OMMUNITY

### Meetings

• LA GRANDE — The La Grande School District updated its agenda for a special board meeting and work session at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 28. The meeting will in the Central Elementary School's library, 701 H Ave., and is open to the public online and by phone. Access instructions are available at www.lagrandesd.org. To access the updated agenda, the link to the meeting or sign up to speak, contact Gaye Young at 541-663-3202 or gaye.young@lagrandesd.org.

### **Briefs** 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, May 5, from 6-9 p.m. The free workshop will be via Zoom, facilitated by Mary Lu Pierce and sponsored by the Union County Family Law Advisory Committee. Class size is limited and preregistration 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.

#### MedQuest camp application deadline is May 17

LA GRANDE — Do you dream of being a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, dentist, physician assistant, radiology tech, dental hygienist or other health care provider?

MedQuest, an immersive fourday camp designed to expose high school students to the vast array of career options in health care, will be held virtually June 14-17. The Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center, La Grande, puts on the event.

Applicants must be Oregon students in grades 9-12. The cost for the week is \$50; scholarships are available. After registration, students will receive supplies to engage with the content of the virtual camp, including stethoscope and splinting materials

The application deadline is March 14. To register or for more information call 541-962-3422 or visit www. neoahec.org/programs/medguest. The website also provides access to a promo video for this year's MedQuest.

### Lottery

Megabucks: \$1.7 million 1-4-10-22-37-44 Powerball: \$90 million 21-25-32-63-67 — PB 6 x2 Mega Millions: \$257 million 6-23-43-49-52 — MB 5 x3 Win for Life: April 21 39-60-64-69

#### Pick 4: April 22 • 1 p.m.: 5-1-4-7

- 4 p.m.: 1-4-1-3 • 7 p.m.: 9-9-1-0
- 10 p.m.: 2-7-8-1 Pick 4: April 21
- 1 p.m.: 6-6-9-3 • 4 p.m.: 8-3-4-3
- 7 p.m.: 4-0-4-2
- 10 p.m.: 2-6-3-8

## **DELIVERY ISSUES?**

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

## Sam H. Clack

1938-2021 • Formerly of Union Sam Henry Clack, 82, formerly of Union, died April 16 in the Philippines. A service was held April 21 in the Philippines.



Sam was born May 15, 1938, in Ontario, to Orville and Bluebell Clack. He joined two sisters and one brother. Sam graduated from Union High School and

then went on to attend what is now Eastern Oregon University, where he played on the college football team.

Sam served a tour of duty in the U.S. Army. He married Karen Miller of Union, and they had a son, Craig.

Sam was an excellent cook. He owned and managed restaurants in Oregon, in Guam, where he lived for many years, and then in Saipan. In Saipan, he met Margie, and they were married July 17, 1993. He gained a bonus daughter, Hannah.

In his younger days, Sam loved to fly fish. He attended several class reunions and maintained many friendships with old schoolmates. He will be missed by many.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Margie; son, Craig of Union; daughter, Hannah; and two grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings.

Memorial donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

### Sally M. (Bolster) Staples

1941-2021 • La Grande

Sally Marie Staples, 79, of La Grande, died April 21 at a local care facility. Per her request there will not be a service.

Sally was born Dec. 18, 1941, in Los Angeles, California, to Keith and Dorothy (Omar) Bolster. She resided in California, Indiana, Japan and Oregon. She graduated from Palmdale High School. On June 12, 1960, Sally married William "Bill" Staples.

Sally earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the Oregon Institute of Technology and was employed as a nurse. She enjoyed playing bingo, bowling, fishing,

# **O**BITUARIES

**RECORDS AND MORE** 

time on the Oregon Coast

and at Phillips Reservoir

near Sumpter for many

years. Donald preceded

Nancy in death on June 3,

moved to La Grande to be

crossword puzzles and

near family.

for any reason.

2017. After his death, Nancy

Nancy enjoyed working

sketching. She loved it when

all of her family was able to

get together for holidays, or

Surviving relatives

include her sons and their

Biechler of La Grande

and Scott and Melanie

Biechler of Baker City;

great-grandchildren.

death by her siblings,

Winnie (Roe).

of your choice.

La Grande

La Grande

La Grande.

