

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• **LA GRANDE** — The regional chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet Friday, Oct. 9, at Denny's restaurant, 2604 Island Ave., La Grande. A no-host lunch begins at 11 a.m., followed by a meeting at noon. Masks and social distancing will be required.

• **ISLAND CITY** — Island City City Council will convene for a work session and regular meeting Monday, Oct. 12, at Island City City Hall. The 6 p.m. work session will discuss a zoning change proposal by Jesse Winterowd, and there will be a land use hearing at 7 p.m. on the Panda Express application. Following will be the regular meeting.

People who attend the meetings are required to observe social distancing and wear a mask. Written comments for topics to be discussed may be dropped off at city hall or emailed to [karen@islandcity-hall.com](mailto:karen@islandcity-hall.com) prior to the meeting.

• **LA GRANDE** — The La Grande Rural Fire Protection District's monthly board meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 6 p.m. at the fire hall in Island City. Call 541-910-3114 for more information.

Briefs

Neighbors Together woodlot seeks volunteers for Saturday work party

LA GRANDE — The Neighbors Together emergency woodlot is having a work day Saturday, Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. Everyone is invited to come help get firewood ready to give away this winter.

The woodlot is at 3309 N. Umatilla St. in La Grande. For more information, go to [www.neighbors-togetherunioncounty.org](http://www.neighbors-togetherunioncounty.org) or call 541-963-9126.

Brandon B. Howes

2000-2020 • Elgin

Brandon Blake Howes, 20, of Elgin, died Sept. 4 at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Washington.



Brandon was born March 15, 2000, in Baker City, to Stephen Howes and Tia Baxter.

He was raised in Elgin and graduated from Elgin High School, where he played football, basketball and baseball. He was very active in FBLA and earned many state awards.

Brandon was a construction laborer and full-time college student at Eastern Oregon University after transferring from Walla Walla Community College, where he was on the WWCC men's basketball team.

An avid hunter and fisherman, Brandon spent his time off outdoors. He enjoyed motocross riding, hiking, camping, water-sports and mountain biking. He was a role model for younger kids and coached youth athletics. Above all, he was very family- and friend-oriented and put others' needs in front of his own.

Survivors include his parents, Stephen and Tia Howes; brother, Stephen Howes of La Grande; sister, Morgan Howes of Burns; grandparents, Farel and Linda Baxter of Baker City; fiancée, Karli Bedard of La Grande; aunts and uncles, James and Karen Bradshaw of Los Angeles, Cal-

OBITUARIES

ifornia, Jeremy and Jodeen Howes of Mission Viejo, California, Michael and Tracy Howes of Mission Viejo, California, Brent and Chris Baxter of Nampa, Idaho, and Tyson Baxter of Fruitland, Idaho; and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Peter Alan Howes, and grandmother, Barbra Ann Howes.

Jennine A. Samples

1961-2020 • Wallowa

Jennine Annette Samples, 58, of Wallowa, died Oct. 4 at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. A memorial service will be Oct.

10 at 1 p.m. at the Wallowa Christian Church. Masks are required. Arrangements by

Bollman Funeral Home of Enterprise.

Jennine was born Nov. 7, 1961, in Medford, to Tom and Nancy Samples. In 1964 her sister, Melynie, joined the family. They moved to Joseph in September 1967 just in time for Jennine to start first grade. She attended Joseph schools through the eighth grade except for a few months at Imnaha school.

Jennine's high school years were spent in the jungles of southern Mexico where she had varied experiences and made treasured friends for life. It was during that time her brother Stephen "T.J." joined the family.

After school, Jennine worked in the newspaper industry, finding her place in advertising/media

and working her way up to advertising director for several newspapers.

What was most important to Jennine were her two sons, Travis and Derek Loumena, and her relationship with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This opened up her generous, giving heart to make a difference in lives whenever there was a need. Her life took a huge turn when she became a grandmother to Daniel and Landon and she met the love of her life, Stewart Woodworth.

Survivors include her parents; her brother and his daughter; sons and daughters-in-law and grandsons; nephews, Justin and Jonathan, and their families; and partner, Stewart.

She was preceded in death by her sister.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to help finish the construction of the church at Yaxoquintela in Mexico (send checks to Hebron USA, 6091 Mountain Brook Road, Greensboro, North Carolina, 27455).

