

COMMUNITY

Meetings

IMBLER — The Imbler School District Board of Directors will meet for a regular session Tuesday, May 18, in Room 1 of the high school. This meeting will be held immediately following the Budget Committee Meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. The regular meeting will include an executive session for the purpose of staff negotiations. The public is welcome to attend all open sessions of the Imbler School District Board

Briefs

La Grande Farmers Market launches season Saturday

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Farmers Market's opening day is Saturday, May 15. The market takes place in Max Square, at the corner of Fourth Street and Adams Avenue, on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon and on Tuesdays from 3-6 p.m.

For opening day, Nella Mae's Farm will be donating all its market sales to Doctors Without Borders' COVID-19 relief efforts in India and Brazil. According to the farm's announcement, these countries are facing staggering losses and overwhelmed health systems.

Meals on Wheels drivers needed

LA GRANDE — Community Connection is seeking volunteers to be Meals on Wheels drivers. For more information, call Sydney Gleeson at 541-963-7532, ext. 1104.

La Grande dispatcher graduates May 14

LA GRANDE — A La Grande Police Department 911 dispatcher is receiving her state stamp of approval.

The department hired Katelyn Melville on Feb. 15. She is graduating Friday, May 14, from the Oregon Public Safety Academy, Salem, as a member of the 123rd Basic Telecommunications Class, according to a press release from the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. She joins 23 other classmates who also are graduating.

Dispatchers in Union County in April handled 2,186 calls for service, according to La Grande police, as well as calls on the business line. — *The Observer*

Lottery

Megabucks: \$2.5 million
23-35-40-44-46-47

Powerball: \$157 million
12-17-20-21-26 — PB 8x3

Mega Millions: \$402 million
7-8-20-36-39 — MB 22x3

Win for Life: May 11
18-24-53-54

Pick 4: May 11

• 1 p.m.: 3-1-7-1; • 4 p.m.: 2-7-0-3

• 7 p.m.: 6-7-3-3; • 10 p.m.: 6-8-8-4

Pick 4: May 10

• 1 p.m.: 1-6-7-4; • 4 p.m.: 4-9-2-7

• 7 p.m.: 9-9-9-0; • 10 p.m.: 2-9-2-2

Pick 4: May 9

• 1 p.m.: 0-6-0-2; • 4 p.m.: 5-4-3-4

• 7 p.m.: 6-5-9-9; • 10 p.m.: 9-3-9-0

DELIVERY ISSUES?

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

OBITUARY

Kendall W. Baxter

1932-2021 • Union

Kendall Wight Baxter, 89, of Union, died May 8, 2021, of natural causes at St. Luke's Boise Medical Center. A graveside service will be held May 14 at 11:30 a.m. at the Union Cemetery.



Attendees must wear masks and practice social dis-

tancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Kendall was born April 28, 1932, at the Hot Lake Hospital near Union, to Bill and Edith (Wight) Baxter. Raised in Union, he excelled academically and played sports at Union High School. His teams won Oregon state championships in both basketball and football. He served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Illinois.

Kendall earned a bachelor's degree from what is now Eastern Oregon University, a master's degree from Oregon State University, and a PhD from the University of Northern Colorado. He was a professor of astronomy, geology, and physics at Eastern Oregon University until he retired in 2012 at the age of 80. He enjoyed classroom and community teaching and led many geology field trips around the state of Oregon.

During summer breaks from teaching, Kendall built and remodeled many homes and helped his family. He served in his church as Stake High Councilor, taught Gospel Doctrine classes, and sang in the Ward Choir for decades. He loved his Union community and served by working on the Union Cemetery Board and acting as general contractor for the construction of the Union Medical Clinic.

Some of Kendall's fondest memories were watching his grandchildren display their talents in sports and the arts. While visiting Linda's family in Germany he toured Bavaria and saw a live play of his favorite musical, "The Student Prince." The play was performed at the musical's actual setting: the ruins of Heidelberg Castle.

Kendall also enjoyed reading, gardening, feeding

birds, listening to classical tenor vocalists, trout fishing with Harold Bailey, his friend and colleague from Eastern Oregon University, and playing Scrabble with his dear friend Betty Bronson.

Kendall will be remembered as being a kind and generous man with a keen sense of humor. It brought him much joy to look out for the needs of others.

Surviving relatives include his sisters, Diane Bowen and Chrisanne Hindman; brothers, Jerry and Don; son, Greg; daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and Jeff Nusser and Angela and Doug Schow; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and a trove of cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, William; mother, Edith; brother, Bryce; and son, Jeff.

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

Reta M. (Keefer) Hallgarth

1926-2021 • Elgin

Reta May Hallgarth, 94, of Elgin, died May 1, 2021, at St. Luke's Boise Medical Center. A graveside service will be held May 14 at 2 p.m. at the Elgin Cemetery.



Casual dress is preferred by the family. Attendees must wear masks and practice

social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines.

Reta was born Aug. 11, 1926, in Imbler, to Rufus and Hazel Keefer. Her mother died when she was three weeks old. Her grandmother, Alice Reed, took Rita and her siblings, Clark and Arlis, to live with her. Sisters Irene and Hazel Jean went to live with other family members. They lived in La Grande for a short time but Reta grew up and attended school in Elgin.

