

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• ELGIN — The Elgin School Board will meet Monday, Dec. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at Stella Mayfield School. Attendance will be one of the subjects discussed.

Briefs

‘Deck Your Halls’ sale supports art center
LA GRANDE — A fundraising “Deck Your Halls” sale is underway at Art Center East, 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande. Donated original art and art prints for sale at a deep discount are available in the Co-Op Gallery. The center is open (with limited occupancy) Wednesday-Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Half of the proceeds will go toward staying open through the COVID pandemic, and the remaining funds will be used for ACE’s ADA campaign. The “Deck Your Halls” sale will run until Jan. 31, 2021.

Menus

Union County Senior Center takeout lunches
Pick up 11:30 a.m. to 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. Public is welcome. Inquire about family meals and prepackaged sides.
DEC. 21-25
Monday: chicken tenders, potato salad, cucumber salad, fresh fruit, dessert.
Tuesday: fish & chips, coleslaw, baked beans, fresh fruit, dessert.
Wednesday: honey-glazed ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, dessert.
Thursday & Friday: senior center closed for the Christmas holiday.

Grande Ronde Symphony concert for children available online

By Dick Mason
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Grande Ronde Symphony is not letting COVID-19 get the best of it when it comes to one of its cherished traditions — its annual Children’s Concert.

The pandemic prevents the symphony from conducting its annual live concert for children; however, members of the symphony recorded a virtual concert for children plus people of all ages. “A Tour of the Symphony” is available for viewing now on the GRS website, www.granderondesympphony.org.

“It is the next best thing (to an actual concert)” said Alice Trindle, president of the Grande Ronde Symphony’s board.

The virtual event was recorded in October when members of the orchestra met with music director Zach Banks at Art Center East in La Grande to play individually. The video shows Banks giving an introduction to the four instrument families of a symphony — woodwind, brass, string and percussion families. Individual symphony members then play their instruments.

For the finale, the video combines individual performance of the theme from the Harry Potter movies.

The orchestra in the past performed its Children’s Concert in late November at Eastern Oregon University for more than 400 elementary school age children from Union, Wallowa, Baker and Grant counties. The students gathered at Loso Hall at Eastern Oregon University to listen to the concert, which has included performances by Fiddle Club members from the La Grande School District.

A teacher’s guide for “A Tour of the Grande Ronde Symphony” is available on the GRS website.

Richard Ansell
1928-2020 • La Grande

Richard Ansell, 92, of La Grande, died Dec. 9. Arrangements are by Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Halfway.

Richard was born Sept. 27, 1928, in La Grande, to Louis and Lucille Ansell. He was raised in La Grande and graduated from La Grande High school in 1947.

Richard married his high school sweetheart, Thelma Marquis, July 23, 1948. They had been married for nearly 71 years when she passed away May 11, 2019.

Richard had many exciting jobs during his life including logging with horses, being a mechanic for International Harvester and fighting fire with the U.S. Forest Service. He worked building bridges for Underwood and Richards in Central Oregon and then began his own construction company in Bend in 1972. He built homes in Sunriver, including condos and lodges. Proud accomplishments included supervising in the remodeling of the Sunriver Lodge and co-supervising construction of the Pines in Sunriver. He also remodeled the Embarcadero in Newport in the 1990s. Richard’s main expertise was in concrete.

Richard enjoyed talking



to people about the Bible, photography, elk hunting, camping and fly tying. He also loved gardening and working in the yard with his wife and spending time in the mountains with his family.

During his childhood and teen years, Richard adored spending time with his little Spitz named Gabby that went everywhere with him. They walked most of the wilderness area around La Grande. He is also survived by his dog, Ginger, a little thing he loved to spoil.

One of Richard’s favorite catchphrases was “You’re going to miss me when I’m gone.” And, when you’d ask him how he was, he’d say “Terrible!” — and you knew he was okay.

Richard devoted his life to serving his God, Jehovah, and was baptized as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses on July 5, 1953, with his wife, Thelma. He will be remembered for his love of his God, Jehovah, and being able to share the hope for a wonderful future with others.

