

## COMMUNITY

## Meetings

• **UNION** — The Union City Council will meet Monday, April 12, at 6 p.m. for a work session followed by a regular session at 7 p.m. Both sessions will be at the Union City Hall, 342 S. Main St., Union. The council will discuss park lighting at the work session, and address the city's old ranger station at the regular meeting.

• **LA GRANDE** — The La Grande City Council and Planning Commission will meet for a joint work session on the city's housing needs and production strategy Monday, April 12, at 6 p.m. The public may view the live session at [www.facebook.com/CityofLaGrande](http://www.facebook.com/CityofLaGrande).

• **LA GRANDE** — The Union County chapter of Health Care for All Oregon will hold a virtual meeting via Zoom Tuesday, April 13, at 6 p.m. The agenda includes planning activities for the coming months: a book club, films, parades, the La Grande Farmers Market, and hosting Les Leopold in an online workshop. The meeting is open to the public. For access information, email [unioncounty@hcao.org](mailto:unioncounty@hcao.org) to attend.

• **LA GRANDE** — La Grande's Community Landscape and Forestry Commission meets Tuesday, April 13, and the La Grande Arts Commission meets Wednesday, April 14. Each commission will meet virtually at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. For access information, contact Stu Spence, Parks and Recreation director, at 541-962-1348 or [sspence@cityoflagrande.org](mailto:sspence@cityoflagrande.org).

• **LA GRANDE** — La Grande's Planning Commission will hold a regular session beginning at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 13, by electronic communications. The commission plans to hold a public hearing on an Airbnb conditional use permit. To view the meeting, go to [www.facebook.com/LaGrandeCityManager](http://www.facebook.com/LaGrandeCityManager). The public may submit comments or questions on the agenda by 5 p.m. on the date of the meeting by emailing [mboquist@cityoflagrande.org](mailto:mboquist@cityoflagrande.org).

## 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.

## APRIL 12-16

**Monday:** sausage and kraut hoagie, dill pickle, potato salad, apple pie.

**Tuesday:** mac and cheese (with or without ham), salad greens, fresh fruit slices, cobble.

**Wednesday:** fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, steamed vegetables, salad greens, cake.

**Thursday:** meatloaf, whipped potatoes, brown gravy, steamed cauliflower, salad greens, sliced fruit.

**Friday:** Swiss patties, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, steamed peas, salad greens, roll, dessert.

## Children's free takeout breakfast and lunch menu

Free breakfast and lunch for anyone age 18 and younger, available on days school is in session. Pick up 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at any La Grande elementary school. Fresh vegetables, seasonal fruit and 1% milk are offered daily. Meals are handed out at La Grande schools for on-campus students.

## APRIL 12-16

CENTRAL AND ISLAND CITY  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

**Monday:** BREAKFAST: strawberry-cream-cheese-filled bagel, fresh fruit; LUNCH: Italian meatball sub.

**Tuesday:** BREAKFAST: mini waffles, canned fruit; LUNCH: (Central) hamburger and golden French fries, (Island City) sloppy joe.

**Wednesday:** BREAKFAST: strawberry yogurt, graham crackers, orange juice; LUNCH: turkey deli sandwich, goldfish crackers.

**Thursday:** BREAKFAST: cinnamon rolls, canned fruit; LUNCH: chicken-bacon-ranch wrap.

**Friday:** BREAKFAST: blueberry muffin, cheese stick, orange juice; LUNCH: fish sticks, dinner roll.

GREENWOOD ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

**Monday:** BREAKFAST: pancake on a stick, fruit or juice; LUNCH: meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, dinner roll.

