

COMMUNITY

Briefs

Elgin Neighborhood watch continues from home

ELGIN — Before the quarantine in response to COVID-19, the city of Elgin established a community watch group to help build awareness among neighbors about concerning and suspicious behavior. Even with a stay home order in effect, Elgin Mayor Allen Duffy said the watch is going strong.

"I think reports are pretty much the same," Duffy said. "There may be an uptick in phone calls, but I base that on the awareness since it started. We had an impact on preventing and curbing some crime. As we move forward and get to meet as a public group, there will be a lot more positive changes."

According to Duffy, there is no patrol established or active at this time. A Facebook group is in use for reporting with the most recent posts expressing concern about people speeding and loud noises.

Warm weather brings bicycle thefts

LA GRANDE — An uptick in bicycle thefts has occurred according to the La Grande Police Department.

With young people out of school due to the stay home order, riding bikes is a common way to keep them active. However, not properly locking and storing bikes has led to an increase in thefts.

Bicycle thieves are opportunistic and steal bicycles that are unlocked and left in front yards, driveways or porches, police Sgt. Jason Hays said. The best way to keep bikes safe is to use a quality lock if storing outside or to bring the bike inside and out of view when not riding it, Hays said.

BIRTHS

GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL BALES: To Krista Rose Bales and Christopher John Bales, of La Grande, a son, Isaac John Bales, 8 pounds, March 12 at 8:56 a.m. Grandparents are John and Angie Shurtleff and John and Tanna Bales.

COLLINS: To Keri Reynolds and Ryan Collins, of Lostine, a daughter, Aubrey Lynn Collins, 6 pounds 14 ounces, March 31 at 7:54 a.m. Grandparents are Jon Reynolds, Tresi Reynolds, Terry Collins, Carolyn Harshfield, Michael Harshfield and Lillian Harshfield.

COMPTON: To Ranelle Elise Compton and Kit Nathan Compton, of La Grande, a daughter, Juniper Asher Compton, 7 pounds 8 ounces, March 17 at 8:16 a.m.

CROY: To Hannah Joelle Croy and Devin Matthew Mitts, of La Grande, a daughter, Miah Tracy Mitts Croy, 6 pounds 2 ounces, March 18 at 7:48 p.m.

DALTON: To Michele Alessia Dalton and Gauge Leonard Dalton, of La Grande, a son, Cedric Lee Dalton, 9 pounds .04 ounces, April 1 at 3:15 a.m.

JENKS: To Jordan Jenks and Mike Jenks, of Summerville, a son, Robert Jenks, 6 pounds 7.7 ounces, March 23 at 8:06 a.m.

MARTIN: To Sandra Lucille Martin and Dillon Mathew Martin, of La Grande, a son, Dash Angel Martin, 6 pounds 13 ounces, March 15 at 2:57 p.m. Grandparents are Robert and Cindy Kohler, Kevin Kunzler, and Renee and Raul Rios.

PFINGSTEN: To Roberta G. Swanson and Skye J. Pfingsten, of La Grande, a daughter, Autumn Skye Pfingsten, 8 pounds 14 ounces, April 2 at 7:34 p.m.

SANDERS: To Katelynn Mae Johnson and Justin David Sanders, of La Grande, a son, Owen James Lee Sanders, 7 pounds 0.8 ounces, March 24 at 5:56 p.m. Grandparents are T.L. and Pam Diggers and Julie and David Sanders.

TANNER: To Britany Renea Tanner and Alexander William Tanner, of La Grande, a son, Isaac Alexander Tanner, 3 pounds 5 ounces, March 29 at 8:48 a.m. Grandparents are Jason Korom and Casi Korom.

TODD: To KayLynne Todd and Anthony Todd, of La Grande, a son, Maverick Wayne Todd, 8 pounds 9 ounces, April 1 at 2:08 a.m. Grandparents are Larry and Judy Todd and Todd and Melissa Kuenzi.

VANCE: To Janice Marie Vance and Jesse James Vance, of La Grande, a daughter, Serenity Ann Myrna Vance, 7 pounds, March 21 at 8:26 p.m.



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Lolita 'Jean' Isaacson

Formerly of La Grande • 1942-2020

Lolita Jean Isaacson, 77, formerly of La Grande, died March 27 at her home in Orofino, Idaho.

Known as Jean, she was born May 28, 1942, in La Grande, the oldest of four children born to Ross "Dick" Oral Isaacson and Ivy Janet Schaeffer. She attended school in Lostine until the family moved to Kooskia, Idaho. Jean married Dale M. "Shorty" Hendren on Oct. 11, 1960. They divorced in October 1986. Upon retiring, Jean bought and renovated a home in Weippe, Idaho, with her longtime partner, Buck DeArmond.

