

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• PENDLETON — The Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub's board of directors will meet on Monday at 11 a.m. at the InterMountain Education Service District office, 2001 SW Nye Ave., Pendleton. Among other items, the board will discuss the 2019 kindergarten assessment results and the OSU Career Fair set for April 22.

• ISLAND CITY — The La Grande School District Board of Directors will meet Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the library at Island City Elementary School, 10201 W. Fourth Street, Island City. After the regular meeting, the board will meet in executive session to hear a complaint brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or agent.

• ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa County Board of Commissioners will be conducting a public meeting on Thursday, March 12, at 6 p.m. in the Thornton Conference Room, located at 101 S. River St., Enterprise. The purpose of meeting is to provide information on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to do so. For questions, concerns or need of special accommodations contact the Wallowa County Commissioners Office at 541-426-4543, ext. 1130.

Briefs
Free-for-all Friday at former Observer building

LA GRANDE — On Friday from 8 a.m. to noon, the former Observer building, 1406 Fifth St., La Grande, will be open to the community for foraging. The leftover furniture, office supplies and other items will be free on a first come, first serve basis. If you want it, it's yours to take away. All items must be removed from the building by noon.

Rummage sale held one day only

LA GRANDE — Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in La Grande is hosting a one-day rummage sale Saturday, March 7, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a \$1 per bag sale from noon to 2 p.m. Use the entrance at the corner of Fifth Street and L Avenue.

Sign up now for Anthony Lakes Spring Break Camp

NORTH POWDER — Registration is open for Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort's annual Spring Break Camp. The five-day, all-inclusive camp is open to 100 skiers/riders ages 7-18. Each day campers will receive lift tickets, rentals and lessons. Cost is \$150 for the five days. For more information and to sign up, go to anthonylakes.com/spring-break-camp.

Fruit tree pruning class open to all

ISLAND CITY — The Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener program is offering a fruit tree-pruning workshop on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The class is open to the community and will include instruction and hands-on pruning at a nearby orchard. The workshop will begin in the conference room at the OSU Extension office, 10507 N. McAlister Road, Island City. Attendees should dress for the weather and bring pruning tools if possible plus a sack lunch or a snack for the break. The cost is \$10. For more information and to RSVP call 541-963-1010.

NEWS BRIEFS

Observer staff

Oregon Trail installs electric vehicle charging station

BURNS — Drivers of electric vehicles now can charge up their rides in Burns.

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative in a news release announced it installed its first electric vehicle charging station Thursday in the Eastern Oregon town.

The charging station is behind the Harney County Chamber of Commerce off North Broadway Avenue in downtown Burns. The cooperative also reported it plans to install two more charging stations this year, one in Baker City and one in John Day.

The cost of installing the charging stations comes from Oregon's Clean Fuels program, according to the news release, and will have no effect on the cooperative's power rates.

OTEC customers wanting to know more about electric vehicles can visit <https://otec.coop/electric-vehicles-evs>. The cooperative also is offering customers rebates if they purchase

home charging units for electric vehicles.

Partnership provides access to snow-covered Sno-Parks

LA GRANDE — The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest announced it received additional funding to provide access to area Sno-Parks.

The Wallowa-Whitman maintains access to Catherine Creek, Clear Creek and Salt Creek Summit Sno-Parks in partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation and local snowplow contractors. Due to the high volume of snowfall this winter at Oregon's Sno-Parks, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest staff applied for additional funding, and the state transportation department allocated the funds to continue plow operations and maintain access to these winter recreation hubs.

The Wallowa-Whitman originally was allocated \$34,500 for snowplowing at the three Sno-Parks this winter, according to the announcement. But that was not enough for the remainder

of the season. ODOT recently provided an additional \$11,910. The money comes from the fees for Sno-Park passes.

For information about winter recreation or access to Sno-Parks on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, visit www.fs.usda.gov/main/wallowa-whitman, or contact your local ranger districts.

Wyden holds town halls in Baker, Union and Gilliam counties

LA GRANDE — Oregon U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden announced he will hold town halls March 14-15 in Baker, Union and Gilliam counties.

Wyden on March 14 will be in Baker County at the Churchill School, 3451 Broadway St., Baker City, starting at 1 p.m. He then will depart for the Union County town hall in La Grande at Eastern Oregon University, Zabel Hall, room 101 at 4:30 p.m. He concludes the Eastern Oregon visit with the Gilliam County town hall March 15 at 2 p.m. in Veterans Memorial Hall, 120 S. Main St., Condon.

Joseph gym to remain standing after fire



Photo by Ellen Morris Bishop / EO Media Group

A basketball remains on the floor of the Joseph Charter School gym, along with water and debris from the ceiling after a Jan. 18 fire damaged the building. Engineers found the beams in the gym remain structurally sound.

By Bill Bradshaw
EO Media Group

JOSEPH — Joseph Charter School's gymnasium will not have to be demolished to be restored in the wake of a Jan. 18 fire.

Superintendent Lance Homan said Tuesday the district has received an engineer's report assessing the damage.

"It looks like the beams were not compromised," he said.

But the gym's interior will have to be gutted and rebuilt. That includes the basketball court and bleachers on the ground floor and the weight room and wrestling facilities

on the upper floor. But the building's structural integrity is sound.

At present, the school's cafeteria still is being cleaned, as are some classrooms. Then work will begin removing the charred portions of the gym and cleaning it before construction can begin.

Homan said he does not have a timeline for completion of the work, which may not be finished by the time school starts in the fall.

"That would be ideal, but we really don't know at this point," he said. "Maybe as we get closer to summer, we'll have a better idea."

