

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

WEDNESDAY

La Grande police at about 8:15 a.m. placed a tire boot on a vehicle at Washington Avenue and Fourth Street.

La Grande police at 9:22 a.m. received a report of a sexual assault.

A caller at 9:36 a.m. reported an abandoned vehicle on Gordon Creek Road, Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and tagged the vehicle for removal.

A caller at 10:03 a.m. reported vandalism to a vehicle on the 61900 block of Quail Road, La Grande. A second caller about 10 minutes later reported vandalism to a vehicle on the 2000 block of Gekeler Lane, La Grande. Law enforcement took reports in both cases.

A Union County sheriff's deputy at about 1:20 p.m. responded to a disturbance at Grande Ronde Hospital, 900 Sunset Drive, La Grande. The deputy reported the situation was under control.

An Elgin caller on the 600 block of North 13th Avenue reported one dog injured another dog.

La Grande police at about 4:10 p.m. received a report of a burglary at a shop on the 1300 block of V Avenue. Police took a report.

The Union County Sheriff's Office at 8:54 p.m. received a report of a possible sex crime in Elgin.

THURSDAY

La Grande police at 10 a.m. received another report of vandalism on the 2100 block of Gekeler Lane.

The Union County Sheriff's Office at about noon arrested a 17-year-old male for first-degree robbery, second-degree assault and fourth-degree assault.

A caller at 12:28 p.m. complained about a pit bull dog on the loose on the 600 block of Sunset Drive, La Grande. The animal enforcement officer took the dog to the shelter.

A North Powder caller at 1:51 p.m. reported livestock on the loose. Law enforcement advised the owners to get their cow.

Emergency services at about 2:15 p.m. responded to a vehicle crash with injuries on the first block of Highway 237, La Grande.

An Island City caller at 4:43 p.m. reported finding bags of cans on the 10800 block of Walton Road. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and returned the cans.

Law enforcement in La Grande at about 10 p.m. responded to a person suffering mental or emotional duress.

And firefighters responded to nine calls for medical assistance on Thursday and eight on Wednesday.

OBITUARIES

Virginia J. (Andrews) Wagoner

La Grande
1950-2020

Virginia Jeanette Wagoner, 69, of La Grande and formerly of Union, died

Jan. 10 at Wildflower Lodge. At her request there will not be a public service at this

time. Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

Virginia was born Aug. 15, 1950, in Lakeview, to Gilbert and Mary (Holbrook) Andrews. She graduated from high school in Lakeview in 1970. She lived in Baker City for many years and moved to La Grande in 1987.

On Aug. 8, 1998, Virginia married Leo Wagoner in The Dalles and they lived in Union for many years before moving to La Grande in August 2019. She was a member of the Union Baptist Church and she enjoyed doing beadwork.

Surviving relatives include her husband, Leo Wagoner of La Grande; sons, Glen Still of Union and Justin Still of Utah; stepson, Trent Wagoner of Perry; five sisters and three brothers; four grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and three siblings.

Memorial contributions may be made to Heart 'n Home Hospice.

Donna M. (McKinney) Johnson

Formerly of Cove
1935-2019

Donna Marie Johnson, 84, formerly of Cove, died Dec. 31, 2019, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, after a long illness. A funeral was held Jan. 3 in Cove.

Donna was born Dec. 20, 1935, in Weiser, Idaho, to Harry J. and Lottie R. (Slyter) McKinney. She married Frank A. Johnson on July 12, 1954. They were married for 57 years.

Donna was the head cook for the Cove School District for more than 20 years and was well known for her homemade bread, hot rolls and especially her cinnamon rolls. Her love of cooking made every meal a feast.

Donna loved her family unconditionally and was always ready and willing to do anything for them. Her greatest love was for her Lord and savior Jesus Christ. According to her family, though they are sad Donna is gone, they rejoice that she is now singing his praises in heaven.

