

COMMUNITY

Briefs

La Grande finance and water office closed Friday

LA GRANDE — The city of La Grande's finance and water office will be closed and the online payment system will be down for a computer system upgrade Friday. The office will resume regular business hours on Monday, and the online payment system will be back online Saturday. For answers to questions regarding this closure, call 541-962-1313.

Indoor yard sale aids community

ISLAND CITY — Abundant Life Transitional Services is hosting an indoor yard sale Friday and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days in the Mountain Life Church gym, 10700 S. Walton Road (behind Walmart), Island City.

The community service group offers a holistic approach to improve the quality of life for people who are unemployed, underemployed, homeless or living in substandard housing. Proceeds from the event will go toward a comprehensive study of needs and services in the Grande Ronde Valley and for a day center, life-skills groups and vocational activities.

Oregon Hunters Association banquet set

LA GRANDE — The Union/Wallowa Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association will hold its annual fundraising banquet on March 14 at the Blue Mountain Conference Center, 404 12th St., La Grande. Guests will be served dinner and will have a chance to bid on auction items and enter raffles for prizes including a Nosler custom rifle.

Ticket packages — which start at \$150 and include two dinners, an OHA membership and raffle tickets — must be ordered in advance. Banquet tickets for youth age 17 and younger are \$20 if accompanied by an adult. Call 541-786-5841 for ticket information.

All funds raised at the event stay in Oregon for OHA projects benefiting wildlife, habitat and hunters. The local chapter will receive 70% of the proceeds for local projects and programs, while the other 30% benefits state-wide OHA efforts.

Sign up for free computer classes

LA GRANDE — Training & Employment Consortium offers free computer instruction year-round. These classes are open to the public at no charge, but registration must be completed prior to the first day of the class by calling Glenna at 541-963-7111 ext. 248. All classes run 8:30-11:30 a.m. at WorkSource La Grande, 1901 Adams Ave.

The upcoming classes are:

- Introduction to Word (one day class), March 17
- Intermediate Word (four day class), March 19, 24, 26 and 31
- Intro to Excel (one day class), April 7
- Intermediate Excel (five day class), April 21, 23, 28, 29, and 30

This is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. To place a free relay call in Oregon, dial 711.

NEWS BRIEFS

February in La Grande warmer, wetter than usual

LA GRANDE — February in La Grande was the wettest on record, according to the National Weather Service.

The federal agency's office in Pendleton reported preliminary data show precipitation totaled 4.79 inches during February, which was 3.65 inches above normal. The previous wettest was 3.91 inches in 1986.

Seven days received measurable precipitation — at least a hundredth of an inch — with the heaviest, 1.55 inches, on Feb. 6.

Precipitation for the year has reached 7.71 inches, which is 4.94 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at La Grande has been 10.80 inches, which is 3.05 inches above normal. Snowfall totaled 10 inches, with all of that on Feb. 5.

Temperatures at La Grande also were slightly warmer than normal during the month of February.

The average temperature was 36.2 degrees, which was 1.8 degrees above normal, the Weather Service reported. High temperatures averaged 46.2 degrees, which was 3.3 degrees above normal. The highest was 58 on Feb. 28. Low temperatures averaged 26.1 degrees, which was 0.2 degrees above normal. The lowest was 13 on Feb. 19.

La Grande had 24 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

The outlook for March from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center calls for near normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for La Grande rise from 47 at the start of March to 55 at the end of March. Normal lows rise from 28 to 33 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.46 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

Franklin E. Mason Jr.
La Grande
1945-2020

Franklin Edward Mason Jr., 74, of La Grande, died Feb. 28 at his home. A funeral will



be held at 10 a.m. March 4 at Loveland Funeral Chapel.

Known as Frank, he was born Dec. 18, 1945, in The Dalles, to Franklin and Cecelia (Leick) Mason. He graduated from Union High School in 1964. He was an active member of the Eastern Oregon Mining Association and Forest Access for All.

Bob served in the U.S. Navy from 1965-1985 and retired as a chief electronics technician.

Surviving relatives include his daughters and sons-in-law, Tammy Mason and Robert Frederick of Fallon, Nevada, and Cathy and Gabe Wilson of Houston, Texas; sisters, Margaret Kohl of La Grande and Jeanne Bauer and husband, Dane, of Corvallis; five grandchildren; and five nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Franklin Sr. and Cecelia; brother-in-law, Kenneth Kohl; and sister, Mary Catherine Mason.

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

Sandra L. Benson
La Grande
Sandra L. Benson, 72, of

UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS

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FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY

March 7
Richard Churchill:
2 p.m. celebration of life, Elgin Stampede Hall.

March 9
Delores Weathermon:
10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial, Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, La Grande.

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OBITUARIES

La Grande, died March 2 at her residence. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Robert W. Byer
Formerly of Imbler
Robert "Bob" W. Byer, 92, formerly of Imbler, died Feb. 27 at a Pendleton care facility. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. March 6 at the Summerville Cemetery.

Dennis J. Elliott
La Grande
Dennis J. Elliott, 78, of La Grande, died Feb. 29 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Alvin L. Hixson
La Grande
Alvin "Al" Lester Hixson, 73, of La Grande, died Feb. 29 at a local care facility. A

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

SATURDAY

Law enforcement at about 11:30 a.m. received a report of someone who may be suicidal in Union. A Union County sheriff's deputy and Oregon State Police trooper checked on the person, who was fine.