La Grande

La Grande

Richard Nelson

Carole Halvorson

four grandchildren; and 13

She was preceded in

Richard, Sonny, Carole and

may be made to the Blue

Mountain Humane Associ-

ation, 3212 Highway 30, La

Grande 97850, or a charity

Carole Halvorson, 77, of

La Grande, died April 23 at

her home. Arrangements are

by Daniels-Knopp Funeral,

Cremation & Life Celebra-

Teresa Lin (Bozarth)

DiFalco, 52, of La Grande,

dence St. Vincent Hospital

in Portland. Arrangements

Richard Nelson, 63, of La

Grande, died April 20 at a

local care facility. Arrange-

Funeral Chapel & Crema-

Meri L. Olmstead, 75, of

La Grande, died March 7 at

her home. A memorial ser-

vice will be held June 27 at

1 p.m. in the Riverside Park

ments are by Loveland

tory, La Grande.

Meri L. Olmstead

Pavilion, La Grande.

are by Loveland Funeral

Chapel and Crematory,

died April 21 at Provi-

tion Center, La Grande.

Teresa L. DiFalco

Memorial contributions

wives, Bradley and Sharon

camping and many other outdoor activities. She loved watching her favorite baseball team, the Seattle Mariners.

Surviving relatives include her husband of 60 years, Bill Staples of La Grande; son, Dan Staples of Tennessee; daughter, Kandy Staples of Junction City; daughter and son-in-law, Leigh and Kevin Bednar of Wallowa; brothers, Mike Bolster of Maryland and Alan Bolster of Washington; sister and brother-in-law, Mickie and Mike Peavy of Gulf Breeze, Florida; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and 12 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Keith and Dorothy Bolster; brother, Pat Bolster; and sister, Joan Bolster.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www. stjude.org/donate.

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

#### Nancy L. (Wyrick) Biechler

1932-2021 • La Grande Nancy Lee Biechler, 88, of La Grande, died April 20 at her home. At her request there will not be a public service. Arrange-



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

Nancy was born June 13, 1932, in St. Joseph, Missouri, to Paul and Phoebe Pauline (Feurte) Wyrick. She graduated from Benton High School. Later, she took training to become a legal secretary.

On Nov. 14, 1953, Nancy married Donald John Biechler in St. Joseph. They moved to Pendleton from Missouri in August 1964, and in 1967 they moved to Ontario, where Nancy worked as a legal secretary until her retirement. She wrote a book for aspiring legal secretaries.

After retiring, Nancy worked with the Council for the Aging and helped at the local hospital. She served on the Ontario City Council for 10 years and was also involved with the League of Oregon Cities.

Nancy and Donald enjoyed traveling in their travel trailer. They spent

## **Upcoming local services**



FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY

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

April 24 — IVY **READ:** noon graveside service, Grandview Cemetery, La Grande (join livestream via Zoom at https://us04web.zoom.us/ j/8403266406?pwd=em-NOK111RTFncU1OYz-B1R2ZHT09vUT09; meeting ID is 8403266406); reception follows at 1:30 p.m., Birnie Park, La Grande.

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

April 24 — LARRY KEFFER: 2 p.m. graveside service, Grandview Cemetery, La Grande; casual dress preferred.

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

April 29-30 — **ROBERT STALEY:** 10 a.m. April 29 Recitation of the Rosary and 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial, Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, La Grande;

2 p.m. April 30 graveside service, Juniper Haven Cemetery, Prineville. May 1 — MICHELLE SAN-

DOVAL: 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.

June 27 — MERI OLMSTEAD: 1 p.m. memorial service, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

- calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

#### **Steven Noble Bloyed** September 11, 1947 - April 15, 2021

Steven Noble Bloyed, 73, was born September 11, 1947 in Pacific Grove, CA, to Dale Eugene and Dorothy Juanita (Noble) Bloyed. On April 15, 2021 we let him go with love in our hearts on to his new peaceful journey. As



he prepared for that journey, he was surrounded by his family in the loving, calming environment of his home. Having lived in many places during his lifetime, he considered La Grande his true home. He is survived by Carolyn Bloyed, his wife of 45 years; daughter Tracey Koehler and her family; Charlie, Lavendar, Salix and Iris; son Morgan Bloyed of Portland, OR; sister Esther Sheasly of Gresham, OR; and two brothers in Spokane, WA. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers. Following his wishes, there will be no service. Steve was always quick to lend a helping hand so the family requests that you do an act of kindness for someone in his memory.

### **Robert James Staley** July 6, 1927 - April 10, 2021

Robert James Staley was born on July 6, 1927, in the family home on North Main Street in Prineville, Oregon, to Ed and Josephine (Bastonero) Staley. In 1932, they moved to their house on the Ochoco where his father owned a cinnabar mine. Living on the Ochoco was an idyllic time for Robert and his siblings. They had freedom to roam the valley and hills and had endless outdoor adventures.

