

COMMUNITY

Briefs

Community briefing on COVID-19 livestreamed Tuesday

LA GRANDE — The Union County Incident Management Team is hosting a community briefing on Tuesday at 6 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to give the public an opportunity to ask key questions regarding COVID-19, the recent outbreak, and the current situation.

Due to physical distancing requirements, the briefing will be provided virtually and livestreamed on the NE Oregon Joint Information Center Facebook page. The briefing also will be available for later viewing at www.neojic.union-county.org.

Meals on Wheels drivers needed

LA GRANDE — Community Connection is in urgent need of volunteers to be Meals on Wheels drivers. For more information, call Sydney Gleeson at 541-963-7532, ext. 1104, or stop by 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande.

Wraparound services available for isolated residents

LA GRANDE — Multiple resources are available through wraparound services for individuals who have been instructed to isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19.

Resources include financial assistance, food bank information, grocery pickup/delivery, health insurance, veterans services and more. Information is available from the Northeast Oregon Joint Information Center at <http://neojic.union-county.org/2020/06/23/wrap-resources/>.

Local artist releases his third album

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The community of La Grande continues to inspire the music of Tyler Brooks.

The singer-songwriter released his third album of Americana-style music in May, titled “The New American Dream,” and he is working on a fourth.

“My surroundings, what is going on in the world and what is going on in my world and what I am listening to at the time have a big part in the music,” Brooks said. “I try to keep my songwriting realistic and topics that people deal with each day — not cheesy (or) writing a song just to write a song.”

Brooks said his influences in music vary, ranging from punk rock to pop and even some hip-hop.

He said he draws inspiration from personal experiences, his observations and social issues he believes to be important. The title song of his most recent album is somewhat of a protest song, Brooks said, addressing social issues including greed and misinformation campaigns.

“It’s not about what you believe/ It’s about what they see/ It’s not about who you are/ It’s all about the New American Dream” are some of the lyrics for the titular song.

He explained he writes songs about a wide range of subjects and focuses on writing about “real issues” and experiences, even when they are sad or difficult to talk about.

“I try and align my music with real life, rather than a dream,” Brooks said. “I feel like maybe our whole society is getting detached from the real world sometimes. We gloss over the bad stuff that is happening and act like it doesn’t happen. Whether it is in a small town like La Grande, Oregon, or in a metropolitan area, or even globally.”

Gloria C. (Cirilo) Haasl
1940-2020 • Enterprise

Gloria C. Haasl, 80, of Enterprise, died June 22. Visitation will be held June 30 from 9 a.m. to noon at Bollman Funeral Home, limited to five people at a time. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held July 1 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Katherine of Siena Catholic Church with vault interment at the Enterprise Cemetery. Arrangements are by Bollman Funeral Home.

Gloria was born March 31, 1940, at Tanjay on the Island of Negros in the Philippines, to Ana and David Cirilo. The family moved to Sibulan in her early years, where she attended a public grade school and a Catholic high school. Later she received training in dressmaking and did work as a seamstress. She studied at St. Paul University in nearby Dumaguete and earned a bachelor’s degree in education with a major in home economics in 1968.

In 1971 in Sibulan, Gloria married Vincent “Doc” Nitzke, a chiropractor of Enterprise, and came to the United States. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen three years later. Dr. Nitzke died in 1990, and in 1992 Gloria married Gerald Haasl in Enterprise.

Gloria was employed as a nurse’s aide at the Wal-



lowa County Nursing Home and Wallowa Memorial Hospital for more than a decade, then later in the Health Department.

Gloria was active in St. Katherine’s Catholic Church and very much enjoyed children. She had an extended family, the Mathews of Joseph, who called her “Lola” (“grandma” in Filipino). She loved those kids.

Gloria was blessed with a beautiful voice and sang at many weddings and funerals. She enjoyed gardening, and in the summertime her yard was a showcase of beautiful flowers. She loved RV traveling to Arizona and Alaska, fishing and camping.

Surviving relatives include her husband, Gerald of Enterprise, and one niece and one nephew in the Philippines.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Estrella Bautista; and brothers, Exupero, Antonio and David Jr.

Charles F. White
Elgin

Charles F. White, 52, of Elgin, died June 27. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Sheila Olney
La Grande

Sheila Olney, 62, of La Grande, died June 26 at her residence. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Kenneth A. Skillings
1938-2020 • Wallowa

Kenneth Allen Skillings, 82, died Feb. 12 in Wallowa. He was interred at Wallowa Bramlett Cemetery. No formal services are planned.