In 1944 Reta married Paul Hallgarth. They had three children: Sandra, Johnny and Larry. Reta was a stay-at-home mom, taking very good care of her family. When her children were in their teens, she went to work at Thorns Box Factory in Elgin. From there, Reta went on to become a nurse's aide at

Valley View Nursing Home in La Grande where she worked until retirement. She was an energetic, hard-working person and was always very appreciative of everything after growing up in her grandmother's home with only the bare necessities.

Reta loved her home and family. She was very particular about her house and protective of family. She loved working in her yard, planting and tending to her flowers. She painted the trim on her house when she was 92, insisting that she do it. When she was idle, she made beautiful crocheted pieces for her friends and family.

Reta was a very straightforward person and spoke her mind. She was loved and will be missed by her family and friends.

Surviving relatives include her daughter, Sandra Clark; sons, John Hallgarth and Larry Hallgarth and his wife, Jan; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul; parents, Rufus and Hazel Keefer; brother, Clark Keefer; sisters, Irene Wines, Hazel Byrd, Arlis Bain and Lorraine Sorrenson; grandson, Bobby Sanders; and daughter-in-law, Jody Hallgarth.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Elgin Museum and Historical Society, 180 N. Eighth Ave., Elgin 97827.

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

Dennis F. Jones

La Grande

Dennis Fred Jones, 75, of La Grande, died May 12, 2021 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Alvin D. Montgomery

La Grande

Alvin D. Montgomery, 66, of La Grande, died May 11, 2021, at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Karen F. Catlin

Union

Karen F. Catlin, 79, of Union, died May 11, 2021,

Upcoming local services



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

May 13 — CRES-CENCE BAKKER: 3 p.m. memorial service, Grace Community Lutheran Church (at "The Place" in Island City).

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

May 14 — KENDALL BAXTER: 11:30 a.m. graveside service, Union Cemetery.

May 14 — RETA 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 15 — BILL PAXTON: 2 p.m. memorial service, Eastern Oregon Livestock Show Hall, Union.

May 17 — JERRY BROOKSHIRE: 2 p.m.

at her residence. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Keith W. Arnold

La Grande

Keith W. Arnold, 72, of La Grande, died May 10, 2021. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Karen R. Phifer

Formerly of La Grande

Karen R. Phifer, formerly of La Grande, died Dec. 16, 2020, in Springfield after a short illness. Burial will be held May 22 at 2 p.m. at Hillcrest Cemetery, followed by a gathering at 3 p.m. at the Riverside Park Pavilion.

Crescence L. Bakker

Island City

Crescence L. Bakker, 84, of Island City, died May 10, 2021, at her residence. A memorial service will be held May 13 at 3 p.m. at Grace Community

graveside service, Union 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.

May 22 — KAREN PHIFER: 2 p.m. burial, Hillcrest Cemetery, La Grande; gathering follows at 3 p.m. at Riverside Park Pavilion.

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

June 14 — GERALD RIMBEY: 10 a.m. graveside service, Island City Cemetery; reception follows at 11 a.m. at La Grande Christian Church.

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*

Lutheran Church located at "The Place" in Island City. Attendees must wear masks and practice social distancing to meet COVID-19 guidelines. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Gerald F. Rimbey

Formerly of La Grande

Gerald Francis Rimbey, 90, formerly of La Grande, died Dec. 3, 2020, at his home in Reedsport after an extended illness. A graveside service will be held June 14 at 10 a.m. at the Island City Cemetery. A reception follows at 11 a.m. at the La Grande First Christian Church.

Christopher B. Longfellow

La Grande

Christopher B. Longfellow, 35, of La Grande, died May 9, 2021. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY, MAY 12

9:22 a.m. — A caller reported the possible abuse of a horse in the area of 61800 Blackhawk Trail Lane, La Grande.

1:12 p.m. — Local law enforcement responded to the area of Cove Avenue and Intestate 84 for a male causing a traffic hazard and warned the person for disorderly conduct.

4:13 p.m. — Local law enforcement responded to the 2100 block of Fir Street, La Grande, on a report of a disturbance. La Grande police arrested a 59-year-old woman for menacing.

5:41 p.m. — A caller reported a dog bite victim on the 700 block of Jackson Avenue, La Grande. An officer responded and took a report.

8:45 p.m. — An Elgin resident reported someone was using another's name to send inappropriate messages via a messaging app.

9:35 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the first block of

Depot Street for a disturbance and arrested Michelle Rene Daniels, 56, of La Grande, on six Union County warrants for failure to appear on several cases including for charges of resisting arrest, driving under the influence of intoxicants and trespass.

TUESDAY, MAY 13

9:25 a.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to the Chevron station at 785 Albany St., Elgin, on a report of a domestic disturbance. The deputy found people had been arguing, the situation was under control and the parties had calmed down.

9:57 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of an assault on the 1100 block of Division Street, Elgin.

1:46 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a transient camp at

Gekeler Lane and Adams Avenue.

2:14 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office arrested Christopher Michael Taylor, 35, of Cove, on a warrant out of Ada County, Idaho, charging two counts of felony injury to children, two counts of sexual battery of a minor 16 or 17 years old and two misdemeanor counts of injury to children.

6:09 p.m. — A caller reported a burglary on the 600 block of East Bryan Street, Union. A Union County sheriff's deputy made contact and took information.

11:42 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2100 block of Maple Street for a possible disturbance. Officers found people were arguing and counseled the subjects, who separated for the night.

A scene Alfred Hitchcock would love



Pigeons fly around this old home that stands outside Imbler on Saturday, May 1, 2021. Alex Wittwer/The Observer

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