When his two older siblings started attending the Howard School, Robert, the oldest of the "little kids", hatched a plan to make a surprise

visit to Vern and Pearl, "the big kids," at the Howard School, over a mile away. Robert, 5, and Ed Jr, 4, holding Betty, age 2, between them walked over the hills to the Howard School, not taking the road to avoid detection. They were surprised that they were not greeted with fanfare but told to get back home. They returned by the road, deflated, their adventure over. Vern recalls always seeing these three tow-headed little kids playing together on the Ochoco.

Robert attended the Howard School where one of his teachers recognized and encouraged his artistic talents. At an early age he showed great interest in machines, especially cars. He always identified friends and acquaintances with the make, model, year and color of their cars. In 1938, the family moved back to the family home in Prineville. Robert's maternal grandparents, Fred and Catherine Bastonero, homesteaded near Bear Creek Buttes. Visits to their homestead were epic journeys which involved driving cross country over rugged terrain of lava rock, dodging sage brush and juniper trees, kids getting car sick, and Father Ed changing flat tires. Grandpa Bastonero roasted peanuts for the kids and they made ice cream. Grandma Catherine made chicken dinners and ravioli. Ed Staley then had to make the wild drive back to town in time to milk the cow.

Robert completed grade school in Prineville and then graduated from Crook County High School in 1945. He entered the Navy in July 1945 and served on a ship in the Pacific which ran supplies to Japan and the Philippines. Later, he stationed at Treasure Island and became well acquainted with the Bay Area as he was the boss's driver. After the Navy, he returned home to Prineville and worked as the power plant operator at the Alexander-Yawkey mill. He married Beverly Violet DeSelm on June 30, 1951 in Prineville.

Robert and Beverly lived next door to both sets of in-laws in Prineville. To this union were born 4 sons; Steven, Ryan, Paul and Bruce. Beverly died from post-partum complications on Nov 12, 1958. Ed and Josephine raised Bruce for the first year, while Beverly's mother, Eva Swonger, helped care for the 3 older boys.

Robert then married Janet Ruth Reimer on December 4, 1959 in Redmond, Oregon. She had one daughter Sandra, who lost her father in an accident. After marrying Janet, Robert had the opportunity to move to La Grande and to be the Service Manager at Hand Ford

car dealership. In May of 1961 they had a daughter, named Donna to finish out their family. In 1963 they opened the new Shell Oil gas station on Adams Avenue. He ran the station for 14 years before selling and going to work for Blue Mountain Auto Parts running the automotive machine shop. He retired in 1990 so he would have time to work on his street rods and hunt elk. He and his cars were featured in "Street Rod" and "Hot Rod" magazines several times. Over the years he won many awards for his cars in multiple car

shows and loved to participate in parades. When Janet retired the two started traveling. They visited Italy, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Thailand, China, England, Ireland, Scotland, London, Wales and Turkey.

They had many stories to tell from their travels. Robert also enjoyed big game hunting and shot many trophy elk that were displayed for years at Blue Mountain Auto Parts. He hunted with his daughter Donna in the Minam Wilderness area. The two also participated in Jeep racing and belonged to the Forest Rovers Jeep club. Robert quit racing when Donna moved to Colorado but continued to hunt elk in Idaho for many years with his beloved Barbie horse and his mules.

When his family was young, he was a 4-H leader for an automotive club. He passed down his passion for restoring and building street rods and many of those boys have continued to enjoy his passion throughout their lives.

Robert had two silent heart attacks in September 2019. He wasn't expected to live at first. When he was discharged to home, they said they hoped he could possibly live a month. Robert was not done with his cars and continued to work limited time on cars and participated in some local parades in his street rods. In the last hours of his life he was dreaming of working on cars and spoke in his sleep of carburetors and manifolds when he passed peacefully away at his residence on Buchanan Lane where he had lived and raised his family for 61 years. Although we fully expect him to come home if he can't find the Republican party where he ends up.

Survivors include his brother Vernon; sister Betty; children; Steve, Ryan and Rose, Paul and Kathleen, Sandra and Jim, Bruce and Tammy, Donna and Kim; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren; and his good friend Ben whom he thought of like a son.

He was preceded in death by his Father John "Ed"; Mother Josephine; baby sister Josephine; sister Pearl and brother Edward.

Services open to the public April 29, 2021 at 10:00 AM at the Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, 1002 L Avenue, La Grande, Oregon 97850. Please send no flowers. Donations in Robert's name can be made to the Blue Mt. Humane Society. Graveside services in Prineville Cemetery April 30, 2021 at 2:00 PM.

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

# Public Safety Report

## **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**

6:10 a.m. — A person waved down a La Grande police officer on the 2700 block of Bearco Loop to report a suspicious person. The officer determined the person was a resident.

