

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• UNION — The Union City Council will meet Monday, May 10, for a work session will start at 6 p.m. and a regular meeting at 7 p.m., both at Union City Hall. The council will discuss the city's old ranger station buildings at the work session and council meeting.

• LA GRANDE — The Union Soil and Water Conservation District will hold its monthly board meeting Wednesday, May 12, at 7 p.m. via phone. Go to www.unionswcd.org for call-in details. The commission will discuss financial statements, staff reports and partner agency reports.

• LA GRANDE — The La Grande City Council and Urban Renewal District budget committees will hold public meetings beginning at 6 p.m. Monday, May 10. The public can view the meeting on Charter Communications channel 180 or via the La Grande Alive website.

The fiscal year 2021-22 budget meetings will continue Tuesday and thereafter as needed. For access to the agendas go to www.cityoflagrande.org, call 541-962-1309 or email krock@cityoflagrande.org.

• LA GRANDE — The Union County chapter of Health Care for All Oregon will meet virtually via Zoom at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 11. The agenda includes questions for Rep. Bobby Levy and Sen. Bill Hansell as well as continued planning for upcoming events. Contact unioncounty@hcao.org for access information.

Births

GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL

ESCAMILLA: Matias Escamilla, April 28, 2021, son of Myra Marie Escamilla Correa and Arturo B. Escamilla of La Grande. Grandparents are Raul and Maria Correa.

FERGUSON: Latonia Ferguson, April 27, 2021, daughter of Latabria Ferguson and Michael Ferguson of La Grande.

GUTHRIE: Walker Ray Guthrie, April 27, 2021, son of Mackenzie Lynn Moore and Kaleb Shane Guthrie of La Grande. Grandparents are Christine Moore and Ray Moore.

McNAIR: Clara Jean Enter McNair, April 28, 2021, daughter of Krystal Ann Enter and Michael Robert McNair of La Grande. Grandfather is Ron Hogue.

RASMUSSEN: Kaladin Michael Rasmussen, April 28, 2021, son of Tayllar Jade Rasmussen and Chad Michael Rasmussen of La Grande. Grandparents are Kevin Rasmussen, Christine Rasmussen, Steve Jones and Lani Jones.

RAY-GONZALEZ: Esperanza Luna Ray-Gonzalez, April 27, 2021, daughter of Kristina Gonzalez and Jordan Ray of La Grande. Grandparents are Lisa Tucker, Gordon Ray, Jeanette Thompson and Antonio Gonzalez.

Bob W. Gregory

1929-2021 • La Grande

Bob W. Gregory, 92, of La Grande, died May 1, 2021, at his residence. A graveside service will be held May 7 at 2 p.m. at Grandview Cemetery, La Grande. Attendees must wear masks and practice social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines. The graveside service will be streamed



live for those who cannot attend; go to www.love-landfuneralchapel.com and click on the "Funeral Videos" button near the bottom of the home page just before 2 p.m.

Bob was born Jan. 19, 1929, in Marysville, California, to Thomas and Sylvia (Lewis) Gregory. He resided in San Diego and San Francisco, California, and in Corvallis, Molalla and La Grande. He served in the U.S. Navy on the USS Bon Homme Richard and the USS Ozbourn.

Bob attended what is now Eastern Oregon University, Oregon State University and Washington State University. He married Helen Elizabeth McDonald.

Bob was employed with La Grande High School as a math and computer teacher. He later was a math professor at Eastern Oregon University. He is honored in the La Grande High School Hall of Fame and was a two-time Elk of the Year.

Bob enjoyed reading, traveling, puzzles, music and spending time with family. He was a member of the La Grande Elks Lodge, Lions and Phi Beta Kappa.

Surviving relatives include his son, Michael Gregory and wife, Sally, of La Grande; daughter, Cheryl Gregory-Miles and husband, Ron, of La

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Grande; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild on the way.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen; parents, Theo and Sylvia; and brother, Lynn Gregory.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Make-a-Wish Oregon, 5901 S. Macadam Ave., Suite 200, Portland 97239 or the OHSU Casey Eye Institute, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland 97239-3098.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.love-landfuneral-chapel.com.