**Tuesday:** BREAKFAST: mini donut, cheese stick, fruit or juice; LUNCH: cheeseburger, tater tots.

**Wednesday:** BREAKFAST: mini pancakes, fruit or juice; LUNCH: biscuits and gravy, cheese stick.

**Thursday:** BREAKFAST: breakfast stacker sandwich, fruit or juice; LUNCH: deli sandwich, potato chips.

**Friday:** BREAKFAST: breakfast cereal bar, cheese stick, fruit or juice; LUNCH: pizza.

LA GRANDE HIGH AND  
MIDDLE SCHOOLS

**Monday:** BREAKFAST: toaster pastry, cheese stick, fresh fruit; LUNCH: meatballs and gravy, brown rice.

**Tuesday:** BREAKFAST: mini-cinnis, canned fruit; LUNCH: ham deli sandwich, kettle chips.

**Wednesday:** BREAKFAST: cereal bar, cheese stick, orange juice; LUNCH: chef salad, breadstick.

**Thursday:** BREAKFAST: ham-egg-cheese biscuit, canned fruit; LUNCH: chicken cordon bleu.

**Friday:** BREAKFAST: sausage-egg-cheese bagel, orange juice; LUNCH: hot dog, tater tots.

## Lottery

Go to [lagrandeobserver.com](http://lagrandeobserver.com) for lottery results.

## DELIVERY ISSUES?

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

## OBITUARIES

Joett L. (Oldham)  
Williams

1934-2021 • La Grande

Joett Lucille Williams, 87, of La Grande, died April 5 at Grande Ronde



Hospital. A graveside service will be held April 13 at 2 p.m. at the Island City Cemetery. Attendees must wear a mask and practice social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines.

Joett was born March 4, 1934, in Nocona, Texas, to Issac Claude and Allie Martha (Ritchey) Oldham. She resided in Texas, Medford, Joseph and La Grande. She spent her school years in Medford and graduated from Medford High School in 1951. She married Kenneth Earl Williams Aug. 22, 1952.

Joett was a homemaker, sold Avon for a short time, and cleaned many homes in the area. She participated in her church as a Bible school teacher and was involved with the Red Hat Society. She served as the Riveria PTA president and was a den mother for the Cub Scouts.

Joett's fondest memories were times spent with her sons, family and friends, and being a wife of 53 years. She enjoyed reading, gardening, traveling, camping and hunting for mushrooms. She loved Country Western, hymns and classical music. Her favorite was "Rock of Ages." She was proud to have received a Kiwanis Orchestra award.

Surviving relatives include her sons, Donald L. Williams of La Grande, Earl R. Williams of La Grande, and David G. Williams of Umatilla; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Earl Williams; parents, Claude and Allie Oldham; and sisters, Joy Erleen Schroeder and Allie Maxine Polina.

Online condolences can be made to Loveland Funeral Chapel at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com).

Gerald 'Jerry' A.  
Brookshire

1967-2021 • Formerly of Union County

Gerald "Jerry" Arthur Brookshire, 53, formerly of Union County, died March 9 at his home in Boise, Idaho, from kidney cancer. A celebration of his life will be held May 15 from 2-5 p.m. at the Riverside Hotel in Boise. A graveside service will begin at 2 p.m. May 17 at the Union Historic Cemetery, followed by a reception at the Catherine Creek Community Center, Union. Arrangements are by Bowman Funeral Directors, Garden City, Idaho.



Known as Jerry, he was born April 20, 1967, in Madras, to Paul and Mabel Brookshire. In 1969 his family moved to Union, where Jerry attended grade school and high school. He played football for Union High and also competed in basketball and track and was a member of the band. He graduated from Eastern Oregon University with a degree in business.

After graduation Jerry served as the executive director for the Blue Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He developed many lifelong friendships while serving in this capacity. Jerry also owned and operated a pizza franchise and an insurance agency, and he was active in the La Grande Rotary until his move to Boise in 2004.

Jerry built his life around his daughter, Sierra, wishing to provide her with life experiences and expose her to opportunities so she could have the adult life of her choosing. He took Sierra to her first street dance at age 2, taught her snow skiing in the winter and river rafting in the summer. At 16, when Sierra got her first car, he walked her through how to maintain it. Today, Sierra is an expert skier, accomplished dancer (enjoying swing dance), and is studying mechanical engineering at Utah State. Jerry was a proud papa.

Jerry met his life partner, Rhona Roberts, in 2012 skiing at Bogus Basin. In a very short time they both knew they wanted to

spend the rest of their lives together. Rhona felt blessed to not only have Jerry in her life, but also to have Sierra as a part of it, enjoying the opportunity to watch Sierra grow into a beautiful young woman.

Jerry lived his life with passion. He had an amazing energy and presence that was contagious. He could make people smile with his crazy sense of humor and positive outlook on life, no matter the circumstances.

Survivors include his mother, Mabel Brookshire; sister, Kathy Ganung; brothers, Walt Brookshire and Dennis Brookshire; daughter, Sierra Brookshire; and life partner, Rhona Roberts.

