

COMMUNITY

Meetings

- COVE — The Cove City Council is meeting for a work session to review proposed municipal court documents at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15, at Cove City Hall, 504 Alder St. For instructions on connecting virtually, go to www.cityof-cove.org.
- HERMISTON — The Dec. 16 meeting of the InterMountain Education Service District Board of Directors has been moved to the Punkin Center building in Hermiston, 290 W. Punkin Center Road. The meeting will begin at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Briefs

Autism-friendly Santa ready for virtual visits

PORTLAND — The Autism Society of Oregon is organizing virtual autism-friendly visits with Santa via Zoom. The 10-minute visits are open to all ages and the whole family is welcome. Appointments are being scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 19, from 1-3 p.m., and more dates are in the works. To take advantage of this stress-free interaction with Kris Kringle, email events@autismsocietyoregon.org or call 503-636-1676.

Don't miss Wednesday's hot chocolate drive-thru

LA GRANDE — La Grande High School invites the community to come to its hot chocolate drive-thru Wednesday, Dec. 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Held in front of the high school, the fundraiser will support the LHS Associated Student Body.

ACE hosts community open mic

LA GRANDE — The final Arts Center East Writing Project gathering of the year will be a virtual community open mic beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16. All are welcome to join — share a piece of original writing or sit back and listen. More information and the link is available by calling Art Center East at 541-624-2800 or by clicking on the event at www.artcentereast.org/calendar.

Scott A. Abernethy
1940-2020 • Elgin

Scott Andrea Abernethy, 80, of Elgin, died Nov. 13 due to pancreatic cancer. A memorial service was held Dec. 5 at the Imbler Christian Church.



Known as Scotty to his friends, he was born Jan. 26, 1940, in Oakland, California, to Douglas and Anita Abernethy. Scott was a Navy veteran, Pacific Northwest Bell/AT&T retiree, graduate of Marylhurst University and a member of many local civic organizations including the Lions Club and Elgin EDGE. Surviving relatives include his sisters, Nancy Fernandez and Bonnie Starkweather; ex-wife, Eliz-

abeth Abernethy; daughter, Jennifer Abernethy; and two grandsons. He was preceded in death by his parents, Douglas and Anita Abernethy, and brother Douglas “Matt” Abernethy. Memorial donations may be made to the Imbler Christian Church in care of Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 543, Halfway 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Rebecca L. Roberson
Elgin

Rebecca L. Roberson, 64, of Elgin, died Dec. 11 at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Robert D. Nehler
Lostine

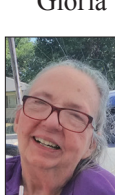
Robert D. Nehler, 79, of Lostine, died Dec. 13

OBITUARIES

at his residence. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Gloria (Miller) McCoy
1942-2020 La Grande

Gloria M. McCoy, 78, of La Grande, died Nov. 25 at Wildflower Lodge. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



Gloria was born Nov. 7, 1942, in Rochester, Michigan, to Carl E. and Eileen B. Miller. She attended Michigan State and graduated with a BA in English. In 1972 Gloria moved to Port Orford. She met her future husband, Tim McCoy, at her antique store in 1987. Tim and Gloria were married Sept., 30, 1988. Gloria loved the Bible, the Word of God,



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

Dec. 18 — JOSEPHINE ZAUGG: 10 a.m. graveside service, Union Victorian Cemetery.

Dec. 18 — VELVA FULTON: 2 p.m. graveside service, Island City Cemetery; service streamed live at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com. (Thursday’s visitation has been canceled.) — *Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande*

roses, books and reading to children. Surviving relatives include her husband of 32 years, Tim, and many cousins.

Theodore C. Vandenberg
La Grande

Theodore C. Vandenberg, 73, of La Grande, died Dec. 13 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Josephine A. Zaugg
Union

Josephine Allen Zaugg, 89, of Union, died Dec. 12 at her residence. A graveside service will be held Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. at the Union Victorian Cemetery. Attendees must wear a mask and practice social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Library feeds body as well as brain



Kaleb Lay/The Observer

A modest food pantry sits outside Cook Memorial Library in downtown La Grande Friday, Dec. 11, 2020. The food pantry provides free goods, and shelves are often empty by the end of the day.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY, DEC. 11

7:54 a.m. — A caller reported vandalism to a vehicle on the 600 block of North 15th Avenue, Elgin. A Union County sheriff’s deputy made contact and took a report.

