OMMUNITY

Briefs Brown Bag features curator of

'Motherhood' exhibit JOSEPH — The Tuesday, March 23, virtual Brown Bag hosted by the Josephy Center will feature Aimee Jungmann, the curator of the "Motherhood" exhibit, which the center described as a "beautiful and moving display of how the many talented women in Wallowa County understand their own motherhood, that of their ancestors, and the incredible power of creation and loss." The discussion begins at noon Tuesday via Zoom. The exhibit and the Zoom gathering can be accessed at www. josephy.org/event/motherhood.

"Motherhood" also may be viewed in person through April 6 at the Josephy Center, 403 N. Main St., Joseph. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. Masks and social distancing are required.

Dogs and their humans invited to Easter egg hunt

Give blood, save lives

LA GRANDE — La Grande Parks and Recreation is partnering with PetSense of La Grande to put on a Doggy Easter Egg Hunt for canines and their humans. The event will take place at the Riverside Dog Park, La Grande, Saturday, March 27, at 2 p.m. There will be dog-treat Easter eggs and human treats too. Prizes will be given to the best dressed dog, as well as the dog performing the best trick. Human masks and social distancing are required.

LA GRANDE — A blood drive will be held March 30-31 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1802 Gekeler Lane, La Grande. The need for blood continues to outstrip the supply. Tuesday, March 30, the drive will run from noon to 6 p.m.; on Wednesday it will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information or to make an appointment, call Linda Strand at 541-963-4261

Help kids cope with divorce, separation

LA GRANDE — Learn how divorce or separation impacts your children and what you can do to help them at a virtual workshop Wednesday, March 31, from 6-9 p.m. The free workshop will be held via Zoom, facilitated by Mary Lu Pierce and sponsored by the Union County Family Law Advisory Committee. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required. To sign up, email teala.sunderman@ojd.state.or.us and include your name, phone number and date of the class you are attending. Call Teala at 541-962-9500, ext. 42, for more information.

— The Observer

Menus **Union County Senior Center**

takeout lunch menu 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.

MONDAY: beef stew in a bread bowl, salad, fresh fruit. TUESDAY: chicken-cashew

MARCH 22-26

casserole, salad greens, fruit, bread. WEDNESDAY: BBQ pork sliders, cabbage slaw, fries, fruit garnish, cookie.

THURSDAY: Southwest tacos, chips and salsa, salad greens, flan. **FRIDAY:** beef stroganoff, rice pilaf, steamed vegetables, spinach salad, fresh fruit.

Honors

La Grande resident earns degree from WGU

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Michael Coggins of La Grande has earned a master of science degree in nursing-education from Western Governors University.

The online nonprofit university is designed to meet the needs of working adults, according to a press

— The Observer

Births **GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL**

LAROCQUE: Tayee Grace LaRocque, daughter of Cassondra Nicole Houle and William Joseph LaRocque, of La Grande, March 4. Grandparents are Lucinda LaRocque

and Bill LaRocque. **OUT OF TOWN BIRTHS**

WEAVER: Layton Starr Weaver, daughter of Layne Weaver and Landon Weaver, of Meridian, Idaho, and formerly of La Grande, Feb. 18. Grandparents are Terry Fischer of La Grande, Shanna Marks of Boise, Idaho, and Jeff and Becky Weaver of La Grande.

Lottery

Megabucks: \$3.2 million 11-25-36-37-39-41 Powerball: \$184 million 34-38-42-61-62— PB 19 x2 Mega Millions: \$93 million 10-41-46-52-69 — MB 8 x2 Win for Life: March 17 26-28-35-68

Pick 4: March 18 • 1 p.m.: 6-0-2-8

- 4 p.m.: 2-4-6-1 • 7 p.m.: 9-8-6-4
- 10 p.m.: 0-0-3-9
- Pick 4: March 17
- 1 p.m.: 6-8-7-7
- 4 p.m.: 1-8-2-9 • 7 p.m.: 0-9-0-2

• 10 p.m.: 4-0-1-1

DELIVERY ISSUES? If you have any problems receiving your Observer, call 541-963-3161.

OBITUARIES

Meri L. (Euston) Olmstead

1946-2021 • La Grande Meri Lucile Olmstead, 75, of La Grande, died March 7 at her home. A celebration of her life will be held June 26. Details will be announced at a later date.

