

COMMUNITY

Meetings

- **IMBLER** — The Imbler School District Board of Directors will meet for a regular session Thursday, Aug. 13, at 7 p.m. in Room 1 of the high school. The public is welcome to attend all open sessions of the Imbler School Board. This meeting was originally scheduled for Aug. 11.
- **ISLAND CITY** — Island City’s city council will be Monday, Aug. 10, at 7 p.m. at Island City City Hall. This regular meeting will include a land use hearing on Mike Becker’s proposed land partition. People who attend the hearing and meeting are reminded to wear face coverings and follow social distancing requirements. A number of people in the room will be limited according to the governor’s executive orders. Comments for topics to be discussed may be dropped off at city hall or emailed to karen@islandcityhall.com prior to the meeting.

Briefs

Union Baptist Church announces schedule change

UNION — The Union Baptist Church has changed the times of its weekly Sunday service and classes. Sunday school now begins at 9:45 a.m., and the service follows at 11 a.m.

Free lunches for children still available

LA GRANDE — The free summer lunch program for ages 1-18 in La Grande will continue through Aug. 21. Free grab-and-go lunches are available from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Riveria Activity Center, 2609 Second St. Meals for adults are \$4. The lunches are a federally funded USDA program and are provided by Community Connection of Northeast Oregon. The program is open to everyone regardless of race, color, income level, national origin, religion or disability. The summer lunch programs in Cove and Wallowa County have ended. For information on the schedule for free meals in Elgin, contact the Elgin School District.

Art Center East launches benefit exhibit

LA GRANDE — Art Center East’s newest exhibit features work donated by local artists. The show celebrates the scope and talent of the regional arts scene and aims to raise money for the art center as it works toward reopening. The exhibit will launch online this week, in partnership with John J. Howard Real Estate, offering a 3-D rendering that allows virtual visitors to walk through the exhibit and zoom in on pieces for a closer look. In-person viewing will be possible when ACE reopens in September. To view the exhibit and for more information, go to www.artcentereast.org.

Menus

Union County Senior Center takeout lunch menu

Pickup 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande. For delivery, call 541-963-7532 before 10 a.m. Age 60+, \$3 suggested donation; all others, \$5.

AUG. 10-14
Monday: Swedish meatballs, salad greens, steamed Italian blend vegetables, garlic bread, fresh fruit.
Tuesday: mac and cheese with ham, garden salad, mel-on slices, bread, ice cream.
Wednesday: fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, spinach salad, rolls dessert.
Thursday: sausages and sauerkraut or chicken sandwiches, glazed onions, potato salad, fresh fruit, brownies.
Friday: almond-orange chicken, rice pilaf, rolls, light dessert.

Union County kids free grab & go lunch menu

Pickup 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Riveria Activity Center, 2609 Second St., La Grande. Free for age 1-18; all others, \$4.

AUG. 10-14
Monday: meatballs over rice, rolls, fruit.
Tuesday: mac and cheese, salad greens, fruit, cookies.
Wednesday: fried chicken, steak fries, salad greens, fruit.
Thursday: sandwiches, salad, fruit, cottage cheese.
Friday: orange chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, Jell-O, fruit.

Judith A. Blevins

1940-2020 • La Grande

Judith “Judy” Ann Blevins, 80, of La Grande, died July 23 due to complications with Stevens-Johnson syndrome at Grande Ronde Hospital. A celebration of her life will be held some-time in the coming months for family and close friends.

Known as

Judy, she was born in 1940 in what is now Baker City. Growing up she also lived in various places including Hereford, Unity and La Grande. After marriage she lived in The Dalles, Union, Mountain Home and Boise, Idaho, and her home — La Grande.

Judy and her husband, Bill, enjoyed going on adventures. They spent many years traveling in Bill’s camper and later in their motorhome, traversing all the western states and Alberta and British Columbia, Canada, searching out great destination sites.

Judy took joy in quilting and made quilts for all of her grandchildren. She so enjoyed her quilting club in Brenda, Arizona. Most of all, she loved reading and spending time with her family.

Surviving relatives include her husband of 39

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5

7:53 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office received a report of a theft from a cabin about a mile past Pilcher Creek Reservoir, North Powder. The sheriff’s office agreed to provide extra patrols.

10:29 a.m. — A caller in Island City reported possible stalking. The Union County Sheriff’s Office took down the information.

1:41 p.m. — An Elgin caller

GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL

ALDRICH:

To Amy Christine Aldrich, of La Grande, a son, Axton Navarro Aldrich, Aug. 1 at 8:01 p.m. Grandparents are Randy Aldrich and Sally Aldrich.

