

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• LA GRANDE — La Grande City Council will hold a regular session Wednesday, May 6, at 6 p.m. The meeting will be available for viewing via the city’s scheduled Charter Communications channel 180 on the La Grande Alive website at www.lagrandealive.tv/ city-events or on the Eastern Oregon Alive.TV Facebook page at www.facebook.com/EasternOregonAliveTV. Written comments or questions must be emailed to strobe@cityoflagrand.org by 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 5.

Briefs

Brog scholarship interviews set this week

LA GRANDE — Interviews for Union County high school students who have applied for an Edward W. And Marian C. Brog Foundation scholarship will be Wednesday, May 6, from 7-9 p.m. Circumstances dictate interviews will be in a phone or video conference format. Students will be contacted by the Foundation with their interview times and instructions on how interviews will be conducted.

If there are any questions, contact Keri Hagerman at keri.hagerman@edward-jones.com or 541-963-2608.

Overnight closures lifted in Snake River public areas

BAKER CITY — Baker County officials have lifted the overnight closures for the public areas along the Snake River corridor. Officials emphasize that social distancing, including in the outdoors, is an important measure to protect our communities from the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Individuals should maintain at least 6 feet of distance between themselves and anyone who does not reside in their immediate household and observe any closures posted on properties open to the public.

Modified La Grande Farmers Market season begins May 16

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Farmers Market announced it will open the 2020 season on May 16 with certain restrictions. According to its Facebook post, the market has “implemented significant measures to protect the health of our customers, our vendors, and our community.”

Some restrictions include:

- Space vendor booths 10 feet apart.
- Control the number of shoppers allowed in the market at one time for physical distancing.
- Use ground markers to indicate 6-foot spacing at booths and in high-traffic areas.
- Cancel music, youth programming, special events and communal seating until further notice.

A complete list of planned safety and health measures is available at www.lagrandefarmersmarket.org.

Electrical problem causes La Grande house fire

■ Firefighters put out small house fire

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

LA GRANDE — An electrical problem caused a fire Saturday that damaged a La Grande house.

The La Grande Rural Fire Protection District, La Grande Fire Department and other agencies responded Saturday eve-

ning to the fire at 204 12th St. near the Short Stop Xtreme.

Craig Kretschmer, La Grande Rural Fire chief, said the cause was electrical.

Construction workers were tearing down an older part of the house when the fire broke, he said, and workers got out before firefighters arrived.

Extinguishing the blaze

came with challenges.

Kretschmer said finding the seat of the fire was difficult because it was under the house.

Additionally, he said, engines had to navigate a narrow driveway to the scene.

Firefighters, however, stopped the flames from spreading to the two-story section of the house, which prevented further property damage.



Staff photo by Sabrina Thompson

An electric fire Saturday night on 12th Street in La Grande burned through this house.

OBITUARIES

Janice K. (Womack) Smith
Formerly of Wallowa and La Grande • 1939-2020

Janice Kay Smith, 80, of Battle Ground, Washington, and formerly of Wallowa and La Grande, died April 15. Arrangements are under the direction of Evergreen Memorial Gardens of Vancouver, Washington.



Janice was born Aug. 23, 1939, in Wallowa, to Marley Osborne and Bertha Nona (Winters) Womack. She graduated from Wallowa High School in 1956. After high school, she moved to La Grande, where she met her future husband, Churchel Leo Smith. They were married May 19, 1958,



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

in Weiser, Idaho.

Janice and Churchel lived most of their married life in Carver; Vancouver, Washington; and, most recently, Battle Ground, Washington. They celebrated 61 years of marriage

on their last anniversary. They were best friends and were inseparable during the last 20 years of their marriage, spending the winter months in Apache Junction, Arizona, where they developed friendships from all over the United States.

Janice had a love of cooking and baking apple pies and worked in the food industry most of her life. She was a waitress at the Sacajawea Hotel in La Grande and head cook at the Carver Cafe in Carver. She retired from Wy’East Middle School in Vancouver, Washington, as the kitchen manager.

Surviving relatives include her daughter, Julie Murray; son, Randall Smith; son-in-law, Kevin Murray; and five grandchildren and nine

great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marley and Bertha; brother, Vernon Womack; daughter, Jonna Lynn Smith; and sister, Joyce Beeman.