Meri was born Jan. 9, 1946, in Yakima, Washington, to Richard and Mabel (Roy)

Euston. She graduated from high school in The Dalles in

1964. She attended Marylhurst University and Ohio State University and graduated in 1979 from what is now Eastern Oregon University. She went on to earn a master's degree in library science and in education.

Meri taught at Camp Riverbend Youth Transitional Facility, La Grande High School and Middle School, Enterprise School and Mission School. She also worked as the media specialist for La Grande Middle and High schools and Enterprise High School. She was a cheer coach and was a judge at many high school cheer competitions.

Meri worked at the La Grande Alternative School and was the Title I reading specialist for the Imbler School District. She believed everyone deserved an opportunity for education. She tutored highrisk students who were no longer allowed in the classroom. Her goal was to help students achieve their full

potential. She showed care and concern with discipline and expectations.

Meri had a thirst for knowledge and loved learning new things. In 1992 she visited Australia for six weeks as part of an Oregon Education Association exchange program. During summer breaks, she worked a variety of jobs including as Wallowa County librarian, at Lookingglass Fish Hatchery near Elgin and for La Grande Parks and Recreation. In her later years she worked as a driver for Professional Transportation Inc.

Meri was an active member of the National Education Association, Oregon Educational Media Association, La Grande Education Association and Oregon Cheerleading Coaches Association. She served on the Union County Juvenile Services Commission and the City of La Grande Library Commission.

In 2017 Meri married Dale Alton, who described her as the woman of his dreams. She loved her family above all else. She took many vacations with her children and grandchildren, visiting the Steens Mountains, Klamath Falls, Crater Lake, Salt Lake City, Yellowstone and New Orleans plus many trips to

A kind person who used her knowledge and experience to help those in need, Meri will be remembered as a loving wife, mother and

grandmother and a wonderful friend, teacher and coach.

Surviving relatives include her husband, Dale; sister, Sidney Bryant of The Dalles; children, Jon Olmstead and Anastasia Olmstead, both of Boise, Idaho, and Donnie Vidrio of Salem; stepchildren, Dale Alton III and Dawn Nelson, both of La Grande; and three grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

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

Gary A. Gaston 1965-2021 • Cove

Gary Allan Gaston, 56, of Cove, died March 13 at Grande Ronde Hospital. A funeral service will be



held March 23 at 2 p.m. To view the livestream, go to www.lovelandfuneralchapel. com and click

on the "Funeral Videos" button near the bottom of the home page just before 2 p.m. Interment will be at the Cove Cemetery.

Gary was born Jan. 20, 1965, in Portland, to George and Donna (Van Maren) Gaston. He resided in Damascus, Eagle Creek, Madras, Irrigon and then Cove the past 10 years. He graduated from Gresham High School, graduated from IITR Truck School, and attended BMCC. He married Timur Parrett on

Upcoming local services



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

March 20 -**CHARITY HENRY:** 11 a.m. memorial service, La Grande Church

of Christ. March 20 — MAX MOFFIT: 11 a.m. graveside service and vault

July 15, 1995, in Sandy.

Gary was employed as

a truck driver for Fish Lib-

eration with Oregon Fish

and Wildlife and owned a

Metal Works. He received

the 2017 Director's Pride

Award from ODFW for

Outstanding Dedication,

Problem Solving and Team

the Gorge Wildfire, moving

Accomplishments during

all the hatchery fish from

Gary loved wood-

working, working on the

small farm and metal art.

He was a member of the

Madras Volunteer Rural

Surviving relatives

include his wife, Timur;

daughter, Megan Gaston

of Rochester, New York;

son, Garret Gaston of La

Grande; parents, George

and Donna Gaston of Casa

Boring Volunteer Rural Fire

Department 1983-1999 and

Fire Department 2000-2001.

the wildfire zone.

small business, High Valley

interment, Lostine Cemetery; reception follows at Lostine Grange Hall.

