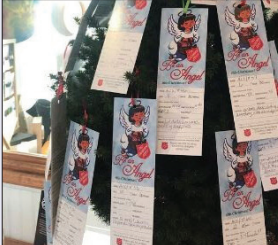


COMMUNITY

Briefs



Art Center East/
Contributed Photo

Be an angel and Santa all at once

LA GRANDE — Art Center East invites the community to participate in the Angel Tags program. The Salvation Army runs the program, which gives you the opportunity to buy gifts for a child in need based on their personal requests.

To pick up an Angel Tag, stop by the art center at 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande. The art center is open (limiting visitors to 75% capacity) Wednesday to Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors must wear masks and follow all COVID-19 protocols.

For more information, call ACE at 541-624-2800.

Meals on Wheels drivers needed

LA GRANDE — Community Connection is seeking volunteers to be Meals on Wheels drivers. For more information, call Sydney Gleeson at 541-963-7532, ext. 1104.

Nature's Pantry hosts turkey drive

LA GRANDE — Nature's Pantry, 1907 Fourth St., La Grande, is hosting a campaign to provide turkeys for people in need.

The store will match every dollar donated to the cause through Dec. 18. For additional information or to arrange a donation, text or call 541-963-7955, email info@naturespantry.life, or stop by the store between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday or 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday. The store is closed on Saturdays.

— The Observer

Photo book captures beauty of the Grande Ronde Valley

By Dick Mason
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A new photo book that brings the beauty of the Grande Ronde Valley into sharper focus now is available.

La Grande photographer Eric Valentine's "Grandeur of the Grande Ronde" includes about 80 of his photos.

Valentine, a retired judge, began working on the book in earnest after the COVID-19 pandemic reached Eastern Oregon. Pandemic restrictions prevented him from working as much on community service projects, allowing him time for the book project. He shot about half of the photos after the pandemic hit.

Valentine's book includes photos of Morgan Lake, the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area and Eastern Oregon University. One of the most striking photos in the book is one Valentine took from La Grande's Gangloff Park of a rainbow.

"It's a reminder that hope endures despite COVID-19 worries," Valentine said.

Some of the photos are of images pioneers may have seen while coming through the Grande Ronde Valley in the 1800s. The book thus fittingly has a quote from a 1848 diary of an Oregon Trail emigrant that describes the beauty of the valley:

"It is really one of the loveliest places in the whole world. Just imagine an enormous arena measuring 15 miles wide and 25 miles long, entirely surrounded by the beautiful mountains and watered by two lovely rivers," the pioneer wrote.

The photographer said he wants the book to be an item that tourists can pick up to remind themselves of the beauty of the valley they visited and as a gift people can send to friends and family who have connections to the Grande Ronde Valley.

Valentine, who served as a trial court judge for 20 years and a senior judge for 10 years for Union and Wallowa counties, has been interested in photography for most of his life. He has a website, Praise Photography, on which he posts his



Eric Valentine/Contributed Photo

Sunflowers are one of the many images La Grande photographer Eric Valentine displays in his new collection, "Grandeur of the Grande Ronde."

most recent pictures, many of which are outdoor scenes. He enjoys his craft because it heightens his awareness and appreciation of nature.

He and his wife, Meg, who have two sons, moved to La Grande in 1970. Copies of his book are available in La Grande at JaxDog Cafe & Books and Community Merchants. Information on the book is available at Valentine's website, www.praisephotography.com, and his Facebook page.

MILESTONE

Wayne & Betty Jones celebrate 70th anniversary

Wayne and Betty Jones of La Grande are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary Tuesday, Nov. 24.

After getting out of the service, Wayne Jones first met Betty Robeson at the Sweet Shop in Ashland.

They were married in 1950 at Betty's parents' house in Enterprise, and that's where they started their lives together.

Wayne worked as a mechanic at the Dodge Garage for Jack

Harmon, and Betty worked at the local bank.

They were transferred to La Grande in 1962 and have lived there for the last 58 years.