Kenneth was born Jan. 18, 1938, at home in Wallowa, to Amos Benjamin and Cora Ellen (Boyd) Skillings. He attended Wallowa Elementary and La Grande High School.

Kenneth served in the U.S. Army from 1961-1963 and was deployed in Germany. He thoroughly enjoyed his time in Germany and always wished to return to see more of the country.

Kenneth worked for Boise Cascade at the sawmill in La Grande for 30 years. He retired in Wallowa, purchasing an acre in Lower Wallowa Valley that was once the property of his great-grandfather William H. Boyd. He lived there until his death.

Kenneth enjoyed hunting, fishing, reading Westerns, and spending time with family.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Mina Shuman, Raymond, Winifred English, Vern, Neal, Darrell, and Myrna Sabey.

Surviving relatives include his brother, Johnny, and sister, Carolyn Pfeaster. Memorial donations may



be made to the Wallowa Senior Center Advisory Group, P.O. Box 6, Wallowa, or the Wallowa History Center, P.O. Box 481, Wallowa.

Amanda N. Smith
1983-2020 • La Grande

Amanda Nicole Smith, 36, of La Grande, died June 23 at her residence. No service is planned at this time.

Amanda was born Nov. 17, 1983, in Sherman, Texas, to David R. and Peggy L. (Brewer) Smith. She attended Crook County Elementary School and Crook County High School and graduated from Union County High School.

Amanda worked in the office at the Union County High School as a volunteer. She enjoyed books, coloring and playing games. She was a member of the Special Olympics and won a silver medal, in the fast walk, and a gold medal.

Surviving relatives include her mother, Peggy Smith of La Grande, and sister, Kimberly Wittenburg, of Juliaetta, Idaho.

She was preceded in death by her father, David R. Smith. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

Norma S. Mullins
La Grande

Norma S. Mullins, 100, of La Grande, died June 28 at her residence. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Upcoming local services

LOVELAND
FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY

June 30 & July 1 — GLORIA HAASL:
9 a.m.-noon visitation, June 30, Bollman Funeral Home; 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial, July 1, St. Katherine Catholic Church, with vault interment at Enterprise Cemetery.

July 2 & 3 — ELNA HENDRICKS: 6-7:30 p.m. viewing, July 2, Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande; 10 a.m. graveside service, July 3, Summerville Cemetery.

— Calendar
courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

Crematory.

Anban Libokmeto
La Grande

Anban Libokmeto, 90, of La Grande, died June 25 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Michael D. Copeland
Union

Michael D. Copeland, 75, of Union, died June 28 at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

— PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT —

FRIDAY

8:50 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2300 block of Q Avenue on a report of harassment. Officers talked to the people involved and provided options on returning property.

3:53 p.m. — A La Grande caller reported the theft of a vehicle. Officers contacted the person who reported the theft, who subsequently called back and said there was no theft, it was all a misunderstanding.

5:21 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a sexual crime.

6:15 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a vehicle theft. Officers responded and determined there was no theft and this was a civil matter.

11:34 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office received a report of underage drinking at a residence in Cove at Caddie and Bryan streets. A deputy responded and counseled the homeowner.

SATURDAY

8:35 a.m. — La Grande

police responded to the 1600 block of Second Street on a complaint about vandalism.

8:44 a.m. — La Grande police and fire responded to 1205 25th St. on a report of a fire.

5:11 p.m. — La Grande police responded to a hit-and-run on the 2000 block of Jupiter Way and arrested Gerard Alan Duberow, 71, on accusations of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

5:54 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 500 block of Adams Avenue on a report of a fight.

SUNDAY

10:41 a.m. — A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded to the 200 block of Union on a report of a careless all-terrain vehicle driver. The deputy counseled the driver.

3:52 p.m. — Yet again, La Grande police responded to a report of a vehicle theft, and again this was a civil matter.

7:09 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1300 block of Z Avenue on a report of a domestic disturbance.

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PROTECTING our Residents during this Pandemic

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Retirement & Assisted Living 541-963-4700

We are very grateful for the love, compassion and condolences extended to us by so many caring individuals during our time of loss. We appreciate all the staff at GRH, especially Dr. Baynes in the ER. We were treated with great respect and gentleness by Lowell Knopp. All of the cards, gifts and delicious food have lifted our spirits and blessed us tremendously during this time of sorrow.

With love & appreciation, The Family of **Betty Morse**

The Observer apologizes for misspelling Dr. Baynes name.

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