Cecil L. Smith

1929-2021 • Formerly of Union

Cecil Lyle Smith, 91, of Florence and formerly of Union, died Jan. 2, 2021. A graveside service will be held May 15 at 10 a.m. at the Union Cemetery. The family prefers casual dress attire.



Attendees must wear masks and practice social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines.

Cecil was born May 2, 1929, in Baker, to Kenny and Ella (Walker) Smith. He had five brothers — Glenn, Nevil, Orley, Marvin and Ken — and one sister, Merle. Cecil graduated from Union High School in 1947. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War as an infantryman.

On June 29, 1963, Cecil married Adeline May Huffman. She had three children from her prior marriage: Robert, Stanley and Corena. Cecil and Adeline had two children together: Carrie and Glen.

Cecil worked for the Oregon State Highway from 1949-1955, Valley Sausage Co. from 1955-1972 and Eastern Oregon Meat from 1972-1989. He also

had rental houses and ran a small convenience store in Union for many years. Cecil lived the majority of his life in Union, but after retirement he lived for a number of years in Clarkston, Washington, in Twin Falls, Idaho, and in Florence.

Cecil and Adeline enjoyed traveling in their RV and wintering in Arizona in their retirement. He also enjoyed gardening, fishing, woodcarving and spending time with family. Cecil had a big sense of humor and a wonderful laugh. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 4060, Union.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.love-landfuneral-chapel.com.

Theresa M. Hansen

1962-2021 • La Grande

Theresa Marie Hansen, 58, of La Grande, died April 7, 2021, at her residence. A celebration of her life will be held this summer.

Theresa was born Aug. 27, 1962 in Portland, to Howard and Barbara (Nielsen) Hansen. She resided in Philomath, Alaska and La Grande. Her marriage to Lenny Weber ended in divorce.

Theresa worked for Grande Ronde Retirement Residence, Dr. Holecek and New Holland Equipment. She enjoyed hiking, hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities, and she enjoyed her dogs. As her family and longtime friend Debra Keyser will attest, Theresa had a big heart and was willing to do anything for the people she loved.

Surviving relatives include her brother, Mant Hansen of Grants Pass.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Barbara Hansen; brother,

Jerry Hansen; uncle, Frank Nielson; and aunt, Maggie Nielsen.

Upcoming local services



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

May 8 — DONNA DOUD: 11 a.m. graveside service, Summerville Cemetery.

May 14 — CATHERINE LINDSEY: 10 a.m. funeral service, La Grande Calvary Chapel.

May 14 — RITA HALLGARTH: 2 p.m. graveside service, Elgin Cemetery.

May 15 — CECIL SMITH: 10 a.m. graveside service, Union Cemetery (casual dress preferred).

May 15 — KAREN BROOKS: 11 a.m. memorial service, 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.

May 22 — BRUCE HILDE: noon memorial service, Skyview Cemetery, between Pendleton and Pilot Rock; celebration of life lunch follows (RSVP by May 8 by emailing BruceHildeMemorial@gmail.com).

May 23 — CECILE DeFRIES: 2 p.m. celebration of life, Union High School football field (casual dress preferred).

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

June 26 — SALLY TOUCHE-MOSER: 1-3 p.m. celebration of life open house, 404 Depot St., Enterprise.

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

— calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

Jerry Hansen; uncle, Frank Nielson; and aunt, Maggie Nielsen.

Ray D. Stinnett

La Grande

Ray D. Stinnett, 87, of La Grande, died May 5, 2021, at his home. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Susan Cook

Formerly of La Grande

Susan Cook, 68, of Milton-Freewater and formerly of La Grande, died May 7, 2021, at Providence St. Mary Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington. Arrangements are by Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home, Milton-Freewater.