Bernadine Curry
Cove

Bernadine Curry, 90, of Cove, died May 2 at her residence. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY

8:42 a.m. — A caller complained about garbage in the road on the 60000 block of Foothill Road, La Grande.

8:55 a.m. — A Union caller on the 300 block of East Dewey Lane asked to talk to law enforcement about feral cats.

9:23 a.m. — Oregon State Police advised the animal enforcement officer of possible wolf depredation on the 56800 block of Draper Road, Union.

5:32 p.m. — A La Grande resident reported a burglary on the 2000 block of Washington Avenue. An officer responded and took information.

8:48 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office received a report of a group of suspicious people on the 1200 block of Evanston Street, Elgin.

SATURDAY

5:20 a.m. — La Grande police responded to 18th Street and Adams Avenue on a report of a domestic disturbance.

6:47 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2200 block of Adams Avenue on a report of a domestic disturbance. Police took a report.

1:10 p.m. — An Elgin caller asked to speak to a Union County sheriff’s deputy about harassment.

4:15 p.m. — A La Grande caller on the 1400 block of Y Avenue reported someone broke into a vehicle.

6:40 p.m. — A caller reported a child riding a motorcycle at Birch Street and X Avenue, La Grande. Police did not find the rider.

7:54 p.m. — Union County received a report of a downed tree on the 56800 block of High-

way 203, Union. La Grande police four minutes later received a report of a downed tree on the 2300 block of Spruce Lane; an officer removed the tree from the road. And at 8:08 p.m., the Union County Sheriff’s Office received a report of a downed tree at Hunter Road and Dial Lane, Summerville; a deputy removed the debris.

SUNDAY

1:07 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1000 block of 13th Street for a disturbance and resolved the situation.

2:49 a.m. — A caller reported a basketball hoop in the road at Fifth Street and I Avenue, La

Grande.

7:04 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of vandalism to a vehicle on the 1100 block of Adams Avenue.

10:26 a.m. — A caller asked to speak to a La Grande officer about a burglary on the 1700 block of Spruce Street.

12:59 p.m. — Law enforcement responded to the 300 block of Adams Avenue, La Grande, for a male exposing himself. Police did not find the suspect.

2:30 p.m. — An Elgin resident asked to speak to a Union County sheriff’s deputy about a restraining order violation.

Driver faces charges from local hit-and-run

Observer staff

LA GRANDE — Oregon State Police reported a Canadian truck driver faces charges stemming from a hit-and-run last week near La Grande.

Marlo Griffin, 70, of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, faces charges of failure to perform duties of a driver and fourth-degree assault, according to the press release from Oregon State Police, which will forward its report to the Union County District Attorney’s Office for consideration.

Troopers on Wednesday evening responded to a hit-and-run crash on Interstate 84 near milepost 277, about 14 miles southeast of La Grande. Robert Floyd, 56, of North Powder, suffered minor injuries when a semi collided with his Mazda 626, sending it out of control. The car rolled several times before coming to a stop in the median.



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Eva Winnefred Bennett
June 20, 1924 - April 26, 2020



Eva Winnefred Bennett, 95, of La Grande, passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at her residence. A service will be held at a later time.

Eva was born on June 20, 1924 in Orchard, Nebraska, the eighth of ten children, to Charles and Susan (Harvey) Shrader. She was raised in Nebraska, resided in California during World War II and lived in La Grande for the last 72 years of her life. She graduated from Gering High School in Gering, Nebraska in 1941. On November 4, 1942, she married the love of her life, Lyle B. “Bud” Bennett in San Diego, California. While he served in the U.S. Navy, she worked in the defense plant as a “Rosie the Riveter”. Eva and Bud came to La Grande in 1948 to work together in the D & V Donut Shop, which they later owned. They also managed the Pony Soldier Motor and the Clover Glenn Apartments. She enjoyed golf, crocheting, reading and dancing with Bud. She was a life member of the La Grande Country Club.

Eva is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Cathy and Allen Brogoitti, two grandchildren, Carrie Brogoitti and Dutch Brogoitti (Meggen), three great granddaughters, McKenzie, Stella and Maggie, all of La Grande, a sister, Ruth Smith of Medford, Oregon and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bud Bennett in 1993, infant son, Jimmy Lee Bennett, parents Charles and Susan Shrader, eight brothers and sisters and their spouses, sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Midge and Harvey Kutz, brother-in-law, Gatewood “Smitty” Smith and an infant grandson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to a charity of your choice.

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



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