ALLEN:

To Kiana Rileigh Ray Allen and Levi Kean Allen, of Haines, a daughter, Tatum Ray June Allen, July 7 at 11:23 p.m. Grandparents are Brad and June Allen and Gary and Lena Wight.

AMY:

To Samantha Dawn Amy and Anthony Joseph Amy, of Cove, a daughter, Karmyn Dawn Amy, July 23 at 1:38 p.m.

Census Bureau ends count early

The Observer

UNION COUNTY — The U.S. Census Bureau announced Wednesday, Aug. 5, it will end field data collection efforts a month early on Sept. 30. This deadline includes ending in-person interviews and self-reporting collection.

“The Census Bureau’s new plan reflects our continued commitment to conduct a complete count, provide accurate apportionment data, and protect the health and safety of the public and our workforce,” U.S. Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham said in a press release.

The Census Bureau originally planned to stop data collection efforts at the end of October but is dealing with concerns about safety during the pandemic and pressure to meet the Dec. 31 deadline for data collection and apportionment counts.

At this time, 93 million

SNAP benefits increase continues, for now

The Observer

SALEM — Oregonians will continue to receive increased food benefits in August.

The Oregon Department of Human Services has received approval by the federal Food and Nutrition Service to continue in August to provide increased food benefits and waive the interview requirement for new applicants — making it faster and easier for Oregonians to access benefits.

This will result in an additional \$30 million

years, Bill; sister and brother-in-law, Kay and Vernon Nikada of Ontario; brothers and sisters-in-law, Bill and Tammy Dickerson of Star, Idaho, Donny and Dort Dickerson of Canada, Percy and Leslie Dickerson of Baker City, and Dan Williams of Boise, Idaho; stepsisters, Nancy Endicott and Mary Jo Cowling and husband, Bob; step-brothers and wives, Mike and Donna Higgins and Dick and Debbie Higgins; daughter, Teresa Curtiss of La Grande; sons, Michael Curtiss of La Grande, Jim Curtiss and wife, Janice, of Vancouver, Washington, and John Curtiss of La Grande; and nine grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jim Dickerson of Baker City and Joella Williams of Boise, Idaho; brother, Pat Dickerson; and sons, Donald, Mark and Joseph Curtiss.

Memorial donations may be made to Blue Mountain Humane Society in care of Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 543, Halfway 97834.

Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispi-nevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Patrick E. Gekeler

1951-2020 • La Grande

Patrick Erwin Gekeler,

OBITUARIES

68, of La Grande, died Aug. 4 at his residence. A service will be held at a later time.

Patrick was born Aug. 18, 1951, in Elgin, to Wendell and Doris (Blanchard) Gekeler. He resided in Elgin, Cove and La Grande.

Patrick was a bookkeeper for several local logging companies. He enjoyed trapshooting and was a member of the La Grande Gun Club.

Surviving relatives include his brothers and sisters-in-law, Bruce and Jeanine Gekeler of Summerville and Gary and Rebecca Gekeler of La Grande; aunts, Audrey Hienlein and Glenda McDaniel; and four nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wendell and Doris.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneral-chapel.com.

Ronald A. Nantz

1948-2020 • La Grande

Ronald “Ron” Allen Nantz, 71, of La Grande, died July 13 at a local care facility. At his request, there will not be a service.

Known as Ron, he was born Aug. 25, 1948, in Baker City, to Allen and Claudeen (Jones) Nantz. He resided in North Powder and La Grande and graduated from North

Powder High School.

Ron was employed at La Grande Waste Management for many years. He loved the outdoors, his little dog “Punky,” his many Corvettes, 60s music and old Western movies. Ron also enjoyed attending his daughters’ and granddaughter’s sporting events. He was previously active in the the Corvette Club in the community and enjoyed participating in car shows.

Surviving relatives include his daughters, Tammy Speelman and partner, Erin, of Hermiston and Deanna Chandler of Weiser, Idaho; sister, Kathy Boyd of Yakima, Washington; brother and sister-in-law, Russell and Beth Nantz of Huntington; and three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Allen and Claudeen.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneral-chapel.com.

Alidean McMaster

Formerly of La Grande

Alidean McMaster, 97, of Taylorsville, Utah, and formerly of La Grande, died Dec. 29, 2019. A graveside service will be held Aug. 15 at 2 p.m. at Hillcrest Cemetery. Face coverings for age 2 and older are required.