Catherine D. Lindsey

La Grande

Catherine D. Lindsey,

73, of La Grande, died May 4, 2021, at her residence. A funeral service will be held May 14 at 10 a.m. at the La Grande Calvary Chapel. Attendees must wear masks and practice social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Rita M. Hallgarth

Elgin

Rita M. Hallgarth, 94, of Elgin, died May 1, 2021, at St. Luke's Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. A graveside service will be held May 14 at 2 p.m. at the Elgin Cemetery. Attendees must wear masks and practice social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

9:18 a.m. — An Elgin resident asked to speak to a Union County sheriff's deputy about telephonic harassment.

11:07 a.m. — La Grande police received a report about a dog bite on the 2500 block of Spruce Street.

11:53 a.m. — La Grande police and medical services responded to Seventh Street and N Avenue for a traffic crash involving injuries.

4:19 p.m. — La Grande police responded to Jakob

Avenue on a report of indecent exposure at a loud party.

11:33 p.m. — A caller reported an intoxicated driver on the 200 block of Depot Street, La Grande.

THURSDAY, MAY 6

6:52 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of stalking from the 73200 block of Kingsbury Lane, Elgin

11:29 a.m. — An Elgin resident on the 700 block of North 14th Avenue asked

for assistance regarding telephonic harassment.

3:26 p.m. — Union County sheriff's deputies responded to Buchanan Lane and McAlister Road, La Grande, on a report of a domestic disturbance.

4:38 p.m. — La Grande police and medical responded to Jefferson Avenue and Chestnut Street for a pedestrian hit by a vehicle.

5:16 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the area of Third Street and Rapid Run Loop for a trespasser.

ONLINE: For more news and records, to go www.lagrandeobserver.com.

Melvin Beeson

August 30, 1937 - April 15, 2021

Melvin was born in Island City, Oregon to Thomas and Mae Beeson. He and his twin brother Marvin were the fifth and sixth of seven siblings. Melvin and Marvin were instant companions and often referred to as simply "the twins." Melvin and his siblings were raised in a small rural town by their mother who was widowed while Melvin was still young. Although his family rarely had much money, he never complained of lacking in his childhood. His mother left an indelible example of honesty and hard work, which he carried with him into fatherhood. The memories he shared of his childhood were of adventures with family pets, interesting neighborhood characters, and playing jokes on siblings. Regardless of its small size, their family house was often full of family and friends, leaving wonderful memories and also building strong character traits such as determination, loyalty, and humility.

After graduating from La Grande High School in La Grande, Oregon, Melvin attended the University of Oregon. College was written into his future for as long as he could remember, his mom always saying "when you go to college..." He and his twin brother both decided to study geology, an interest spawned by their oldest brother who left his geology books from college laying around the house. It was while in college that he met his wife Kay and earned his Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Geology. Melvin and Kay married in September of 1958 and remained married for 62 years. A fact he was proud to share with others. He and Kay moved around while each continued to further their education. He finally settled in California where he obtained his PhD in Geology from the University of California at Santa Cruz and started working for the United States Geological Survey in Menlo Park, California — a position he loved and held for approximately 30 years.

As a volcanologist, he made many trips to the Hawaiian islands to remote places that vacationers never see, including extensive work on the island of Molokai. After retirement from the USGS, he established a new career in his second love: computers. In his tongue and cheek way, his business card read "I am IT"

Melvin and Kay settled into Newark, California in 1975 where they raised their two children. He took pride in their home and neighbors often commented on his beautiful yard. He was an avid gardener, which was a skill he learned in his youth working in the family garden and various



local orchards. He often had an abundance of fruit and vegetables which he donated to co-workers, neighbors, and the local senior center. Melvin is remembered as a hands-on dad coaching soccer, leading Awana at church, attending childhood performances, and encouraging his children in their endeavors. If you were a friend to his child, you were also treated as family. Melvin's family motto was "we do it together" even under the protest of his children at times.

Melvin was a good listener and loved to be quick with a witty comment, these traits allowed him to get along with everyone. He had a steel trap memory for childhood radio shows, songs, comic bits, and random trivia he would use to entertain and bring a smile to others. He loved singing silly songs, using goofy puns and telling corny jokes. In retirement he enjoyed swimming and working with other retired geologists through the USGS Emeritus program. Once he "fully" retired, he worked diligently to organize and catalog his sample rocks which are now housed at the Smithsonian. But what he loved more than anything was talking about and spending time with his grandchildren. Before he passed, he was beginning to share his love of gardening with his grandchildren, who often ran out to the garden first thing when arriving at grandpa's house.