Richard 'Dick' L. Parsons

1925-2020 • Elgin

Richard "Dick" L. Parsons, 94, of Elgin, died Oct. 2 at his residence. A viewing will be held Oct. 8 from 3-5 p.m. at Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande. A graveside service will begin at 2 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Elgin Cemetery. Casual dress is preferred by the family. Attendees must wear a mask and practice



FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY

Please follow guidelines regarding face coverings and social distancing at all services.

Oct. 8-9 — **DICK PARSONS**: Oct. 8, 3-5 p.m.

viewing, Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande; Oct. 9, 2 p.m. graveside service, Elgin Cemetery (casual dress preferred).

Oct. 10 — **JENNINE**

**SAMPLES**: 1 p.m. memorial service, Wallowa Christian Church.

Oct. 10 — **NORM HEIER**:

2 p.m. celebration of life, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

Oct. 11 — **NATALIE CARNEY**: 11 a.m. celebration of life, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

Oct. 11 — **KENNY PRATT**: 4 p.m. memorial gathering, Riverside Park, La Grande.

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

social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines.

Known as Dick, he was born Oct. 8, 1925, in Elgin, to Leonard and Elsie (Aldred) Parsons. He was raised in Elgin and attended Elgin Stella Mayfield Elementary and graduated from Elgin High School, where he was on the basketball and baseball teams. Dick's marriages to Gerry Follett and then to Betty Rysdam ended in divorce. He later married Laura Peck Johnston.

Dick was a rancher, farmer and logger. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gold mining and wood-working. Dick was a member of the Elks, NRA, Elgin School Board and the Soil & Water Conservation District.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Laura; children and their spouses, Lennie and Shawn Parsons of Gold Bar, Washington, Ron and Janice Parsons of Elgin, and Claudia and Jack Fellows of Milton-Freewater; seven grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchild-

dren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Elsie; siblings, Ruby Kuhn, Chloe Phippen, LaRue Parsons, Alta Bennett-Hunt, June Holowitz-Gray and Dell E. Parsons; and brothers- and sisters-in-law, Howard Kuhn, Milton Phippen, Jesse Benett, John Hunt, Gerald Holowitz-Gray and Sally Parsons.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children, 3101 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland 97239.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com).

Kenneth 'Kenny' G. Pratt

Formerly of La Grande

Kenneth "Kenny" Gray Pratt, 82, of North Bend and formerly of La Grande, died Aug. 28 at Bay Area Hospital in Coos Bay.

Family and friends are invited to Riverside Park Sunday, Oct. 11, at 4 p.m. to share stories and visit (weather permitting).

Ribbon-cutting celebrates clinic opening



Abby Stonebreaker/Grande Ronde Hospital

Grande Ronde Hospital and Clinics staff, board of trustees members and stakeholders gathered Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the new Urgent Care clinic in Island City. Among those present were GRH President and CEO Jeremy Davis, center with scissors. The new facility at 10303 S. Walton Road opened Sept. 14

Find more news online at [lagrandeobserver.com](http://lagrandeobserver.com)

Kenneth Gray Pratt

May 21, 1938 - August 28, 2020

He was always up for having fun, had a great sense of humor and was never unkind unless you were a gopher tearing through the backyard.

Kenneth "Kenny" Gray Pratt, 82, of North Bend, Oregon, died August 28, 2020, in the Bay Area Hospital in Coos Bay. Though Kenny's death came suddenly, his wife, children and most of his grandchildren were able to say goodbye in person.

Kenny was born on May 21, 1938, to Sena May Trosper and Keith Ezra Pratt in Union, Oregon.

He was the fourth of five children raised in La Grande, Oregon, among lots of family. He graduated from La Grande High School in 1956.

A piece of Kenny will always remain in La Grande, especially since he lost a finger tip to the elevator in the old Sacajawea Hotel while delivering newspapers as a child.

Kenny joined the Navy following high school, with hopes of being a pilot. He spent four years in the Navy as a mine-man diver.

He grew up with a very musical family that played spoons, washboards, glass bottles and all the 'normal' ones. He loved music and played many instruments. We loved to hear him sing: 'Your Cheating Heart', 'Pickles' and so many more. We had such fun!

Kenny married his first wife, Janice Shenfield, in 1959, and they had four children — Kim, Shari, Jana and Michael. Following the death of Janice from colon cancer, Kenny met and married his second wife Betty Haven, with whom he would spend the next 39 years of his life.

While employed by Union Pacific in Hinkle in the 1970s, Kenny wanted to use his GI Bill which helped pay for college. He enrolled in Eastern Oregon State College, taking classes while working. After changing majors several times, he finally had the required credits for a bachelors degree. He did not apply until 1984 when he was invited to apply for Governor Vic Atiyeh's Labor Advisory Board knowing that would look better on his

resume. After traveling from Salem to La Grande for a writing test, he secured the degree and was accepted on the advisory board.

