine River corridor and the surrounding Eagle Cap Wilderness. But since 2017, the area has fueled a bitter and contentious legal battle that pits environmental groups against the U.S. Forest Service and Wallowa County.

On Dec. 12, the U.S. 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Seattle heard an appeal from two environmental groups that have sued to stop the project. The ruling on whether forests in the fire-prone corridor can be thinned, or whether they must be kept in a more natural state for listed species, is expected relatively soon.

The thorny problem being weighed by the 9th Circuit is known officially as the Lostine River Corridor Public Safety Project. The Forest Service wants to thin the ladder-fuel-infested forest on 2110 acres along the Lostine River Road — a narrow cherry stem of a road that follows the river for 11 miles to wilderness trailheads. The agency planned the project to reduce the wildfire severity in a fire-prone landscape. The two environmental groups see it as a commercial logging project that will harm habitat for threatened wildlife, including wolverines, and important vegetation, including moonwort, a rare fernlike plant. The groups contend that the project has received insufficient study for its environmental impacts.

The Lostine River Road is

the sole access to popular trailheads that lead into the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Thousands of visitors use the road and its adjacent campgrounds during the spring, summer and fall. Public and Forest Service concerns that inspired the project include the safety of campers and hikers in the event of a fire, as well as the possibility of a human-sparked blaze in dense woodland along the road.

The Lostine River, which is adjacent to the road, is a designated Wild and Scenic River. It is home to a healthy fish population, including Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout. Coho salmon were recently reintroduced by the Nez Perce Tribe. The forests along the road and river were heavily logged in the early to middle 20th century. Old growth fir, tamarack and ponderosa pine have been replaced by smaller trees and a much thicker forest where grand fir is the principal understory species.

In May of 2017, the Greater Hells Canyon Council and Oregon Wild filed a suit against the Forest Service to stop the Lostine Corridor Public Safety Project. Wallowa County filed for, and received, intervenor status in the suit.

To date, GHCC and Oregon Wild have lost two court battles to stop the project. But the Forest Service has had troubles of its own. The initial timber sale offered as part of the shining project received a single bid that was later retracted.

After tweaking the timber sale components, the USFS re-offered the sale. Integrated Biomass Resources, a forest products mill in Wallowa, won the contract. It will wait until the appeal is settled before moving ahead with the harvest.

The 9th Circuit Court hearing Dec. 12 marked a pivotal moment for the corridor project. Two senior circuit court judges, M. Margaret McKeown and Michael Daly Hawkins along with Senior U.S. District Judge Robert W. Pratt presided over the Dec. 12 hearing.

During the 36-minute hearing, the attorney for GHCC and Oregon Wild, Jennifer Schwartz, contended the Forest Service caused forest fuel issues by deliberately suppressing fires, which eventually caused an abundance of young and dead trees (ladder fuels), which coupled with climate change and other elements, led to the present forest condition.

Schwartz said neither GHCC or Oregon Wild oppose removal of the ladder fuels through hand thinning, the clearing of helicopter landing spaces for helicopter evacuations or the cutting of roadside hazard trees. What they do oppose, she said, are USFS efforts “to improperly couple that safety work with 450 acres of heavy-handed commercial logging of much larger and older trees, all within a congressionally designated Wild and Scenic corridor.”



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