Jean had a passion for many things and did them all well. She was a cowgirl at heart and loved every minute she was on a horse. She broke them to ride as well as pack. Jean loved to camp, hunt and fish in the mountains, the Lapover Pack Station and North Minam Meadows in the Eagle Cap Mountains being her favorite places.

Jean worked as a waitress, butcher, baker, caretaker, dental assistant and EMT. She enjoyed cake decorating and crafting. She was a kind, caring and loving individual.

Surviving relatives include her children and their partners, Janet Hendren of Strunk, Kentucky, Julie Hendren and Rod Corder of Orofino, Idaho, and Randy Hendren and Verna Frances of Kooskia, Idaho; stepson, David DeArmond and wife, Heidi, of Weippe, Idaho; siblings, Sharon Harris of Enterprise and Robert Isaacson of Elgin; aunt, Dorthea Stephen of Walla Walla, Washington; and 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Gary Isaacson; son, Rex Lee Hendren; grandson, Kelly Joe Hendren; and granddaughter, Crissy Ann Hendren.

Louise R. (Young) Van Schoonhoven

Cove • 1937-2020

Louise Rae Van Schoonhoven, 82, of Cove, died April 14 at her residence. A service will be held at a later time.



Louise was born Sept. 11, 1937, in Baker City, along with her identical twin sister, Laura Kay, to Frederick and Laura Young. She lived her first four years in Sumpter and then moved to Baker City, where she completed her public education and graduated from Baker High School. She attended Oregon State University and graduated from what is now Eastern Oregon University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Louise taught at Redwood Elementary School in Castro Valley, California, and at Goose Air Force Base in Labrador, where she had her own children's TV show. She married John Van Schoonhoven on Aug. 22, 1964, in La Grande. They had two daughters: Heidi and Susan. Louise taught in Eugene while her husband worked on his doctorate at the University of Oregon.

Louise and John lived in Maryland for 25 years during which time she received a master's degree in communicative disorders from Johns Hopkins University. She worked as technical editor for the Naval Sea Systems Command developing specific docu-

OBITUARIES

ments for surface ships and submarines of the Pacific and Atlantic fleets. She also worked for Booz Allen Hamilton, where she developed foreign language lessons for the U.S. Special Forces at the Defense Language Institute. She held an early interest in computers and introduced colleagues to their capabilities.

Louise moved to Cove in 1992 when her husband, John, retired. She enjoyed volunteering in the Cove community at the school and library (serving as president of the Cove Library Improvement Club) and held several offices for the Cove Community Association. She was a member of PEO for more than 50 years, serving as president of Chapter L in Maryland and Chapter DK in La Grande.

Louise enjoyed music, playing golf, teaching piano and singing as a member of the Village Voices choral group in Columbia, Maryland. She also enjoyed sewing and preparing social gatherings, especially for her family and friends.

Surviving relatives include her daughter, Heidi; nieces, Kathy Jensen, Debbie Fair and Sheri Gildersleeve of Spokane and Sandi Young of California; and numerous cousins and great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband John; daughter, Susan Van Schoonhoven; mother and father; twin sister, Laura Kay Gildersleeve; brothers, Paul and Gordon Young, and nephew Chris Young.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Chapter DK PEO Women's Scholarship Fund in care of Loveland Funeral Chapel, 1508 Fourth St. La Grande

97850.

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

Dempsey Voss

Formerly of La Grande • 1948-2020

Dempsey Voss, 71, formerly of La Grande, died April 10 after a two-year battle with cancer. He will be cremated and buried at a later date in a private ceremony with his immediate family. Arrangements are under the direction of Life Tributes Cremation Center of Kennewick, Washington.

Dempsey was born in 1948 in Arkansas. In the early 1950s, the family relocated to Tulare, California, and Dempsey graduated from Tulare Western High School in 1966. He married Rhonda in 1968, and they celebrated their 51st anniversary this past year.

In 1996, after selling his sporting goods store in Tulare, Dempsey and Rhonda moved to the La Grande area so he could live closer to the Eagle Cap Wilderness that he loved so much. In 2014 they relocated from Oregon to Washington to be closer to family.

Dempsey loved being outdoors and most any day you would find him outside whether it be working in the yard and garden, shooting his bow, going for drives to enjoy nature or preparing for his next hunting trip.

Dempsey was a giving man who was always willing to help out his family, friends and neighbors. He loved sharing his outdoor experiences with others and then reliving those stories over and over with those close to him. With his playful nature, he was always up for a good game of cards.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Rhonda;



Upcoming local services are pending due to efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

daughters, Veronica Koch and Valerie Voss; son-in-law, David; and three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Elsie Voss, and siblings, Jack Voss Jr. and Pam Canby.

