

COMMUNITY

Meetings

**ELGIN** — The Elgin School District Board will meet Monday, May 17, in the Stella Mayfield auditorium. The first meeting of the district's Budget Committee begins at 6 p.m., followed by a regular session at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Denise Ludwig at 541-437-1211.

Briefs

Classic car show, yard sale today in Halfway

**HALFWAY** — The Halfway Classic Car Show is happening Saturday, May 15, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors can see antique and classic cars, shop a yard sale, and grab lunch and dessert. The event is a fundraiser for the fairgrounds and July 4 fireworks.

Join virtual discussion with Steve Pyne

**JOSEPH** — The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture is hosting "Fire in the West," a virtual discussion with author Stephen J. Pyne, Thursday, May 20, in honor of its spring exhibit, "Fire Stories," which is now on display at the center, 403 N. Main St., Joseph. Pyne, author and an emeritus professor at Arizona State University, specializes in environmental history, the history of exploration and especially the history of fire. The two-hour discussion is free, open to all, and will be held via Zoom beginning at 2 p.m. For access and other details, visit [www.josephy.org/event/fire-in-the-west-discussion](http://www.josephy.org/event/fire-in-the-west-discussion), email [info@josephy.org](mailto:info@josephy.org) or call the center at 541-432-0505.

Births

GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL

**BARNHART:** Kaylinn Rose Barnhart, May 3, 2021, daughter of Marissa Rose Barnhart and Kaden James Barnhart of La Grande. Grandparents are Marcy Spry, Roy Spry, Jamie Barnhart and John Barnhart.

**NOVOTNY:** Kristina Marie Novotny, May 4, 2021, daughter of Julia J. Novotny and Paul V. Novotny of Imbler. Grandparents are Allan and Eva Breshears and Vince Novotny.

**PHILLIP:** Erinwa MD L. Phillip, May 3, 2021, son of Rubyna Hemon and Arice L. Phillip of La Grande.

**RICE:** Morwenna Kathryn Selah Rice, May 3, 2021, daughter of Rachel Alicia Rice and Garrett Steven Rice of La Grande.

**WILSON:** Destiny Diane Wilson, May 6, 2021, daughter of Diane Nicole Wilson and Joseph Forrest Wilson of La Grande. Grandparents are Marcia and Forrest Wilson and Doug and Patty Kennelly.

Lottery

**Megabucks: \$2.6 million**  
6-19-21-31-35-43  
**Powerball: \$168 million**  
1-19-20-38-54 — PB 17 x2  
**Mega Millions: \$402 million**  
7-8-20-36-39 — MB 22 x3  
**Win for Life: May 12**  
6-17-34-51  
**Pick 4: May 13**  
• 1 p.m.: 4-5-7-4  
• 4 p.m.: 3-0-3-7  
• 7 p.m.: 1-7-5-5  
• 10 p.m.: 4-3-1-6  
**Pick 4: May 12**  
• 1 p.m.: 0-3-4-9  
• 4 p.m.: 1-9-3-3  
• 7 p.m.: 6-0-6-7  
• 10 p.m.: 0-8-2-0  
**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

DELIVERY ISSUES?

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

Phyllis 'Ilene' (Banaka) Sloan

1946-2021 • Elgin

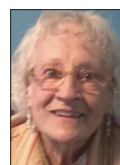
Phyllis "Ilene" Sloan, 74, of Elgin, died May 12, 2021, after her third battle with cancer.

Known as Ilene, she was born June 24, 1946, in Imperial, Nebraska. She moved with her parents, Wilma and Kenneth Banaka, and siblings, Larry and Pat, to Hoquiam, Washington, in 1949. She grew up rurally, a quiet, well-behaved youngster who had a very close relationship with her older sister, Pat. She met her lifelong bestie Marilyn (nee Anderson) in eighth-grade homeroom. They graduated from Hoquiam High.

Ilene's family moved to La Grande in 1964. She was working at Boise Cascade when she met her future husband, Donald Sloan. They married Jan. 23, 1969, and a year to the day later their daughter, Cassandra, was born. The family moved to Elgin in 1973. Her husband, Don, died in 1996.

Ilene was a dedicated stay-at-home mom. Girl Scout leader and chauffeur. She was always supportive, making sure her daughter had everything, scrimping and saving the family's limited income. In the early 1980s Ilene rejoined the workforce, starting at Derv's Drug then working in grass fields to put her daughter through college. In the 1990s she got her dream job at Terry Trailers, where she worked for 20 years.

After retiring, Ilene volunteered as a host on the Eagle Cap Excursion Train. As a shy person, this took her out of her comfort zone, but she loved it and thrived. Her work ethic never faltered, whether on the job or caring for family members.



OBITUARIES

Crescence 'Cres' L. (Donner) Bakker

1937-2021 • Island City

Crescence "Cres" L. Bakker, 84, of Island City, died May 10, 2021, at her residence. A memorial service was held May 13 at Grace Community Lutheran Church.



