

COMMUNITY

Briefs

**LHS Class of 1954 meets for lunch**

LA GRANDE — The La Grande High School Class of 1954 will meet for lunch Wednesday, March 18, at 11:30 a.m. at the Cock ‘n’ Bull Villa Roma, inside Pat’s Alley at 1414 Adams Ave.

**Senior meals take-out only, Meals on Wheels continues**

LA GRANDE — As part of the effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus, the Union County Senior Center, 1504 N. Albany, La Grande, has suspended all activities. Meals will not be served on site but are available for pickup weekdays between 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Call 541-963-7532 before to arrange delivery. Meals on Wheels will continue to be delivered.

The menu for the rest of this week is:

Wednesday — honey-glazed ham, scalloped potatoes, steamed green beans, Jell-O, rolls, dessert

Thursday — chicken pot pie, steamed vegetables, salad greens, fresh fruit, dessert

Friday — meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, steamed green beans, salad, rolls, fresh fruit

The senior center building and Community Connection offices will remain open for appointments and assistance. Harvest Share Produce will be available. Call 541-963-7532 for more information.

**City pool offers modified rec, lap swims**

LA GRANDE — Veterans’ Memorial Pool, La Grande, has canceled all classes and its family night and Friday night recreation swims and is offering modified rec swims while schools are closed.

Through March 27, the pool will be open for rec swims on weekdays from 1:30-5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 1-4 p.m. with a cap of 50 swimmers at a time, and only 10 patrons are allowed in each locker room at the same time. (No rec swim on March 20 due to a rental.)

Lap swims will continue as scheduled with one lap swimmer per lane or two water joggers per lane as long as they are 6 feet apart.

**Fireline Safety Refresher course scheduled**

BAKER CITY — Eastern Oregon Training Group will hold an RT-130 Annual Fireline Safety Refresher class Saturday, March 21, at the 5J School District Building, 2090 Fourth St., Baker City. Class will begin at 8 a.m. The training includes a practice fire shelter deployment. This is a required class for all federal and state contractors who will be on the fire line. A certified National Wildfire Suppression Association instructor will instruct the class. Cost is \$100 for NWSA members and \$130 for non-members. Register at www.oregonfiretraining.com. Call 541-403-0907 or 541-519-6213 for more information.

**Tara L. Warren**

1964-2020

Tara Lee Warren, 56, of Baker City and formerly of La Grande, died March 5 at St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. A memorial service will be held March 21 at 2 p.m. at Gray’s West & Company Pioneer Chapel, Baker City, with a reception to follow at 2525 College St.

Tara was born Jan. 15, 1964, in Ephrata, Washington. She graduated from La Grande High School in 1982 and Eastern Oregon University in 1987. She worked as a drug and alcohol counselor. In September 1988, Tara married Robert Burgess in La Grande. Together they had three children: Cole, Erin and Jack. Tara enjoyed skiing, golfing and recreational shooting. She was a member of the Elks Lodge and P.E.O. Surviving relatives include her mother, Wanda Jeanne Davies of La Grande; children, Cole Sutton Burgess of La Grande, Erin Frances Burgess-Waggoner of Baker City and Jack Richard Burgess of Baker City; and one granddaughter. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Martin Burgess;



OBITUARIES

father, Richard Eugene Davies; brother, Mark Warren; and sister, Angela Warren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Ronald McDonald House or a charity of one’s choice in care of Gray’s West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City 97814. To light a candle in memory of Tara or to leave a condolence for the family, visit www.grayswestco.com.

**Carl R. Steelhoff**

Carl R. Seelhoff, 73, of Cove, died March 16 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS



**March 18**

**MARIE PAYNE**

2 p.m. celebration of life, Daniels-Knopp Funeral Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.

**March 23**

**DONNA DICKENSON:**

10 a.m. memorial service, Lostine Presbyterian

Church; followed by lunch at Enterprise VFW Hall.

**April 3**

**LOREN FIHN:**

5 p.m. burial of cremains, Island City Cemetery; followed by reception dinner.

**April 18**

**LINDA JOHNSTON:**

1 p.m. celebration of life potluck, Elgin Community Center.

**June 4**

**SANDI BENSON:**

11 a.m. celebration of life and potluck, Riverside Park, La Grande.

NEWS BRIEFS

EO Media Group staff

**Wallowa-Whitman National Forest offices available by appointment only**

PENDLETON — In an effort to reduce the spread of coronavirus, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest offices across Oregon, Washington and Idaho are operating by appointment only.

In accordance with guidance from the Department of Agriculture to limit in-person interactions, those seeking an appointment need to call their local office beforehand to allow Forest Service staff to first assist either online or over the phone. If the appointment must be in-person, staff ask that clients self-assess using the following criteria:

- Have you, someone in your household or someone you have been in close or frequent contact with been diagnosed with COVID-19, or had any contact with a confirmed case?

- In the last 14 days, has someone in your household, or someone who you have been in close or frequent contact with returned from, or made a travel connection through, a CDC Level 2 or Level 3 country, or State Department Level 3 or Level 4 country (ex: China, Korea, Japan, Iran, or the European Union)?

