

COMMUNITY

BRIEFS

Free computer classes postponed

LA GRANDE — Training & Employment Consortium, a part of WorkSource La Grande, has postponed its free computer courses taught in March and April. The four-day Intermediate Word class, which was scheduled to begin March 19, will not be held; the next session of the course will be announced later. Intro to Excel, a one day class, has been postponed from April 7 to April 20. As of now, the five-day Intermediate Excel class beginning April 21 will go ahead as planned.

The computer classes are open to the public at no charge, but participants must register prior to the first day of the class by calling Glenna at 541-963-7111 ext. 248.

Extension offices close to the public

ISLAND CITY — In response to the public health emergency, OSU Extension locations are closed to the public until further notice. According to an OSU Extension media release, "We are exploring a variety of ways to continue to serve our communities during this time, including remote educational programming. We are still available via phone, email and video conference call."

For updates on local events and classes in Union County, call 541-963-1010. More information is available at www.extension.oregonstate.edu/union.

Pick up lunch at the senior center from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

LA GRANDE — The Union County Senior Center, 1504 N. Albany, La Grande, cannot serve lunch on-site, but meals are available for pickup weekdays between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Meal delivery may be arranged by calling 541-963-7532 before 10 a.m. Meals on Wheels will be delivered as usual.

Online alternative offered for divorce workshop

LA GRANDE — The April 2 session of Helping Children Cope with Divorce and Separation workshop has been canceled. Under the circumstances, all parents required to attend HCCD are authorized to take an online alternative: "Two Families Now" at www.twofamiliesnow.com. Those who use this online option must print out the certificate of completion and file it with the court.

For more information, call Teala Sundermann, Union County Circuit Court, at 541-962-9500 ext. 42.

Mary E. (Ruckman) Bennett

1926-2020

Mary Elizabeth Ruckman, 94, formerly of La Grande, died March 16 at her home in Lincoln City. A graveside service will



be held March 23 at 2 p.m. at the Summer-ville Cemetery. Arrangements by Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

Mary was born Feb. 12, 1926, in La Grande, the only child of Harvey E. and Goldie (Hayse) Ruckman. She was raised in Alicel and attended Alicel School through the eighth grade. Mary graduated from La Grande High School in 1944 and from the University of Oregon in 1948 with a bachelor of science degree in sociology.

On Dec. 3, 1951, Mary married Richard D. Bennett in La Grande. They moved to Wecoma (now Lincoln City) when Richard was discharged from the U.S. Army in 1952.

Mary worked as a social worker for the State of Oregon. When she started in Portland shortly after graduating from college, the agency was known as the Welfare Department. When she and Richard moved to the coast, Mary worked in the Tillamook office and then transferred to Newport when the state opened an office there. By the time she retired in 1992, the agency was

known as Senior and Disabled Services.

After retiring, Mary volunteered at Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital for many years and also for several years with the Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce. She loved traveling, reading, music, horses and cats.

Surviving relatives include her daughter, Betty Fifer of Salem, and several cousins.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard, in 1999.

Sherlyn L. Arnoldus-Harter

1952-2020

Sherlyn Lee Arnoldus-Harter, 67, of Vale and formerly of La Grande, died March 11 at Pioneer Place Nursing Home in Vale. At her request, there will not be a service.

Sherlyn was born Aug. 14, 1952, in Baker, to Armond J. and Vivian (Literal) Arnoldus. She graduated from Imbler High School in 1970.

Sherlyn attended beauty school in Ontario and later studied at the business college in Island City, where she received an associate degree in business. She married Kenneth Harter, who preceded her death.

Sherlyn worked for the Social Security Office in La Grande and then transferred to Auburn, Washington, where she completed 20 years of service



OBITUARIES

before retiring. Growing up on a farm, Sherlyn enjoyed riding horses and spending time with friends and family. She spent many years painting ceramics and baking.

Surviving relatives include her brother and sister-in-law, Armond V. and Cheryl Arnoldus of Imbler; nephews, Todd Arnoldus of Imbler and Mike Arnoldus of Cove; great-niece, Emily Arnoldus of Imbler; and great-nephew, Nicholas Arnoldus of Imbler.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Harter, and her parents, Armond J. and Vivian Arnoldus.

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

James 'Jim' W. Withycombe

1921-2020

James "Jim" Withycombe, 98, formerly of Island City, died March 5 at his son's home in Portland, Texas. A viewing will be held at 2 p.m. March 20 at Loveland Funeral Chapel, immediately followed by a graveside service at 2:15 p.m. at the Grandview Cemetery Mausoleum.

Known as Jim, he was born Oct. 12, 1921, to Robert and Mabel (Hutchinson) Withycombe at the Eastern Oregon Experiment Station in

Union, where his father was superintendent. Jim went through all 12 years in the Union school system and attended what is now Oregon State University after graduation.

While at Oregon State, Jim pledged Sigma Nu fraternity and joined ROTC. In 1943, he married Geraldine Smith, and they had two children: Virginia and James Jr. They later divorced.

Following graduation from Oregon State, Jim enrolled in the U.S. Army, serving in World War II as an infantry training officer and ending his service as a first lieutenant stationed in the Philippines.

Jim had always wanted to be a veterinarian. After leaving the Army, he spent a couple of years working with California Fish and Game before enrolling in the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Following graduation from UC Davis with a doctorate in veterinary medicine, he worked in a vet clinic in Long Beach, California. There he met and married Elwanda "Wanda" Carstensen in 1959.

Jim and Wanda owned and operated the Mission Valley Pet Clinic in San Diego, California, until they retired. They were inseparable, working together, traveling and spending time with family.