Known as Cres, she was born Jan. 16, 1937, in Springfield, Minnesota, to Lester and Josephine Donner. In high school Cres fell in love with Russ Bakker, whom she married on Oct. 2, 1955. Three children soon followed. Russ and Cres raised their kids in Southern California where they devoted their time to serving at Peace Lutheran Church and coaching youth sports. In 1979 they moved to La Grande.

Cres held several clerical positions, culminating in a 16-year career as office manager for the Oregon Fish & Wildlife until she retired in 1996.

Cres loved spending time outdoors: fishing at the river, hunting game and mushrooms in the mountains, and growing flowers. It was her joy to provide for her family, and serving others was her priority. She was a mom and grandma to many.

Cres was always up for a game of cards or a trip to Wildhorse. She had a quick wit and could dish it out and receive it back with grace and laughter. She held firm convictions and strong opinions, never hesitating to express them.

Surviving relatives include her husband, Russ; children and their spouses, Curt and Carol Bakker, Vicki and Tony Hodak, and Scott Bakker; brothers and sisters-in-law, Don Donner, Dick

Ilene adored her grandchildren, supporting them in everything they did. She visited them regularly in Portland — for fun or to babysit, she could always be counted on to make the drive. She never arrived without a carload of yard sale treasures and grocery items purchased on sale. When the pandemic hit and toilet paper was the hot commodity, her family didn't worry as they had at least 15 packets squirreled away in the basement.

Ilene would do anything for her friends and family, always putting other people's needs ahead of her own. She was a stubborn, hardworking, perpetually giving woman who dedicated her life to caring for others. She instilled a strong work ethic and sense of community in her child and grandchildren. She was an important component in the lives of many. She will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

Surviving relatives include her daughter, Cassandra; son-in-law, Martin; two grandchildren; sister, Pat Baker; brother-in-law, Jack; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Robert 'Bob' Harrod

Formerly of La Grande

Robert "Bob" Harrod, formerly of La Grande, died May 6, 2021, in Vale. A viewing will be held May 22 from 9:30-10:15 a.m. followed by a funeral service at 10:30 a.m. at the Vale Christian Church. After that will be a full military service at the Valley View Cemetery in Vale.

Wallowa will be a hot spot during next week's elections

By RONALD BOND

Wallowa County Chieftain

**WALLOWA COUNTY** — The Wallowa School District will see plenty of action during next week's primary elections.

In addition to voters deciding on a ballot measure to raise funds for upgrades to the school, two positions on the school board have contested elections on Tuesday, May 18.

Michael Lowe, the incumbent seeking another four-year term in Position 2, is facing two challengers for the spot — Joseph Miles and Zach Lathrop.

Position 5 will have a new person in the seat, as Mark Moeller and Bill Robb are each running for his first term.

Voters in Wallowa also will decide on a measure that would raise \$7 million for the district and draw an additional \$4 million in a matching grant from the state. The measure would increase property taxes \$1.96 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for the length of the bond. The additional grant money comes only if the measure is passed.

Only one other election

in the county — for Position 4 in the Joseph School District — features a contested race. Incumbent Rachel Sykora made a late decision to again run for the four-year position, and will face Kathy Zacharias, who put her name in the ring only when it appeared Sykora was not going to run again, according to county Clerk Sandy Lathrop.

Every other local race next week — from school to cemetery districts — is unopposed.

In county schools, the candidates are Olivia Losby for Position 6 in the Joseph

School District; Heather Melville (Position 1), Kate Fent (Position 4) and Mandy Decker (Position 5) in Enterprise; and Rene Crawford (Position 2) and Dustin DeHaan (Position 5) in Troy. All those running except for Crawford are incumbents. The incumbent for that position, Ervin Hafer, retired, Lathrop said.

In the Lower Valley Water District, incumbents Kim Werst in Position 4 and Rick Schaeffer in Position 5 are running unopposed, as are Rob Burns, Jason Crenshaw and Gary Willett — all incumbents — in the

Evergreen Water District. Larry Wightman and Bobbie Baker each seek another term in the Wallowa Rural Fire District, and incumbents Bob Young (Position 3), Dave Hurlley (Position 4) and Greg Johnson (Position 5) are all running again in the Wallowa Lake Rural Fire District.

Bonnie Henderson filed for reelection in the Wallowa Cemetery District, and incumbents Muriel Jones, Les Carlsen and Shirley Dowd again are seeking roles for the Lostine Cemetery District.

and Jan Donner, and Jim and Kathy Donner; seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; and four nieces and nephews.

Ricky D. Smith

Elgin

Ricky D. Smith, 64, of Elgin, died May 12, 2021, at Vibra Hospital in Boise, Idaho. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Kathleen M. Hatfield

Elgin

Kathleen M. Hatfield, 51, formerly of Elgin, died May 13, 2021, at a care facility in Milwaukie. Arrangements

are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Hulett C. McDowell Jr.

La Grande

Hulett C. McDowell Jr., 69, of La Grande, died May 13, 2021, at his residence. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Rita M. Snyder

La Grande

Rita M. Snyder, 91, of La Grande, died May 14, 2021, at Wildflower Lodge Assisted Living. Arrangements are by Merchant Funeral Home, Clarkston, Washington.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

7:53 a.m. — A caller reported a transient left garbage on the 2700 block of Adams Avenue, La Grande. The property owner disposed of the items.