March 23 — GARY GASTON: 2 p.m. livestreamed funeral; view at www.lovelandfuneral-

chapel.com. March 24 TOMMY WEST: 2 p.m. graveside service with military honors, Mount Hope Cemetery, Baker

calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral

Chapel, La Grande

Grande, Arizona; and sister, Lori Gaston of Damascus. Online condolences

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

Tommy G. West Formerly of La Grande

Tommy Gerald West, 85, formerly of La Grande, died Nov. 10, 2020 at his residence in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A graveside service with military honors will be held March 24 at 2 p.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery, Baker City. To light a candle in memory of Tommy, go to www. colestributecenter.com.

Iimmie L. Ruth Formerly of Perry and La Grande

Jimmie LeRoy Ruth, 80, formerly of Perry and La Grande, died March 14. His ashes will be spread at sea by immediate family at a later date.

Public Safety Report

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

8:13 a.m. — A caller reported horses on the loose in the area of North Cove and East Bryan streets, Union. An animal enforcement officer returned the horses to their owner.

12:38 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of possible animal neglect on the 70500 block of Summerville Road north of Summerville. An animal enforcement officer

will follow up.

12:54 p.m. — La Grande police arrested Amanda Pauline McCarthy, 30, for felony driving while suspended.

6:26 p.m. — La Grande police received a third-party report of possible child abuse. An officer made contact and will follow up.

10:18 p.m. — A caller complained about loud music that was going since the afternoon at a residence on the 1900 block of

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

5:58 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1100 block of D Avenue on a report of a disturbance and warned one person for

police responded to a

request for a welfare check of a person threatening selfharm. The subject was fine. 9:43 a.m. — La Grande

police responded to another request for a welfare check. This was at a different location than the previous call, and the situation was fine.

police responded to the 1500 block of Sixth Street on a report of disorderly conduct. Police arrested Cory Lee Hamilton, 36, for two counts of menacing and one count each of animal abuse, criminal mischief, second-degree disorderly conduct, unlawful use of a weapon and resisting arrest.

enforcement responded to the 2100 block of Adams Avenue, La Grande, on a report of an assault. Police cited Devon Thomas Hall, 21, for harassment and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Roll Up Your Sleeves, Veterans! The Walla Walla VA is now vaccinating ALL eligible Veterans. Vaccine clinics are being offered at ALL clinic locations. Call 509.525.5200 (dial "2" and "2") to get signed up!

Walla Walla VA/Contributed Graphic

The Walla Walla Veterans Affairs is moving into the next phase of COVID-19 vaccinations.

COVID-19 vaccines now available to area veterans of all ages

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — The Walla Walla Veterans Affairs now is moving into its next phase of offering COVID-19 vaccinations to all eligible veterans in all age groups and at all clinic locations (Walla Walla, Richland and Yakima in Washington, Lewiston, Idaho, and La Grande).

The Walla Walla VA, which serves Northeast Oregon, in a press release recently announced vaccine clinics are being scheduled throughout the week and on some weekends at all sites of care for Walla Walla VA enrolled/health care eligible veterans.

An appointment is required at all care sites. Veterans may make an appointment at any of the clinic locations to get vaccinated.

are scheduling Saturday

All clinic sites continue to offer vaccinations during the weekdays and

clinics based on vaccine supply and staff availability. Saturday clinics are planned on:

• Richland VA Clinic: March 20, April 3 and

• La Grande VA Clinic: March 20 • Lewiston VA Clinic:

March 20 • Yakima VA Clinic: March 27, April 10

• Walla Walla VA main

campus: April 10 The Walla Walla VA in the release urged eligible veterans to call 509-525-5200 (after the automated message, choose option 2, and option 2 again) as soon as possible to make an appointment and get

more information on any

schedule changes. Additional information is available on the Walla Walla VA's social media pages and on its main website, www.wallawalla.va.gov, and also by calling Linda Wondra, the Walla Walla VA Medical Center public affairs officer, at 509-386-1117.

First Street, La Grande. An officer responded, and the resident said he would turn down the music.

disorderly conduct.

9:26 a.m. — La Grande

12:29 p.m. — La Grande

10:18 p.m. — Local law

William Fred "Bill" Davis February 6, 1939 - February 26, 2021

William Fred "Bill" Davis, 82, of Nampa and formerly of North Powder and La Grande, passed away February 26, 2021 at home with his wife, Marilee, by his side.