In lieu of flowers or cards, the family asks you think of him next time you're up in the mountains.

To sign the online guestbook, go to www.lifetributescenter.com.

Ellis W. Mickey

Summerville

Ellis W. Mickey, 85, of Summerville, died April 21 at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Leo B. Wagoner

La Grande

Leo B. Wagoner, 69, of La Grande, died April 22 at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Bernice M. Webster

La Grande

Bernice M. Webster, 85, of La Grande, died April 21 at her residence. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY

6:18 a.m. — Oregon State Police cited Nicholas Dean Best, 33, for reckless driving and violating the basic rule (driving in excess of 100 mph).

10:59 a.m. — A caller reported the theft of a motorcycle from the 1100 block of Detroit Street, Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded.

2:23 p.m. — A La Grande caller reported the theft of a firearm from the 900 block of 21st Street.

4:46 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 300 block of Adams Avenue on a report of a domestic disturbance. Officers determined people were arguing and talked to them.

6 p.m. — La Grande police again responded to the 300 block of Adams Avenue on a domestic disturbance call. This time, the people involved agreed to stay apart for the night.

10:41 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 62100 block of Fruitdale Lane on a call about vandalism and took a report.

SATURDAY

10:37 a.m. — A caller complained about too much noise on the 1100 block of J Avenue, La Grande. The person responsible drove away before an officer arrived.

10:43 a.m. — Firefighters responded to report of a fire on the 300 block of South Eighth Avenue, Elgin.

12:33 p.m. — A caller complained about an aggressive dog on the 10200 block of Leonard Lane, Island City. The

animal enforcement officer responded and returned the dog to its owner.

6:02 p.m. — Oregon State Police cited Joseph Jacob Otero, 19, of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, for reckless driving and speeding (in excess of 100 mph).

9:43 p.m. — Elgin residents on the 700 block of North Ninth Avenue reported a possible gunshot that shook windows. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and determined the explosion may have been fireworks.

SUNDAY

9:59 a.m. — An Elgin resident on the 700 block of North 15th Avenue reported a burglary. A Union County sheriff's deputy made contact and took a request for extra patrols.

8:21 p.m. — A La Grande caller reported telephonic harassment.

11:03 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 200 block of 20th Street for a person suffering mental issues. The person went to Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande, for help.

MONDAY

6:29 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of vandalism on the 300 block of Cedar Street.

9:29 a.m. — La Grande police received another report of vandalism, this one on the 1800 block of First Street.

10:59 a.m. — La Grande police found vandalism to a fence on the 700 block of Main Avenue.

2:07 p.m. — Someone damaged two campaign signs

at M Avenue and Cedar Street, La Grande.

3:06 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a possible sex crime.

3:25 p.m. — An Oregon State Police trooper stopped to assist a disabled vehicle near milepost 270 on the eastbound side of Interstate 84 and noticed the driver appeared impaired. The trooper investigated and arrested Lola Inez James, 53, on accusations of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

3:40 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2700 block of Fir Street on a report of domestic violence. Nether victim wanted to pursue a case.

8:48 p.m. — A caller reported a domestic disturbance that went on most of the day on the 10800 block of Walton Road, Island City. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded, but no one answered the door.

11:45 p.m. — The Union County sheriff's office responded to the 40 block of South 11th Avenue, Elgin, for an assault. A deputy separated the people involved.

Incident Management Team forms in response to COVID-19

Observer staff

LA GRANDE — The Union County Incident Management Team livestreamed a press conference last Wednesday night to introduce those involved with responding to the COVID-19 pandemic on the local front.

The team consists of smaller units. Each group — composed of local officials, government employees and volunteers — introduced team members, explained their faction's purpose and answered questions.

The law enforcement unit relies on members of the the Union County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police and La Grande Police Department. The group works to maintain

situational awareness and coordinate with the separate organizations.

The logistics group is in charge of obtaining and tracking anything needed to respond to COVID-19.

The planning group has been developing and refining the incident action plan and documents incidents during the crisis. And the operations unit is in charge of implementing the plan.

A finance group is keeping track of money coming in and going out to aid the community.

There also is a fire and emergency medical services unit made up of members of the La Grande Fire Department, La Grande Rural Fire Department and Life Flight.



We are in this together, and no matter the situation we will be here for you.

We have received a dramatic increase in calls from families wanting to pre-arrange their funeral or final wishes, but who are uncertain how to proceed with the social distancing restrictions.

At Loveland Funeral Chapel we have designed and implemented a new program so we can help everyone during these uncertain times. Your safety and privacy are important to us. If you are uncomfortable meeting with us in person at this time, we understand. **You can prearrange all of your wishes and plans in the security of your own home, using the mail, phone, as well as electronic media.** If you would like more information please call us and we will help you.



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