Surviving relatives

include her children and their spouses, Linda and Fred Peterson of Athol, Idaho, Wade and Cindy Johnson of Cove, Annette and Jeff Brence of La Grande, Wayne and Sandi Johnson of Cove, and Jill and Gordon Alvey of Athol, Idaho; brother and sister-in-law, Gene and Shannon McKinney of Island City; and nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Lottie; husband, Frank; and a sister, a son-in-law and two grandsons.

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

Wanda Doud

La Grande

Wanda Doud, 93, of La Grande, died Jan. 22 at Wildflower Lodge. Arrangements are under the direction of Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

Thomas S. Hartley

La Grande

Thomas Stephen Hartley, 79, of La Grande, died Jan. 21 at a local care facility. A viewing will be held 4-6 p.m. Feb. 3, followed by a Recitation of the Rosary, at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church. A funeral will begin at 2 p.m. Feb. 4, also at Our Lady of the Valley. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

Doralee Powell

Union

Doralee Powell, 84, of Union, died Jan. 17 at her residence. A viewing will be held 5-7 p.m. Jan. 31 at Loveland Funeral Chapel. A funeral will begin at 2 p.m. Feb. 1, also at Loveland Funeral Chapel. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrange-

UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS

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Jan. 25

Bertha
Thompson:

10:30 a.m. celebration of life; La Grande First Baptist Church.

Feb. 8

Justice Clark:

4 p.m. celebration of life, Presbyterian Friendship Center, La Grande; casual dress preferred.

La Grande City Council has four seats up for re-election

LA GRANDE — Four positions on the La Grande City Council are up for re-election.

The city in a news release announced the terms for positions 1-4 expire at the end of 2020. Candidate packets will be available, Jan. 31 from city recorder Kayla Rock.

Position 1 is for mayor and is a two-year term. Steve Clements is the incumbent.

Positions 2, 3 and 4 are councilors and four-year terms. Nicole Howard, Corrine Dutto and Mary Ann Miesner, respectively, hold those seats.

To qualify for the council, candidates must have resided in the city of La Grande for at least the six months preceding the election. Nominations are by petition, so candidates also must gather signatures from at least 20 registered voters who reside in the city. Petitions are due by 5 p.m. to the city recorder's office, the second floor of city hall, 1000 Adams Ave, March 10.

If three or more candidates file for one position, the city will hold a primary election Tuesday, May 19.

If a candidate receives a majority of the votes in the primary, that candidate's name will appear on the November ballot for the general election. If no candidate receives a majority, the two candidates with the most votes face off in the general election.

For additional information or to obtain a candidate packet, call city recorder

Kayla Rock at 541-962-1309.

County commissioners appoint Mark Owens to replace Findley

BAKER CITY — Commissioners from Baker, Harney, Grant, Malheur and Lake counties voted unanimously Monday to appoint Mark Owens, a Harney County farmer, to replace Lynn Findley as representative for Oregon House District 60.

Findley, a Republican from Vale, was appointed earlier this month to replace Cliff Bentz in state Senate District 30.

Bentz resigned to run full time for Greg Walden's seat in Congress.

"I am thankful and humbled today to have been appointed to serve as the next state representative for House District 60," Owens said in a press release. "I look forward to serving the communities and being a voice for eastern Oregon in Salem."

There were two other candidates for House District 60 — Tom Van Diepen of Baker City, and Tim Smith of Burns.

Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett said neither was present when commissioners voted in Ontario.

Owens, a Harney County Commissioner, filed Nov. 4 as a candidate for the House District 60 Republican primary in May. He will be sworn in later this month. The Oregon Legislature convenes Feb. 3 in Salem.

"At the state level, there is a lot of work to be done to protect our way of life in Eastern Oregon and

to provide a better path for future generations of Oregonians," Owens said. "We need to make sustainable natural resources a top priority. Our kids deserve stronger schools and greater opportunities for their career paths. Families need financial stability instead of living paycheck to paycheck and having to worry about the next tax increase coming our way from Salem."

"Most importantly, my top priority and my No. 1 job will be to listen, learn and represent the constituents in Eastern Oregon."

Oregon's unemployment rate drops to 3.7% in December

SALEM — The Oregon Employment Department reported the state's unemployment rate may have set a record low.