He was preceded in death by his father, Paul Brookshire.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.bowmanfuneral.com](http://www.bowmanfuneral.com).

Jerald 'Jerry' D.  
Rickman

1943-2021 • Union

Jerald "Jerry" Dean Rickman, 77, of Union, died April 4 at his residence. A service will be planned for this summer.



Known as Jerry, he was born Dec. 15, 1943, in Aurora, Missouri, to D.J. and Ruby (Davis) Rickman. He resided in several places in southwestern



Missouri; Page, Arizona; and various places in Eastern Oregon. He attended elementary school mostly in Missouri; high school in Halfway and in Page, Arizona; and college in Blythe, California.

Jerry married Gayle Bradford and enjoyed 52 years of marriage with her. He served in the U.S. Air Force, including two tours of duty in Vietnam.

Jerry was a ranch hand, worked for the Oregon Department of Transportation, worked for the Barry County, Missouri, Sheriff's Office, and was an owner/operator long-haul truck driver. He enjoyed riding and training quarter horses. He loved to calf rope and team rope and enjoyed

## Upcoming local services



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

**April 10 — DOUGLAS CARPER:** 2 p.m. graveside service, Cove Cemetery (view livestream at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com)).

**April 10 — BRUCE ARBOGAST:** 11 a.m. graveside service, Cove Cemetery; reception follows at Cove Sportsman Club.

**April 10 — VERLA HENRY:** 11 a.m. graveside service, Island City Cemetery.

**April 10 — ELIZABETH McCALLISTER:** 1 p.m. celebration of life, Grande Ronde Academy, 507 Palmer, La Grande.

**April 13 — DICK WHEELER:** 11:30 a.m. memorial service, Enterprise Seventh-day Adventist Church; private inurnment at Enterprise

Cemetery.

**April 13 — JOETT WILLIAMS:** 2 p.m. graveside service, Island City Cemetery.

**April 18 — LARRY ROBBINS:** virtual celebration of life; details TBA.

**April 24 — RICHARD BIDWELL:** 2 p.m. graveside service, Elgin Cemetery.

**April 24 — BECKY ROBERSON:** 2 p.m. celebration of life, Elgin Community Center.

**May 1 — MICHELLE SANDOVAL:** 10 a.m. celebration of life, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

**May 17 — JERRY BROOKSHIRE:** 2 p.m. graveside service, Union Historic Cemetery; reception follows at Catherine Creek Community Center, Union.

**June 26 — DAVID COUNCIL:** 1 p.m. celebration of life, North Powder City Park.

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

trading horses.

As a young man, Jerry loved to play basketball. He received many awards and was recognized as an outstanding basketball player in both high school and college. Later in life, he loved watching his daughter and granddaughters play basketball, volleyball and softball. He especially loved watching his daughter coach the girls high school basketball team for the past seven years. He was her biggest fan.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Gayle; son, Steven J. Rickman of Oregon; daughter and son-in-law, Rhondie R. and Corey Johansen of Oregon; brother, Larry Rickman of Missouri; brother and sister-in-law, Gary and Karla Rickman of Missouri; five grandchildren; and nine nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, D.J. and Ruby Rickman, and sister, Judy Lauderdale.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Bobcat Foundation Scholarship Program,

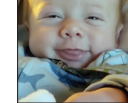
P.O. Box 91, Union 97883.

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

## Kaz E. Marsh

2020-2021 • Elgin

Kaz Eugene-Lester Marsh, 3 months, of Elgin, died March 31 at his residence.



Kaz was born Dec. 23, 2020, in La Grande,

to Andrew and Reanna (Duncan) Marsh. He enjoyed smiling, watching his brother, Trenton, play, talking to his mom and dad and being held by Jessie and Grandma.

Surviving relatives include his parents, Andrew and Reanna; brother, Trenton; aunt and uncle, Jessie Wise and Sam Wise; grandmother, Tenu Duncan; and grandfather, Rowdy Wise.

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

## Contest winner spots gags, and thus proves she was no fool

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Those researchers The Observer reported on in the News of the Weird feature on Thursday, April 1, sure seemed to be pushing the boundaries of reality. Several readers thought so as well and correctly identified "Research team reports breakthrough in turboencabulator, more" as the gag we ran for an April Fools' Day contest.