Surviving relatives include his daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and Jim Albrecht and Diana and Robert Lantz, all of La Grande; seven grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Thelma Louise Ansell; grandson, Koby Michael Albrecht;

OBITUARIES

parents; and siblings.

Memorial donations may be made to go toward funeral expenses in care of Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 543, Halfway 97834.

Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

David E. Kerley
1934-2020 • La Grande

Dr. David Emmet Kerley, PhD, 86, of La Grande, died Nov. 24. He will be interred alongside his wife in the Grandview Cemetery.

Arrangements are by Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.

David was born April 1, 1934, in Eugene, to Vernon Emmet and Harriet Viola (Brown) Kerley. He attended high school in Eugene and graduated from high school in 1952. In 1955, he married Nancy Louise Stanley.

In 1964, David and Nancy moved their family to La Grande, where he began teaching at what is now Eastern Oregon University. He taught biology classes at Eastern and finished his PhD during summer courses at Oregon State University. He retired from EOU in 1997.

David was an outdoorsman, a naturalist and a photographer, and he loved dogs. From 1997 to 2002





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

Dec. 21 — BERNADINE MILLER: 1 p.m. graveside service, Wallowa Cemetery.
— *Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande*

he served as the director of the Blue Mountain Humane Association in La Grande. He also was a member of the National Wildlife Society and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Surviving relatives include his children, Lucinda Kerley of Eugene, Linda Kerley of the Russian far east and Michael Kerley of La Grande; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Nancy, in 2009; son, Thomas Timmothy, in 1978; and sister, Janet Speelman.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Kerley Memorial Scholarship fund at Eastern Oregon University Foundation, One University Blvd., La Grande 97850.

Online condolences may be left at www.danielsknopp.com.

Catherine J. Victor
La Grande

Catherine J. Victor, 78, of La Grande, died Dec. 18 at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Richard L. Springer
La Grande

Richard L. Springer, 70, of La Grande, died Dec. 17 at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Robert E. Harris
Summerville

Robert E. Harris, 84, of Summerville, died Dec. 16 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Deloris I. Cavadini
Union

Deloris I. Cavadini, 86, of Union, died Dec. 12 at her home. A private family burial will be held at the Hermiston Cemetery. Arrangements are by Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

Bernadine E. Miller
Wallowa

Bernadine Esther Miller, 81, of Wallowa, died Dec. 15 at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. A graveside service will be held Dec. 21 at 1 p.m. at the Wallowa Cemetery with Archie Hook officiating. Arrangements are by Bollman Funeral Home, Enterprise.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16

8:35 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office received a report of vandalism on the 1200 block of Birch Street, Elgin. A deputy responded and took a report.

12:19 p.m. — A caller reported the theft of a firearm from the first block of Highway 244, La Grande. A Union County sheriff’s deputy tried to contact the subject and left a message.

12:45 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of an assault on the 2000 block of Third Street. An officer made contact and explained options.

2:36 p.m. — La Grande police stopped a vehicle in the area of Portland Street and Cove Avenue and arrested Mitchell Clifton Carter, 38, for driving while suspended, driving under the influence of intoxicants, possession and delivery of heroin and possession of methamphetamine.

10:37 p.m. — A caller reported a careless driver in the area of Buchanan Lane and Walton Road, La Grande. A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded and counseled the driver.

THURSDAY, DEC. 17

11:39 a.m. — A caller reported a domestic disturbance on the 600 block of North 15th Avenue, La Grande. Union County sheriff’s deputies responded and resolved the situation.

3:01 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a forgery from the 1800 block of Second Street.

6:27 p.m. — A caller in Union reported possible harassment. A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded and determined this was an internet scam.

7:28 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office responded to the 800 block of Newport Avenue, Imbler, on a report of a juvenile disturbance. The deputy counseled the parent and juvenile.

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas



Kaleb Lay/The Observer

With the holiday season underway and yards across La Grande dusted with snow, these decorations are a festive and comfortingly familiar sight Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020, in a downtown yard.