Bill, the youngest of five children, was born February 6, 1939 in Baker, Oregon, to William Ernest and Vivian Clare McGrath Davis. He grew up in North Powder on the family ranch that was purchased by his father and grandfather, John William Davis, in

Bill is the descendant of three early pioneer families in Union and Baker counties: his great-grandparents, John Samuel and Susan Dealy Davis, who homesteaded the family ranch in North Powder in 1872; Patrick and Mary McGrath of Union; and Alfred and Ida Sisley Gardner of

Sumpter and Baker. His grandfather, Walter McGrath, a coal dealer, served as mayor in North Powder for more than 35 years.

Bill attended Powder Valley High School where he was active in basketball, football, 4-H, FFA and orchestra, where he played the trombone. After graduating in 1957, Bill began his college education at Oregon State College. He had a very close relationship with his grandparents, Walter and Leila McGrath and visited them in their home often. Walter also played the trombone and offered to give Bill the trombone he played at dances throughout Union and Baker counties if he made the Oregon State marching band, which Bill accomplished.

In 1958 Bill transferred to Eastern Oregon College in La Grande, and in the fall of 1959, he transferred to Oregon Technical Institute in Klamath Falls. There he met his first wife, Sandra Lare, at the new student dance at the Student Union and their first date was a drive-in movie and spilt coffee. The summer of 1960, Bill returned to North Powder to help his parents run the family ranch. He loved working on the ranch and had a special talent in knowing everything about individual cows. Bill and Sandra were married August 6, 1960 in Baker, Oregon and had two children; son, Jeff and daughter, Debbie. Bill was a hands-on dad who assisted with feeding, changing diapers and bath time and loved his children very much. After the death of his father, Bill and his mother, Vivian, continued to run the ranch and shared the daily duties.

Bill was active in his community. In 1960 he joined the Elks Lodge in Baker, where he remained a member until transferring to the Elks Lodge in Nampa, Idaho. He was also a member of the North Powder Order of Masonic Lodge from 1967 to 1988. He attained the E. A. Degree, the Fellow Craft degree and became Master



of Lodge in 1971. He was a past member of the Oregon Cattleman's Association in Baker and later joined the Scottish Rite and Shriners. Bill moved with his family to

La Grande in May of 1980 after the sale of the North Powder ranch. He joined Cornett Real Estate in La Grande as a sales associate in 1981. Here he met his future wife, Marilee Clara Bradley and they married on February 18, 1984, in Boise, Idaho. Together they worked on a dairy farm in Marsing, Idaho, for a short time and eventually made their home in Nampa. Bill began working for the University of Idaho Caine Veterinarian Teaching Facility in Caldwell, Idaho, in 1984. He enjoyed working with the animals until his retirement in June 2002. Bill and

Marilee enjoyed woodworking crafts and attending craft shows to sell their products. They also enjoyed spending time with friends at the Eagles Lodge and were known to kick up their heels on the dance floor. They shared a love for the outdoors, camping, traveling and visiting family and they made many trips to visit their children, granddaughter, Breanna and

great-grandson, Ayden. In 2018 Bill was diagnosed with kidney failure and their traveling slowed down, but never his love for his family. Marilee was by his side every step of the way and she stated he was a great patient. He never complained about anything and always tried to stay upbeat and positive, even during hospitalizations and trying times. He will be missed by his family, friends and others who had the pleasure of knowing

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Marilee of Nampa; son, Jeffrey Davis of La Grande; granddaughter and great-grandson, Breanna and Ayden William Davis, both of Island City; former wife and friend, Sandra Davis of La Grande; sister, Jessie Lou Cox of Spokane; and nieces and nephews and their spouses Carol and Roger Hildebrandt, Scott and Tamara Myers, Michelle and Bruce Vinson, Kimber and Michael Haley and Kelly and Andrew Beavor.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Debra Kay Davis; parents, William and Vivian Davis; infant brother, Walter John Davis; sisters and their spouses Betty and Kenneth Myers and Jeannette and Robert Kellar; brother-in-law, Edward Lee Cox; nieces Cathy Peplinski and Lucinda Higley; and nephew, Martin Davis Myers.

Memorial contributions may be made to DaVita Nampa Dialysis Center, 846 Park Centre, Nampa, ID 83651.