12:50 p.m. — A caller from Texas reported finding a dog with a collar with information from Union County. The animal enforcement officer looked into it and found the dog owner also was in Texas.

5:52 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of an assault on the 2500 block of Second Street. An officer contacted the caller and will follow up.

10:27 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the area of Walnut Street and Penn Avenue on a complaint about loud equipment. The officer found workers were just finishing up.

11:26 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1100 block of Adams Avenue on a report of a male yelling and screaming. The subject moved along.

SATURDAY, DEC. 12

10:47 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office received a report of dogs attacking a horse on the 1200 block of Hill Street, Cove. The animal enforcement officer responded but did not find any dogs.

1:39 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1300 block of Adams Avenue for juveniles causing a disturbance. The subjects were gone when police arrived.

8:34 p.m. — A caller reported they were walking on the 1800 block of Y Avenue, La Grande, when a person threatened them. An officer talked to the caller and explained options.

SUNDAY, DEC. 13

8:34 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of possible animal neglect on the 1500 block of Y Avenue. The animal enforcement officer responded and left a notice.

11:27 a.m. — Local law enforcement received a report of railroad crossing arms malfunctioning at

Highway 203 and Pierce Road, La Grande. Police notified Union Pacific Railroad.

11:50 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office received a report of an adult who sold vape pens to juveniles in Elgin. A deputy made contact and counseled one subject.

7:37 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 700 block of 12th Street on a complaint about people going through the dumpster near the Grand Plaza Apartments and leaving garbage on the ground. There was no one there when police arrived.

10:22 p.m. — A La Grande resident on the 2400 block of Riddle Road reported receiving a threat. A Union County sheriff’s deputy contacted the person and explained options.

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dish **ALTITUDE**

Grant funds homebuying and mortgage counseling

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Banner Bank awarded Community Connection of Northeast Oregon’s Housing Resource Center a \$5,000 grant, the La Grande-based non-profit announced in a press release. The grant is for the center’s prepurchase, financial capability and mortgage default counseling and education services.

Community Connection, which serves Baker, Grant, Union and Wallowa counties, offers free workshops and classes on homebuying and budgeting; accounts for first-time homebuyers to help them save up to \$12,000 for a down payment, \$4,000 for vehicle replacement and \$2,000 for rental assistance (first, last and deposit); and down payment assistance funds to first-time homebuyers, a portion of which are available and reserved for veterans.

To learn how to take advantage of these programs as well as the Housing Resource Center’s prepurchase housing counselors and foreclosure intervention and default counselor, contact Housing Resource Center Manager Debbie MacBaker at 541-963-3186 or debbie@ccno.org.

Greta A. Heier

February 14, 1933 - November 24, 2020



Greta A Heier, 87, of La Grande, passed away on Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at a local care facility.

Who can find a spiritual, intelligent, virtuous and capable woman? She is more precious than rubies, pearls, amethysts, gold or diamonds, especially one born on Valentine’s Day 1933. Her husband, Norman, loved her, and she greatly enriched his life, beginning on June 16, 1954 in Weiser, Idaho.

She brought him security, working diligently until her retirement from the US Government in 1994, and then enjoying trips to Hawaii, Chile, and the Bahamas.

She extended a helping hand to those in need, drawing from her own well-stocked pantry, with many a jar of pickled beets, grape juice or sweet pickles given with a hug and a smile.

She was clothed with strength, generosity, and dignity; she laughed without fear of the future, as she and the love-of-her-life put their trust in Jesus Christ, and wisely planned ahead and saved for their retirement. When she spoke, her words were gentle and wise, and she shared recipes or knitting instructions with kindness.

She carefully watched everything in her household, from an unfilled dinner plate, to graduations, through weddings and births.

Her daughters and sons-in-law, 12 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren stand and bless her. Her husband praised her until his passing on September 1, 2020, and then she joined him in glory on November 24, 2020.

There are many valiant and noble women, but Greta Audette Messersmith Heier surpassed them all!

A luau is being planned in her honor for family and friends in the Summer of 2021.

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



Nicole Cathey

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