Kenny was the last telegraph operator in Grass Valley, Oregon; a brakeman for Union Pacific Railroad; and then a conductor. He was elected legislative director of the railroad union. He and Betty moved to Salem in 1984 where they lived for 20 years before retiring to North Bend, Oregon, in 2004. They loved visiting Garibaldi, Oregon, on the coast and ocean fishing on their boat.

While in North Bend, Kenny was active in Shriners and was president for three years. He and Betty bought a hillside property they spent years fixing up and working in the garden.

Kenny loved to tell stories about his childhood with his brothers and sisters (his poor mom). His Navy stories including exchanging a uniform for a serape in Mexico and railroad stories from back when he worked as a trainman, (a fun time for him when friendships were formed forever.) As the state director of the UTU (United Transportation Union), when the railroad lobbyists wrote a letter to the legislators accusing Kenny of being misleading, his return letter asserted his accusers were the "Kings of Misleadingdom."

Kenny was preceded in death by his parents Sena May and Keith; his first wife Janice; and his sister Leila Marie Fernandez.

Kenny is survived by his wife Betty; children Kim Pratt-Ankrum (Steve), Shari Pratt-Campbell (Herb), Jana Pratt-Warren and Michael Pratt (Rebekah); step-children Dorrie Kaetzel (Jim) and L.P. McClennan (Verna); 12 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, siblings Helen Trotter, Keith Pratt and Gary Pratt.

Some of his ashes will be in Island City cemetery, in "Pratt Row", on Sunday, October 11. Weather permitting, family and friends are invited to Riverside park at 4 p.m. to share stories and visit. You are missed, Beautiful, beautiful, Papa, Papa!

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY, OCT. 5

9:46 a.m. — La Grande Police arrested Ryan Mitchell Kelly, 36, on a Grant County warrant for three counts of first-degree burglary, one count each of first-degree theft, second-degree theft, third-degree theft and second-degree trespass and for three counts of third-degree criminal mischief.

12:28 p.m. — A caller reported finding a dog during the weekend in Elgin and then taking it to Wallowa County. But the person was not able to keep the dog. The animal enforcement officer advised the person to take it to a shelter.

2:07 p.m. — Oregon State Police responded to a driving complaint on the westbound side of Interstate 84 and spotted the vehicle headed into the rest area at milepost 269. The trooper contacted the driver, Katreyna Chantylle Griffin, 28, of McGill, Nevada, according to state police, and observed she was impaired. The trooper called for medical personnel, which cleared her for a medical emergency. She refused to perform sobriety tests, and the trooper arrested her and booked her into the Union County jail in La Grande for driving under the influence of intoxicant. He also cited Griffin for driving without an operator's license.

5:55 p.m. — A La Grande resident complained about receiving harassing phone calls. An officer contacted the person and explained options.

10:37 p.m. — A caller reported two suspicious males in the area of the 3200 block of Fourth Street, La Grande. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded but did not spot anyone suspicious.

TUESDAY, OCT. 6

9 a.m. — A caller asked to speak to the animal enforcement officer about a dog struck by a car at Oak Street and Main

Avenue, La Grande.

11:37 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of loose mail in the area of Stanley Lane and Hunter Road, La Grande.

11:46 a.m. — A caller reported an assault at the SK8 Park, La Grande.

4:11 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office responded to Walmart, 11619 Island Avenue, Island City, and arrested Brian Scott Straub, 31, on a Marion County warrant for failure to appear on a police obstruction case. The sheriff's office also arrested Straub for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

5:09 p.m. — A caller reported a transient camp off Catherine Creek Lane, Union. Oregon State Police handled the call.

5:34 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of an aggressive dog on the 300 block

of Fourth Street. The animal enforcement officer responded and cited the dog's owner.

8:52 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of child abuse. An officer determined there was no child abuse.

11:31 p.m. — A caller reported a vehicle crashed into a ditch at 16th Street and Jakob Avenue, La Grande. Police responded. A crew removed the vehicle from the ditch.

Recent Oregon State Police activity

Sept. 30 — A trooper at about 9:20 a.m. approached a silver Cadillac DeVille parked off Highway 30 near Perry. The trooper found the driver, Bryan M. Nearing, 42, of La Grande, was a felon in possession of a sawed-off shotgun. The trooper arrested Nearing and booked him into the Union County Correctional Facility, La Grande.

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