- Have you exhibited any cold or flu-like symptoms within the last 24 hours (ex: fever greater than 100.4, shortness of breath,

**Locals turn out for hunters association banquet**



Staff photo by Sabrina Thompson

Participants view auction items at Saturday night’s banquet of the Union/Wallowa Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association in La Grande. While most local organizations canceled events due to the coronavirus outbreak, the local hunters chapter went ahead with its annual banquet, and more than 100 joined in celebrating the spirit of hunting with several raffles and auctions. Past banquets have drawn as many as 250 people.

body aches, coughing, or sneezing)?

If the answer to all three of these questions are “no,” visitors can call the appropriate number for assistance to request an in-person appointment. Approval will be based on the appointment’s necessity and time-sensitivity.

If the answer to any one of the above questions is “yes,” visitors still can call the appropriate number to seek assistance in a manner other than in person.

- Baker City: 541-523-6391
- La Grande: 541-962-8500
- Joseph: 541-426-5546

- Clarkston, Wash.: 509-758-0616
- Riggins, Idaho: 208-628-3916

**Oregonians increase cultural investment in 2019**

SALEM — Generous Oregonians ensured an increased investment in Oregon’s cultural community for fiscal year 2021 with donations approaching \$4.6 million to the Oregon Cultural Trust in 2019. The funds represent a 1.2% increase over 2018 and will support grants to cultural organizations across the state this summer.

“We were working with a reduced budget for the fall campaign, so we focused more time and energy on grassroots outreach and conversations with cultural patrons,” said Cultural Trust Executive Director Brian Rogers. “The fact that we experienced an increase in fundraising results speaks to the power of one-on-one networking.”

“We are grateful for the generosity of our donors and their commitment to protecting our state’s arts, history, heritage, preservation and humanities,” said Cultural Trust Board Chair Chuck Sams. “By participating in Oregon’s unique

cultural tax credit, they have strengthened cultural programs and projects in every county of the state.”

The \$4.58 million fundraising total includes 9,470 donations, a 7.1% increase over 2018, and 1,736 new donors. It also includes a record \$442,815 raised through an ongoing partnership with the Willamette Week Give!Guide.

The Cultural Trust will distribute more than half the money directly to Oregon’s nonprofit cultural community this summer. The rest will go to the Cultural Trust permanent fund.

For more information, visit www.culturaltrust.org.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

**FRIDAY**

A caller at 9:15 a.m. reported vandalism on the 1100 block of Island City. A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded.

La Grande police at about 9:45 a.m. cited a 15-year-old boy for unauthorized use of a vehicle.

A caller at 1:14 p.m. reported a dead cat in the road on the 2000 block of Adams Avenue, La Grande. An animal enforcement officer removed the carcass.

La Grande police and ambulance at about 3:15 p.m. responded to a crash with injuries at Oak Street and Penn Avenue, La Grande.

A caller at 4:41 p.m. reported littering on the 2400 block of Adams Avenue, La Grande.

The Union County Sheriff’s Office at about 4:55 p.m. responded to a domestic dis-

turbance on the 700 block of North Second Street, Union. Deputies found the incident was not a crime.

The Union County Sheriff’s Office arrested Nicholas Lee Kokos, 32, of La Grande, for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

The La Grande Rural Fire Department at about 7:20 p.m. responded to a fire on the 62000 block of Gunnels Road, La Grande.

La Grande police arrested Mark Alan Paxton, 49, of Elgin, for felony possession of meth.

La Grande police at 8:33 p.m. received a report of a domestic disturbance on the 1400 block of Balm Street. An officer determined there was no crime.

**SATURDAY**

Union County sheriff’s deputies and local emergency services at about

7:35 a.m. responded to the 100 block of East Electric Street, Union, on a report of suspicious circumstances. An ambulance took one person to Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande.

The Union County Sheriff’s Office at 3:02 p.m. received a report of a burglary of a storage unit at East Dearborn and South College streets, Union.

La Grande police at about 6:30 p.m. responded to Island Avenue and Portland Street on a call about a vehicle theft.

**SUNDAY**

La Grande police at 12:40 a.m. checked on the well being of a person with mental illness. The person turned out to be fine.

Minors on the premises of the Hideout Saloon, 219 Fir St., La Grande, prompted a call to police at 1:58 a.m. An

officer provided options.

La Grande police at 10:09 a.m. received a report of a suspicious person on the 400 block of Adams Avenue. Officers found the person in question was leaving town soon. Police opted to provide extra patrols through the neighborhood.

Two La Grande residents reported someone entered their vehicles, on the 1500 block of Y Avenue and the 1300 block of W Avenue.

A caller at 2:28 p.m. reported a dog was at large in the area of South McAlister Road and First Street, Island City.

**The family of Richard Churchill**  
*would like to thank everyone who sent prayers, flowers, food, cards, and support upon the passing of our husband, father, son, brother, and uncle. Thank you Steve and Verla for performing the service through your own grief. Thank you to the Stampeders for the use of the hall. To the Scoubes family for coordinating the food, and to Loveland Funeral Chapel for everything!!!*  
 Michelle, Becky and families

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