Betty and Wayne have always been active in the community, including the Elks Lodge, the Eagles, Veterans of Foreign Wars, various sororities and their church.

After retirement, they hosted campgrounds all around Oregon, worked with Oregon Department

of Fish and Wildlife, and volunteered at Grande Ronde Hospital and the Union County Senior Center.

Wayne and Betty have two daughters, Susan Schultz and Sandy Cook and her husband, Rocky Cook; five grandchildren, Carmen Cook, William Cook, Dany Hansell, Mykel Hansell and Nikki Hansell; and three great-grandchildren, Joscelyn Hafer, Chevy Easterday and Cash Ingerson.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY, NOV. 20

7:55 a.m. — A caller reported a deer stuck in a fence on the 600 block of North Ninth Avenue, Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy assisted to release the deer from the fence.

9:08 a.m. — Law enforcement received a report of livestock on the loose on Highway 203 at about milepost 7, which is near the La Grande-Union County Airport.

11:14 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of a burglary at the Oregon Department of Forestry, 611 20th St.

1:49 p.m. — La Grande police responded to Max Square on a call about harassment. Police determined this was a mental health issue.

6:33 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about a drone trespassing over the area of the 100 block of South 18th Street. An officer made contact and explained options.

SATURDAY, NOV. 21

12:05 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 200 block of Fir Street on a report of a domestic disturbance. Police found the loud noises were coming from people playing video games.

6:49 a.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to the 56500 block of Lowell Road, Union, on a report of a suspicious vehicle. The deputy made contact and determined the call was unfounded.

1:44 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a request to check on the welfare of a person in Union who was suffering mental or emotional problems. Deputies responded but were unable to locate the person.

4:54 p.m. — Law enforcement responded to the 3100 block of Island Avenue, Island City, for a vehicle versus deer collision.

8:29 p.m. — Law enforcement received a

report of a loud bang in the area of Adams Avenue and Elm Street, La Grande. A deputy responded and determined the sound was from a single firework.

10:47 p.m. — A caller reported a downed stop sign at Jefferson Avenue and Willow Street, La Grande.

SUNDAY, NOV. 22

9:43 a.m. — A caller reported a dead dog in the area of 10500 North McAlister Road, La Grande. The animal enforcement officer removed the dog.

11:02 a.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy broke up an altercation between two men on the 100 block of North 10th Avenue, Elgin.

1:25 p.m. — La Grande police responded to a report of a juvenile suffering mental or emotional distress. The juvenile was taken to the hospital.

2:48 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a missing snowmobile in the area of Forest Service Road 3120. A deputy made contact and referred the case to the U.S. Forest Service.

10:12 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the area of 20th Street and Adams Avenue on a report of suspicious circumstances. Officers determined people were causing a disturbance and separated the parties.

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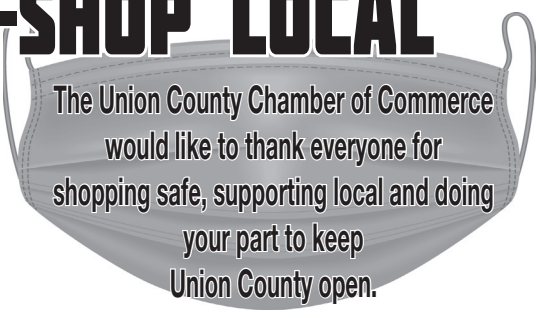
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The Union County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank everyone for shopping safe, supporting local and doing your part to keep Union County open.

DEATH NOTICES

Judith L. Martin
Union

Judith L. Martin, 74, Union, died Nov. 22 at her home. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Michael J. Vanney
La Grande

Michael J. Vanney, 59, of La Grande, died Nov. 21 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Donald L. Murphey
North Powder

Donald L. Murphey, 68, of North Powder, died Nov. 21 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

21 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Judith L. Roff
Elgin

Judith L. Roff, 83, of Elgin, died Nov. 21 at her residence. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Scott Abernethy
Elgin

Scott Abernethy, 80, of Elgin, died Nov. 16 at his home. Arrangements are by Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Halfway.



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