Upcoming local services

LOVELAND

FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY

Aug. 15 — PAUL WAGONER: 11 a.m. celebration of life, Indian Rock; casual dress preferred.

Aug. 15 — ALIDEAN McMASTER: 2 p.m. graveside service, Hillcrest Cemetery, La Grande; face coverings required for age 2 and older.

Aug. 22 — STAN CASE: 10 a.m. celebration of life, Case arena at 64066 Booth Lane, La Grande; masks and social distancing required; watch the livestream at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com (click on “Funeral Videos” near bottom of page).

Aug. 29 — MIKE MAY: 4 p.m. memorial service, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande; please wear masks and respect social distancing. d respect social distancing.

— *Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande*

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

reported possible child abuse. A Union County sheriff’s deputy talked to the person and planned for follow up.

3 p.m. — A caller reported malfunctioning railroad arms at the crossing at Highway 203 and Pierce Road, La Grande.

8:05 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1200 block of Eighth Street on a report of an assault. Officers determined the circumstances did not warrant an arrest.

10:13 p.m. — A caller reported a vehicle crash at Monroe Lane and Hunter Road, La Grande. A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded and arrested Jessica Adreana Duffy, 23, for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

THURSDAY, AUG. 6

8:59 a.m. — A caller reported finding drug paraphernalia on the 600 block of 18th Street, La

Grande. An officer arrived and removed the paraphernalia.

10:06 a.m. — A person refused to wear a mask at Bi-Mart, 2510 Adams Ave., La Grande. The business called for police, but the person left even before dispatchers could tell an officer.

1:12 p.m. — A La Grande caller reported a burglary at a shed on the 2100 block of Cove Avenue.

2:47 p.m. — The Union Coun-

ty Sheriff’s Office responded to a report of a burglary on the 1000 block of Galveston Street, Elgin.

7:31 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office responded to a traffic crash on the 63600 block of Standley Lane, La Grande, and arrested Melissa Sue Jones, 42, for DUII.

7:38 p.m. — A caller reported possible dog neglect on the 600 block of 18th Street, La Grande.

Daniel Corey Aldrich

June 28, 1984 - August 2, 2020



Daniel Corey Aldrich was born to proud parents, Danny and Marlas (Freeman) Aldrich in Kennewick, WA, on June 28, 1984. He was welcomed home by his sister Tomi (1981). Corey was always full of life and love for his family. In 1988, his parents separated and Corey stayed in Union, OR, where he was collectively cared for by his father, Grandma

Urcie and Grandpa Kenny, who all loved him dearly. Corey always loved the outdoors and immensely enjoyed hunting in the surrounding mountains with his dad, great-uncles, cousins, and Grandpa. Young Corey spent his summers fishing, boating, and knee boarding at Phillips Reservoir with grandparents and cousins. In Junior High, Corey played the Saxophone and was very good at it; he loved music. When he reached high school, he turned his full attention to football, a sport he loved and was extremely good at. Corey started on the varsity football team as a freshman, and put everything he had into football. He was a starter for the first three years of high school as a Union Bobcat. He was his dad’s football star. After high school, Corey was able to turn his passion and experience regarding the outdoors into a job horse-packing and guiding trips from the Minam Lodge in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Corey had found his niche, and he was content to ride horseback in the mountain air, helping others pack into God’s Country. Corey never shied away from hard work, and he never met a stranger, which was the perfect skill set for the job. Corey and his father shared a wonderful opportunity to spend three seasons packing folks into the high country together. After that job ended, Corey lived and worked in Union and Umatilla counties for a while, then headed to Southern Oregon. Most recently, Corey has been working for the last several years near Grants Pass as an Organic Farmer, where he seemed to enjoy his work and his co-workers. Corey conversed with his dad, grandma Urcie, and his sister Tomi regularly. There was no indication that Corey would take his own life on August 2, 2020. On that day, a wonderful life was cut short for reasons we may never know.

Corey has left a loving family behind: Danny and Heidi Aldrich, father and step mom, Tomi Aldrich, sister, Grandma Urcie, and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

There will be no public service for Corey; however, his ashes will be spread in the Eagle Cap Wilderness by his family. The family encourages people to donate to a suicide prevention organization of their choosing in Corey’s name.



Nicole Cathey

Reed & Associates for excellent service *LOCALLY!*



An Independent Insurance Agency
Reed & ASSOCIATES

Medicare, Auto, Home insurance and Annuities



Kevin Reed

10106 N. 'C' • Island City541-975-1364Toll Free 1-866-282-1925www.reed-insurance.net