11:59 a.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about a theft on the 1100 block of Frontier Court.

12:08 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 800 block of Spring Avenue on a report of a domestic disturbance. Police arrested Christina Marie Shelley, 32, of La Grande, for domestic violence assault.

3:48 p.m. — La Grande police received a request for assistance regarding stalking.

4:53 p.m. — A caller

**Union County Senior Center** 

Pick up 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at

1504 N. Albany St., La Grande. For de-

Age 60+, \$3 suggested donation; all

others, \$5. Public is welcome.

greens, chili, fresh fruit slices.

medley, bread, fruit, dessert.

greens, melon, sherbet.

and lunch menu

**APRIL 26-30** 

fruit, brownie.

livery, call 541-963-7532 before 10 a.m.

Monday: bacon cheeseburger, fries,

Tuesday: baked potato bar, salad

Wednesday: chicken pot pie, salad

Thursday: split-pea soup, salad

Friday: Reuben sandwich, potato

salad, fresh fruit, dill pickles, cookie.

Children's free takeout breakfast

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

Free breakfast and lunch for anyone

takeout lunch menu

reported the theft of a vehicle from the 1300 block of Cherry Street, La Grande.

6:20 p.m. — A caller reported someone threatened an employee at the mill in Elgin. A Union County sheriff's deputy arranged for extra patrols.

## **THURSDAY, APRIL 22**

10:29 a.m. — Emergency services responded to the 1900 block of Y Avenue, La Grande, for a traffic crash with reports of an injury.

1 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office on the 2200 block of Island Avenue, La Grande, arrested Michael Lance Bouska, 31, of La Grande, on five Union County warrants for failure to

appear in cases including misdemeanor theft and trespass and felonies of forgery.

4:19 p.m. — A caller reported an attempted burglary in progress at Woodruff's Custom Furniture & Cabinetry, 2407 E. Q Ave., La Grande. Local law enforcement responded,

but no suspect was at the

scene.

4:50 p.m. — The La Grande Police Department on the 2200 block of Adams Avenue arrested Levi Westley Albert Fine, 26, no fixed address, on four warrants, including hit-and-run, a probation violation stemming from an assault charge, aggravated assault with a weapon and burglary.

## MENUS

and 1% milk are offered daily. To-go meals are handed out at La Grande schools to on-campus students.

#### **APRIL 26-30 Central and Island City Elementary schools**

Monday: BREAKFAST: toaster pastry, cheese stick, fresh fruit; LUNCH: hot dog, goldfish crackers, veggies, fruit.

Tuesday: BREAKFAST: French toast, fruit; LUNCH: popcorn chicken, roll, veggies, fruit.

Wednesday: BREAKFAST: mini-cinnis, apple juice; LUNCH: ham deli sandwich, broccoli salad, veggies, fruit. Thursday: BREAKFAST: fruit-grano-

la yogurt parfait, canned fruit; LUNCH: chicken Caesar wrap, veggies, fruit. Friday: BREAKFAST: cocoa cereal bar, fruit; LUNCH: taco, veggies, fruit. **Greenwood Elementary School** 

Monday: BREAKFAST: mini-cinnis, veggies, fruit or juice; LUNCH: ravioli with meat sauce, breadstick, veggies, fruit. Tuesday: BREAKFAST: bread, cheese stick, fruit or juice; LUNCH: fish and

cheese sandwich, coleslaw, veggies, fruit.

Wednesday: BREAKFAST: French toast, fruit or juice; LUNCH: chicken

cheese bagel, fruit or juice; LUNCH: beef chili, cinnamon roll, veggies, fruit. Friday: BREAKFAST: cocoa cereal

deli sandwich, veggies, fruit. La Grande High and Middle schools

fresh fruit; LUNCH: popcorn chicken, dinner roll, veggies, fruit.

Wednesday: BREAKFAST: breakfast muffin, cheese stick, apple juice; LUNCH: BBQ meatball sub, broccoli salad,

cheese stick, canned fruit; LUNCH: pizza, veggies, fruit. Friday: BREAKFAST: oatmeal chocolate chip breakfast bar, fresh fruit;

Caesar wrap, veggies, fruit. Thursday: BREAKFAST: ham and

bar, cheese stick, fruit or juice; LUNCH: Monday: BREAKFAST: mini waffles,

Tuesday: BREAKFAST: pancake on a stick, canned fruit; LUNCH: turkey deli sandwich, veggies, fruit.

Thursday: BREAKFAST: mini donut,

LUNCH: chicken Caesar salad, rip-stick breadstick, veggies, fruit.