A caller at 6:01 p.m. reported suspicious circumstances on the 10000 block of Leonard Lane, Island City. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded, but the homeowner called and reported nothing unusual was going on and there was no problem.

La Grande police between 7:35 p.m. and 10:10 p.m. received four calls around town about suspicious people or situations. The last call about someone on the 400 block of Adams Avenue resulted in a trespass charge.

SUNDAY

La Grande police at 1:55 a.m. received a call about a domestic disturbance on the 1200 block of Hall Street. Officers responded and provided a person with a courtesy ride.

A caller at 3:09 a.m. reported a disturbance on the 1700 block of Y Avenue, La Grande. Police responded, talked to the parties involved and resolved the situation.

La Grande police at about 3:30 a.m. responded to a burglary at the Dairy Queen, 3212 Island Ave.

A caller at 9:29 a.m. re-

ported a burglary at the eatery, 10 Depot Street, 10 Depot St., La Grande.

A La Grande caller at 11:35 a.m. reported an assault that took place the night before. An officer talked to the victim, who opted not to pursue a case.

La Grande police at 2:20 p.m. received a report of vandalism to a vehicle, on the 110 block of Polk Avenue. Three more vandalism reports came in after that from the 1700 block of X Avenue, the 200 block of Fir Street and the 2700 block of Fourth Street.

La Grande police at about 6:20 p.m. on the 1100 block of

K Street cited four juveniles, ages 13-16, for second-degree disorderly conduct.

A caller at 10:24 p.m. reported a male was banging on the door of the Elgin Community Center, 260 N. 10th Ave., Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy did not find the person.

La Grande firefighters responded to three calls for medical assistance on Sunday, five on Saturday and nine on Friday. La Grande firefighters also responded to a small fire in a vehicle at 6 p.m. on Sunday. The fire caused no injuries or property damage.

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Eva "Fern" Bay

February 19, 1928 - February 3, 2020

Eva "Fern" Bay died February 3, 2020 in Miwaukie, Oregon. She was 91. At her request, there will be no public services. The family will hold a private remembrance at a later date.

Fern was born on February 19, 1928 to Oliver and Dora Louise (Snyder) McCabe in La Grande, Oregon. She was raised on the family farm outside Island City, Oregon. Life on the farm was busy and Fern helped with the housework, did chores, and helped her mother prepare meals for the farm work crew.

Always an animal lover, Fern especially loved her pet rabbits and chickens. She also enjoyed helping to care for the other farm animals and had a particular fondness for dogs, cats, and sheep. She raised an orphaned lamb from birth who otherwise would have been killed by its owner. Fern had a soft spot for strays and lost animals of any kind and was always bringing a new "addition" home to be a part of the family. This kindness and love for animals continued throughout her life and in her later years she always fed the birds and quail. She continued to take in any type of stray animal and give it food and a warm place to sleep. She even fed a family of foxes and watched them raise their pups.

Fern graduated from high school in La Grande in 1946. During high school she was in Rainbow girls and she was Queen of the Fair Maids one Summer.

Fern graduated from Eastern Oregon University, (formerly known as Eastern Oregon College) in 1950 with a Bachelor Of Science Degree in Education. She belonged to an honorary scholastic society in college. Her first teaching job was in Imbler, Oregon.

Fern met her husband, Howard Allen Bay in high school. Howard was drafted into World War II and when he returned, he also pursued a career in education. Fern and Howard were married June 10, 1949 in La Grande, Oregon. They moved to Eugene, Oregon for Howard to work on his Masters' Degree. Fern taught second grade in Eugene. They then moved to Salem, Oregon where she taught Headstart and second grade. Fern belonged to Eastern Star during their years in Salem. She

and Howard were active in the Methodist church in Salem where Fern taught Sunday School.

On August 17, 1959 their daughter Allyn "Ann" Bay was born and Fern took a few years off from teaching. The family subsequently moved to Hillsboro. Because of her outstanding ability and compassion for her job and the children she taught, Fern was a very popular teacher and highly sought after for teaching jobs by many different principals of different schools.

Fern found her niche at David Hill Elementary School where she taught kindergarten for many years. She often commented that she was "born to be a kindergarten teacher!"

As well as her love for animals, Fern had a special place in her heart for less fortunate people and because of this, she often bought shoes and coats for her students who didn't have them out of her own pocket. She also often bought groceries for the families of students who were having trouble making ends meet. It was not unusual for her to pay for groceries for strangers who were down on their luck. Fern enjoyed a 40+ year teaching career before retiring. After her retirement she and Howard moved to Estacada to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren. Fern was very devoted to her grandchildren and spent a lot of time with them. In line with her love of teaching, she taught her grandchildren to begin to read at the age of four, a fact the whole family took pride in.

Fern was the last surviving family member of her generation. Her beautiful smile and sunny personality will be remembered by all who knew her.

Fern was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Howard, in April of 2016, brother Donald McCabe and sister and brother-in-law Lou and Bill DeLashmutt and parents Oliver and Dora McCabe. Survivors include her daughter Ann Hoefler of Gladstone, grandchildren Jerrod Hoefler and Jillian Hoefler and a niece, nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews. Those who wish may make contributions in Fern's memory to the Oregon Food Bank or any charity of their choice.

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