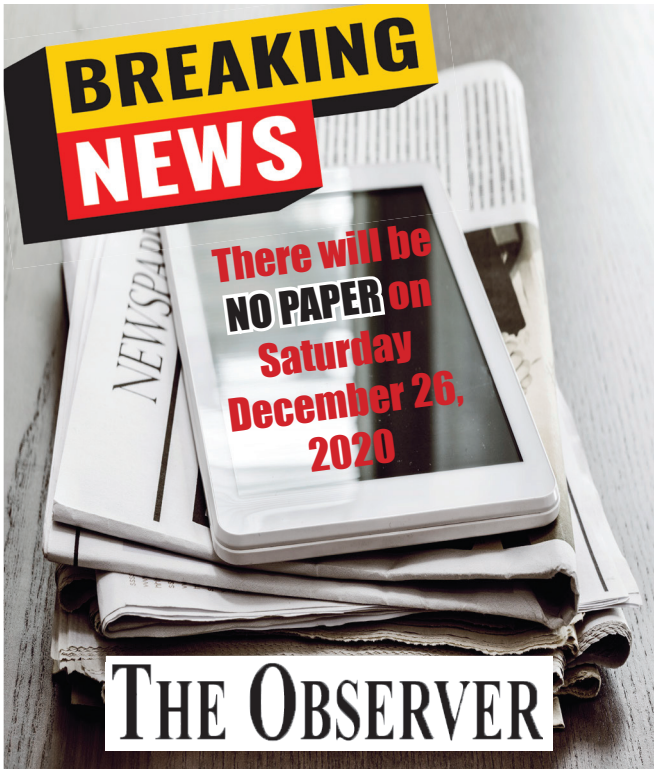
Blue Mountain Land Trust airs ‘Gather’

The Observer

WALLA WALLA — The Blue Mountain Land Trust, which works to preserve fish and wildlife habitat, forests, grasslands and agricultural land in the Blue Mountain region, is offering a virtual screening of the movie, “Gather.”

According to the press release from the trust, “Gather” follows a chef from the White Mountain Apache Nation, Arizona, who is opening an indigenous cafe; a young scientist from the Cheyenne River Sioux Nation, South Dakota, conducting landmark studies on bison; and the Ancestral Guard, a group of environmental activists from the Yurok Nation, northern California, trying to save the Klamath river.

The movie is available for viewing Dec. 25 through Jan. 1 at the trust’s website: bmlt.org/events.



Charles Alexander Daffer

August 20, 1932 - September 27, 2020



Charles Alexander Daffer passed from this world into the loving arms of the Lord on September 27, 2020. Born August 20, 1932 to Oscar and Dorothy Daffer in Lyle, Kansas, the family (older sisters, Irene (Tallent) and Helen (Gordon) migrated to Idaho in 1936. The family landed in Payette, then moved to Mesa, back to Payette, finally settling in Weiser (1941). Charles (Charlie) attended school in Weiser, then went into the Navy during the Korean War. After a stint in the Navy, he returned home then began working for the railroad. It was while working for the railroad he met the love of his life, Anita Garcia, having worked with her father. The two were married in Weiser at the Methodist/Episcopal church in 1955. Their children Paul, Mathew, David, and Angela (Arnson) followed, and the family resided mainly in La Grande, Oregon until retirement from the railroad.

Charles and Anita relocated back to Weiser after the death of Oscar in 2000. They became fixtures in Weiser, being involved in the Senior Center forming lifelong friends and renewing friendships from childhood. Charles was known throughout the area for his gardening prowess. He grew some of the best produce available. Daughter Angela (Angie) often took the extra to use in her LaGrande restaurant, so Oregonians were able to benefit!

His loving wife Anita, passed away on Palm Sunday (April 5, 2020) unexpectedly. His entire family was grief stricken, but particularly Charles. The children did their very best to step in and fill the gap, but Charles was heartbroken. He is now at peace with his beloved Anita.

Surviving him is his sister, Irene of Weiser, and sons Paul and Mathew of LaGrande, as well as daughter Angela (Angie). Son David (Karen) resides in Baker City. Charles and Anita have four grandchildren (Teri & Marcus Arnson), (Sophia and Isaac Daffer), and 5 great-grandchildren. Both Charles and Anita loved children, and bestowed it liberally onto their children/grandchildren. They are sorely missed.

Memorial information to be determined.