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY

Law enforcement at about 1:30 p.m. responded to an Elgin home on a report of domestic violence. The caller did not want to pursue charges.

A caller at 2:47 p.m. reported having information about a theft that happened more than a year ago in La Grande. An officer took down the information.

La Grande police at 3:30 p.m. received a complaint about "possible impersonation" on the 1600 block of Washington Avenue.

A caller at 5:46 p.m. reported illegal shooting about 4 miles north of La Grande.

La Grande police at 9:49 p.m. received a complaint about a dog at large at 16th

Street and Washington Avenue.

TUESDAY

La Grande police at about 5:10 a.m. responded to a disturbance on the 300 block of Jefferson Avenue. Police also will do follow-up.

A caller at 7:02 a.m. reported a car prowler on the 2400 block of Island Avenue, La Grande. Police responded and told a person to move along.

A Cove resident at 8:27 a.m. complained about chickens in the neighborhood of the 1000 block of Orchard Street.

La Grande police at about 11 a.m. responded to a vehicle crash on the 1800 block of Adams Avenue. There were no

injuries.

A caller at 11:24 a.m. reported a possible drug use violation on the 1400 block of Fourth Street, La Grande. Police responded and counseled a person for smoking in public.

La Grande police at 2:26 p.m. received a report of a sex crime.

La Grande police arrested Osten Lee Emery, 24, of La Grande, for the charge of felony domestic violence assault, felony strangulation and multiple misdemeanors.

La Grande police at about 9:45 p.m. responded to the 1000 block of D Avenue on a report of vandalism.

And La Grande firefighters responded to six calls on Tuesday and six calls on Monday.

OBITUARIES

Frank E. Mason Jr.

1945-2020

La Grande

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.

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

technician. He was an active member of the Eastern Oregon Mining Association.

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.

UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS

Sponsored by



March 6
Bob Byer:

11 a.m. graveside service, Summerville Cemetery.

March 7
Richard Churchill:

2 p.m. celebration of life, Elgin Stampede Hall.

Alvin Hixson:

10 a.m. memorial service, Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande.

March 9
Delores Weathermon:

10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial, Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, La Grande.

March 14
Patricia Tusten:

2 p.m. funeral, La Grande Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Stake Center.

join us for a **65th Wedding Anniversary Celebration**

• honoring •
Sam & Shirley Johnson

**Saturday
March 14, 2020**
EOLS Building
760 E Delta
Union, OR

Open House
2-4pm

No Gifts Please

www.CountrysideSheds.com

SHED KITS STORAGE BUILDINGS
(541) 663-0246
Locally owned and operated for over 25 years

Countryside SHEDS
CCB #149931

"More Than Just a Shed"
10505 N. McAlister Road
(Corner of Hwy 82 & N. McAlister Rd.)

As a special option, we offer most models in a precut shed kit form. You can save BIG on a high-quality shed when you assemble it yourself!

RENT to OWN
starting at
\$68 Month

Cherryl Wrae (Sasser) Zacharias
August 27, 1936 - February 20, 2020

Cherryl Wrae (Sasser) Zacharias died February 20 at Wallowa Memorial Hospital in Enterprise. Funeral services will be held March 7 at 11am at the Enterprise Baptist Church, with luncheon to follow. Private interment will be held at the Prairie Creek Cemetery.

Cherryl was born on August 27, 1936 to Ella (Buchanan) and Chester Sasser. She was the spoiled little sister of four older siblings, Wilda, Dean, Grant and Bunk. She attended Minam and Enterprise schools. On November 15, 1952 she married Bob Zacharias and together they had four children: Neil, Judy, Jim and Chet. Neil died in a tragic accident in 1964.

Raising a family in the 50's and 60's on a logger's wage wasn't easy, so Cherryl often worked outside the home. She toiled as a hospital laundress, a waitress and even a butcher. These lean years were when Bob learned to help cook and the kids began to appreciate any soup that wasn't potato.

Her favorite job was in the summer of 1973, working for Dougherty Logging. She ran the cook shack at McGraw Springs, feeding over 30 loggers (including Bob, Chet and Jim) in the last real logging camp of this area. She even managed to tree and shoot the camp marauding bear!

For the next 40 years, she helped Bob run their own company - Zacharias Logging.

Cherryl belonged to Joseph and Wallowa County Chambers, Elks, Rebekkas, VFW Organizations. She taught first aid classes, helped coach Little League baseball and was a Cub Scout leader. She baked dozens of wedding cakes.

For two years she and Bob were CJD Court chaperones. They were also honored as CJD Parade Grand Marshals and Business Leaders of the Year.

She was a very competitive bowler - as those she usually trounced can attest to - and enjoyed an occasional trip to the casino.

However her Christmas lights were her pride and joy. Three generations have enjoyed Cherryl's (aka: the light lady, Mrs. Christmas) exceptional presentations and the hundreds of lights displayed at the end of East Street, Joseph.

Cherryl (Mom, Chuckie, Granny, Grammy-Great) has now joined her parents, son Neil, sister Wilda (Trump) brothers Dean, Grant and her loving son-in-law sidekick Henry Kinsley.

Surviving relatives are husband Bob, brother Bunk Sasser, daughter Judy Kinsley, sons Jim and wife Julie, Chet and wife Dawn, special niece/daughter Pam (Sasser) Kiser, 10 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces/nephews and even a few cousins.

The walls of her house are crowded with pictures of kids of all ages who all know where that special candy drawer is. Like her love in our hearts, it will always be there and fully stocked.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Elk's Christmas basket program.