He is survived by his wife Naomi Kay Beeson of Modesto, California; his sister Junella Johnson of Missoula, Montana; his children Jared Beeson of Modesto, California and Carrie Diamond of Murphys, California; and his grandchildren Alexander and Taylor Beeson of Modesto, California and David and Luke Diamond of Murphys, California.

He will be greatly missed. Celebration of life TBA at Island City Cemetery this summer.

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.

May 10-14

Monday: chicken Alfredo, breadsticks, Caesar salad, fresh fruit.

Tuesday: Reuben sandwich, potato salad, fresh fruit, dessert.

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

Thursday: pizza, garden salads, fruit, cookie.

Friday: chicken and mushroom crepes, spinach salad, fruit, sherbet.

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. To-go meals are handed out at La Grande schools to on-campus students.

May 10-14

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Monday: BREAKFAST: bagel, fresh fruit; LUNCH: crispy chicken sub, veggies, fruit.

Tuesday: BREAKFAST: mini waffles, cheese stick, canned fruit; LUNCH:

chicken tacos, veggies, fruit.

Wednesday: BREAKFAST: strawberry yogurt, graham crackers, orange juice; LUNCH: BBQ rib sandwich, veggies, fruit.

Thursday: BREAKFAST: strawberry toaster pastry, cheese stick, fruit; LUNCH: crispy chicken sandwich, veggies, fruit.

Friday: BREAKFAST: apple strudel, orange juice; LUNCH: corn dog, chips, veggies, fruit.

GREENWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Monday: BREAKFAST: bagel, fruit; LUNCH: BBQ rib sandwich, veggies, fruit.

Tuesday: BREAKFAST: mini waffles, cheese stick, canned fruit; LUNCH: cheeseburger, chips, veggies, fruit.

Wednesday: BREAKFAST: cereal bar, cheese stick, orange juice; LUNCH: ham sub sandwich, goldfish crackers, veggies, fruit.

Thursday: BREAKFAST: mini pancakes, canned fruit; LUNCH: biscuits and gravy, cheese stick, veggies, fruit.

Friday: BREAKFAST: oatmeal chocolate chip breakfast bar, orange juice; LUNCH: pizza, veggies, fruit.

ISLAND CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Monday: BREAKFAST: yogurt parfait with fruit and granola, fresh fruit;

LUNCH: meatball sub, veggies, fruit.

Tuesday: BREAKFAST: cereal bar, cheese stick, canned fruit; LUNCH: crispy chicken sub, veggies, fruit.

Wednesday: BREAKFAST: apple strudel, orange juice; LUNCH: ravioli with meat sauce, breadstick, veggies, fruit.

Thursday: BREAKFAST: cocoa cereal bar, canned fruit; LUNCH: taco, veggies, fruit.

Friday: BREAKFAST: cinnamon roll, orange juice; LUNCH: corn dog, tater tots, veggies, fruit.

LA GRANDE HIGH AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Monday: BREAKFAST: sausage breakfast biscuit, fresh fruit; LUNCH: ham deli sandwich, veggies, fruit.

Tuesday: BREAKFAST: bagel, canned fruit; LUNCH: crispy chicken tenders, whole-grain dinner roll, veggies, fruit.

Wednesday: BREAKFAST: mini pancakes, orange juice; LUNCH: turkey deli sandwich, chips, veggies, fruit.

Thursday: BREAKFAST: long john, canned fruit; LUNCH: fish sandwich with cheese, French fries, veggies, fruit.

Friday: BREAKFAST: mini French toast, orange juice; LUNCH: ham deli sandwich, kettle chips, veggies, fruit.

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— Center for Responsive Politics

HealthCare for All Oregon — Union County
[See UnionCountyHealth.org](http://SeeUnionCountyHealth.org) for info