The rate dropped to 3.7% in December, the lowest on comparable records dating back to 1976. The November unemployment rate was 3.9%. Nick Beleiciks, systems and economic analysis manager at the Oregon Employment Department, said the rate is "especially striking considering Oregon's labor force is twice as large as it was 44 years ago."

Many of Oregon's workforce metrics set records in December, indicating an increasingly tight labor market. The number of people who were unemployed for less than half a year dropped to the lowest level in at least 18 years. The number of people who were unemployed due to a layoff also dropped to the lowest level

in the past two decades. The broadest measure of labor underutilization, "U-6," came in at the lowest rate dating back nearly two decades. This measure includes the unemployed plus those who want a full-time job but were working part-time due to the economy.

Total non-farm payroll employment grew by 800 jobs in December, following a gain of 3,800 jobs, as revised, in November. December gains were strongest in leisure and hospitality, which added 2,000 jobs. Several industries added between 300-500 jobs.

Two industries declined by more than 500 jobs: Health care and social assistance lost 900 jobs and professional and business services lost 1,600.

Oregon's over-the-year job growth of 1.4% equaled the U.S. job growth of 1.4%, and most of Oregon's major industries expanded 1-3% since December 2018.

Union County Sheriff's Office warns of scam

LA GRANDE — The Union County Sheriff's Office reported a potential phone scam.

The sheriff's on Twitter reported receiving several complaints "of a scam alert in Union County using Captain Ward's name." The calls came from the Eugene area claiming the recipient needs to pay money to take care of a warrant for missing jury duty.

The sheriff's office advised people not to act on these calls.

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• ELGIN — The Elgin School Board will meet Monday. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. in room 17 of Stella Mayfield School. The high school's gym bleachers will be one of the subjects discussed at the meeting.

Tickets on sale now for annual soup supper

LA GRANDE — Shelter From the Storm's annual fundraising soup supper will be March 7 at the Presbyterian Friendship

Center, 1204 Spring Ave., La Grande. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Gluten-free and vegetarian options will be available. All ages are welcome. Cost for each person is \$30. Tickets must be purchased before the event and presented at the door. The name on the ticket does not have to match the person who attends. Tickets are now on sale on www.eventbrite.com and by contacting the shelter's office at 541-963-7226.

Shelter From the Storm is a nonprofit domestic

violence and sexual assault organization serving Union County. The SFS mission is to provide services to those who have been impacted by interpersonal violence, sexual assault and stalking through advocacy, education and awareness.

RSVP for Cove senior lunch by Jan. 29

COVE — The Feb. 4 Cove senior meal at Founders Hall at the Ascension School will feature beef stew, peas, biscuits and salad bar with apple pie for dessert. There is a \$5 charge per meal. Coffee and tea are available at noon and the meal is served at 12:15 p.m. RSVP by Wednesday by calling Imie Bristow at 541-568-4545 or Betsy Arnson at 541-568-4902.

Master Gardener classes open to community members

ISLAND CITY — The Oregon State University's Master Gardener Program's individual classes are open to the community for \$5 each.

Karen Antell, botanist from Eastern Oregon University, will teach "Basic

Botany" Tuesday, 5:30-8:30 p.m. This class will be in the conference room at the OSU-Union County Extension Office, 10507 N. McAllister Road, Island City.

For more information and to RSVP for classes, call the Extension Office at 541-963-1010.

No registration needed for Family Law Workshop

LA GRANDE — Bruce Anderson, attorney at law, and the Union County Family Law Advisory Committee are hosting a free family law workshop Feb. 12.

The workshop is particularly useful for people who are representing themselves in a family law case. Participants will receive answers to commonly asked questions and information on local court procedures and forms. The workshop begins at 6 p.m. in the Misener Conference Room of the Daniel Chaplin Building, 1001 Fourth St., La Grande. No registration is required.

For more information call 541-962-9500, ext. 42.

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Women and Wealth

Ackerman Hall #208 Alumni Room,
EOU campus
February 4th @ 6pm

Questions? 541-963-7433
www.walkerwellsfinancialadvisor.com

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