Jim often talked about the great childhood he had growing up in Union. He was proud of his heritage and close to his family. He and Wanda regularly vis-

ited his brother and sisters as long as they were able to travel. He was proud to be a WWII vet and a lifelong member of the Masons.

Jim and Wanda moved from San Diego to Island City in 2009, where they lived across the street from his daughter and son-in-law. He was glad to be back home in Union County. When Wanda became ill, he cared for her until her death in 2012. He lived alone until his health worsened, at which time he went to live with his son and daughter-in-law in Portland, Texas.

Surviving relatives include his children and their spouses, Virginia and Georgia Bertels and James and Mary Withycombe; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Wanda; parents, Robert and Mabel Withycombe; brother, Robert Withycombe; and sisters, Isabelle Boyd and Carolyn Carothers.

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

Rita Haun

Rita Haun, 87, of Lostine, died March 13 in Enterprise. A private family burial will take place at the Lostine Cemetery. Arrangements by Bollman Funeral Home.

Carl R. Seelhoff

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

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY

8:13 a.m. — A caller reported a disturbance on the 10500 block of North McAlister Road, Island City. A Union County sheriff's deputy resolved the situation.

9:23 a.m. — An Elgin caller reported a dog killed chickens on the 73500 block of Gordon Creek Road.

9:32 a.m. — La Grande police responded to Riverside Park for vandalism. Police took a report.

10:32 a.m. — La Grande police received a request for an officer regarding coronavirus precautions at Eastern Oregon University, 1 University Blvd. An officer responded, determined it was a university matter and referred the situation to the administration.

1:11 p.m. — A La Grande caller reported someone on the 200 block of Cherry Street may have broken a weapons law. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and talked to two juveniles.

3:10 p.m. — La Grande police on the 1100 block of K Avenue cited a 58-year old man for misdemeanors of criminal mischief, unauthorized entry into a vehicle and theft.

3:16 p.m. — A caller on the 2000 block of Second Street, La Grande, reported a possible stolen gun. An officer contacted the person and took a report.

7:13 p.m. — A La Grande resident on the 1300 block of Madison Avenue reported receiving a threat. Police responded and took down information.

9:13 p.m. — An Elgin resident reported an attempted break-in on the 1200 block of Evanston Street. A Union County sheriff's deputy contacted the resident

and set up extra patrols.

TUESDAY

7:13 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of an unauthorized entry into a vehicle on the 700 block of Crook Avenue. About 30 minutes later, a caller on the 800 block of Jackson Avenue, La Grande, also reported an unauthorized entry.

10:31 a.m. — Emergency services responded to a crash without injuries in the area of McAlister Road and Highway 203, La Grande.

12:41 p.m. — A caller complained about two dogs on the loose on the 1700 block of Adams Avenue, La Grande.

12:45 p.m. — Police took a call about two dogs at large on the 1200 block of Willow Street, La Grande. Animal enforcement caught two Labradors and placed them in an animal shelter.

12:50 p.m. — A third caller in La Grande reported two unauthorized entries into vehicles, again on the 700 block of Crook Avenue.

3:08 p.m. — Another La Grande caller reported unauthorized entry into a vehicle, this time on the 800 block of Y Avenue.

3:52 p.m. — The wave of unauthorized entries continued in La Grande, with one on the 200 block of Division Avenue.

6:07 p.m. — The Union

County sheriff's office received a complaint about a possible assault on the 100 block of Center Street, North Powder. A deputy checked it out and determined the confrontation did not arise to the level of a crime.

7:33 p.m. — A caller reported cattle at large at Pierce Road and Bond Lane, La Grande. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded. The last report: "Cattle wrangled."

11:34 p.m. — An Elgin resident on the 200 block of North 10th Avenue reported a juvenile refused to return home. A Union County sheriff's deputy handled the call and resolved the situation.

11:43 p.m. — La Grande police responded to a complaint about people screaming and yelling on the 2100 block of Second Street. Police counseled the people who were making the noise.

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 FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY

March 20 James W. Withycombe:
 2 p.m. viewing, Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande; followed by 2:15 p.m. graveside service at Grandview Cemetery Mausoleum.

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.

Union County will begin our roadside spray program to control vegetation and noxious weeds that are encroaching on road shoulders and right-of-ways. In most locations, spraying will extend four to eight feet from pavement edges. Property owners who do not want herbicides applied near their property must sign an "Owner Will Maintain" agreement with the county which must be updated annually. The county will provide signs for the owners participating. Property owners wishing to participate can sign up for the "Owner Will Maintain" program at the Union County Public Works Department located at 10513 N. McAlister Road in Island City. Any questions, please call 541-0963-1016

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL & CLINICS

In response to recent statewide developments regarding COVID-19, GRH has made the decision to postpone the following events: Annual Free Community Blood Screenings, Balance Classes, and Parkinson's Support Group. For the latest updates, visit grh.org/covid19. It should be noted that there are NO presumptive or confirmed cases in Union County as of Friday, March 13, 2020.

While we are learning more every day, a clearer picture of COVID-19 and those groups most affected by this disease is emerging, and we continue to refine our responses based on new information. We continue to monitor daily the guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Oregon Health Authority, and will reschedule these public events as soon as it is sensible to do so. **We encourage you to remain vigilant with precautionary measures against the spread of all respiratory illness by:**

- Washing your hands often and appropriately
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoiding contact with sick people
- Staying home if you're sick
- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing



For additional information on those most vulnerable to this disease, what to do if you think you may have COVID-19, and more; **please visit healthoregon.org/coronavirus or call 211 for the most up-to-date information.** In addition, we have established a Coronavirus News & Updates section on our website for the latest from your care team at GRH.

Get the latest GRH COVID-19 news and updates on our website at grh.org/covid19

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