But Rebecca Wortman won the contest, having found six of the popular cultural references we built into the feature, the most of any entry.

The turboencabulator started in the 1940s as a jargon-filled joke among engineers, even showing up in some journals. The joke found its way onto faux training films in the 1970s and '80s and has more

recently appeared in modern video games.

We spiced up the joke with references to popular culture. Here they are, in the order they appear in the joke (we also note the ones Wortman spotted):

- **ARKHAM, Mass.** — Researchers at Miskatonic University in Arkham: Wortman named Miskatonic U as from the stories of the late H.P. Lovecraft, writer of cosmic horror. But Arkham also is a fabrication from Lovecraft.

- **Lee/Kirby transmission:** Wortman gets partial credit here for saying there was a connection to the TV series "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." Stan Lee and Jack Kirby indeed crafted characters that appeared in the series, but they are largely responsible for the creation of Marvel

Comics and its multitude of characters.

- **MacReady bearings:** Refers to R.J. MacReady, central protagonist in John Carpenter's "The Thing" (1982).

- **dilithium capacitive duratance:** Dilithium, as Wortman noted, is from Star Trek, and without it, the U.S.S. Enterprise would not be going boldly anywhere.

- **Initech interface:** Initech is the name of the company in the 1999 comedy "Office Space."

- **interocitor:** Alien technology from the 1949 story "The Alien Machine," which became the plot for the 1952 movie "This Island Earth."

- **Flux capacitor:** A device from the "Back to the Future" films, and which Wortman identified correctly.

- **Ian Donnelly:** Wortman

noted this is a character from the science fiction film "Arrival" (2016).

- **oscillation overthruster:** Another piece of sci-fi tech, this time from the 1984 movie "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension."

- **Wayland-Yutani Corporation:** Wortman also got this one; the big evil company in the Alien franchise. (Really, if Wayland-Yutani is backing the research, it's a red flag.)

Wortman will receive a \$20 gift certificate to the local restaurant of her choice. We want to thank her and others who participated.

"This was FUN!" Wortman said in her message to The Observer.

If you have suggestions for these or other kinds of activities you would like to see in The Observer, email us at [news@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:news@lagrandeobserver.com).

## Norman Nathan Werst

December 20, 1923 – March 28, 2021

With heavy hearts, the family of Norman Nathan Werst learned their beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather had passed away on Sunday, March 28th, 2021 in Enterprise, Oregon. He was 97 years old.

Norman was born on December 20th, 1923 at the home ranch in Wallowa, Oregon. He was the youngest of four children born to George F. Werst and Elma Greenwood. He was a brother to Vern Werst, Juanita Silver, and Raymond Werst.

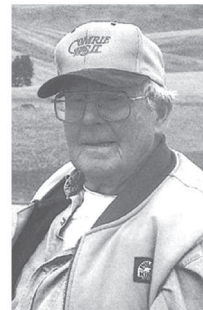
Norman graduated from Wallowa High School in 1942. After graduation, he started working with his father on the home ranch. He was deferred from the army to stay on the farm as the Wersts already had a son in the service. On June 20, 1943 he married the love of his life, Amy Lou Brätt. Together, they led a life of milking cows, raising hogs, running a dairy, and raising beef. When they retired in 1993, Norman and Amy Lou traveled in the United States, Australia, and Europe.

During his life, Norman belonged to the Elks, the Eagles, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was on the Planning Commission, Production Credit Association, Wallowa Cemetery Board, and was recognized as Cattleman of the Year.

Norman is survived by his wife of 77 years; son Mark and wife Connie, grandsons Ray and Ty; son Kevin and wife Kim, granddaughter Haley; sister in law LaVerne Werst; two great grandsons, one great granddaughter, and many more nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Norman is preceded in death by his siblings, his baby son Timothy Patrick and grandson Jason Werst.

The Werst family may hold a memorial at a later date.



Many people have been asking us??  
Can we move our pre-arranged funeral plan to your funeral home?

**YOU CAN!** And it is easy. Loveland Funeral Chapel accepts and honors almost all pre-arranged funeral plans from other funeral chapels. We understand that changes occur and you can easily transfer your plan to Loveland Funeral Chapel. These transfers can take place ahead of time or even when someone passes away.

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