8:17 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2600 block of Island Avenue on a report of a disturbance. Police separated the parties and referred them to civil court to handle the matter.

12:21 p.m. — A La

Grande resident reported a burglary on the 1400 block of T Avenue. An officer responded and took a report.

1:39 p.m. — A caller reported finding kittens in the area of 10400 South A Street, La Grande. An animal enforcement officer made contact and explained options.

6:50 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a male causing a disturbance at Grande Ronde Fitness Club, 2214 Adams

Ave., then leaving and kicking cars. Local law enforcement responded and arrested a 60-year-old man for second-degree disorderly conduct.

9:07 p.m. — La Grande police responded to a residence on the 600 block of 13th Street on a domestic violence call between a male and female. Officers arrested Britt Evan Wade II, 25, of La Grande, for menacing, strangulation and felony fourth-degree assault.

THURSDAY, MAY 13

6:44 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1800 block of 26th Street on a report of a suspicious person. Officers arrived, and the subject moved along.

12 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about suspicious people going door to door on the 3200 block of Columbia Street. An officer checked the area but did not find the subjects.

2:48 p.m. — A caller reported ongoing issues with dogs at large on the 200 block of N Avenue, La Grande. An animal enforcement officer responded and counseled the owner of the dogs.

4:28 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of possible stolen prop-

erty on the 1300 block of Adams Avenue. An officer responded and will follow up.

8:18 p.m. — A caller reported suspicious circumstances on the 1600 block of K Avenue, La Grande. An officer responded and took information to follow up.

Karen Fonda Catlin (Miller)

June 21, 1941 - May 11, 2021



Karen Fonda Catlin (Miller) known to her family as, "Maude," age 79, passed away at her home in Union, Oregon, Tuesday, May 11th, 2021. No service is planned at this time.

Ms. Catlin was born on June 21st, 1941 in La Grande, Oregon, to her parents Fonda and Odin Miller. Karen was a graduate of Union High School in 1959 and received her degree in business at Eastern Oregon College.

Karen developed a love of horses spending time on their family ranch in Union, Oregon. The Miller ranch gave her the opportunity to become an excellent horse rider that she later put on full display when she went on to become the 1958 Eastern Oregon Livestock Show Queen. Karen spent a large part of her life living in Portland, Oregon, where she used her business degree to pursue her career goal of working with the industry leading computer chip manufacturer, Intel, as a project manager in Hillsboro, Oregon. She spent over 23 years of her life committed to her work allowing her the ability to retire early at the age of 58.

"Maude," as she was affectionately known to her family, was a loving mother to her son Craig and grandmother to her grandson Mychael. She always had an open door for family to come and visit her in Portland or lend them a bed, where some family members would enjoy their summer vacations or look for work.

A whiz at crosswords, sudoku, puzzles and wheel of fortune, Karen loved to keep her brain busy with puzzles of all sorts. Known for her famous holiday meals and recipes for all occasions, she never had guests that left with an empty stomach.

Karen is preceded in death by her parents Odin & Fonda Miller, along with her siblings Ed & Terri. She is survived by her son Craig and grandson Mychael, as well as many nieces, nephews and in-laws.

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

MENUS

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

May 17-21

**Central Elementary School Monday:** BREAKFAST: cocoa cereal bar, fresh fruit; LUNCH: hot dog, kettle chips, veggies, fruit.

**Tuesday:** BREAKFAST: yogurt pak with bagel, canned fruit; LUNCH: popcorn chicken, roll, veggies, fruit.

**Wednesday:** BREAKFAST: mini waffles, fruit; LUNCH: ham sandwich, veggies, fruit.

**Thursday:** BREAKFAST: breakfast bar, cheese stick, orange juice; LUNCH: chicken Caesar wrap, veggies, fruit.

**Friday:** BREAKFAST: blueberry muffin, cheese stick, fruit; LUNCH: taco, corn and black bean salsa, veggies, fruit.

**Greenwood Elementary School Monday:** BREAKFAST: mini waffles, fresh fruit; LUNCH: chicken tacos, veggies, fruit.

**Tuesday:** BREAKFAST: banana muffin, cheese stick, canned fruit; LUNCH: corn dog, kettle chips, veggies, fruit.

**Wednesday:** BREAKFAST: mini-cinnis, fresh fruit; LUNCH: Italian meatball sub, Caesar side salad, veggies, fruit.

**Thursday:** BREAKFAST: cereal bar, cheese stick, orange juice; LUNCH: chicken Caesar wrap, veggies, fruit.

**Friday:** BREAKFAST: strawberry-cream-cheese-filled bagel, fruit; LUNCH: sloppy joe, roll, veggies, fruit.

**Island City Elementary School Monday:** BREAKFAST: oatmeal bar, cheese stick, fresh fruit; LUNCH: egg salad sandwich, veggies, fruit.

**Tuesday:** BREAKFAST: cherry frudel, canned fruit; LUNCH: fish sticks, roll, veggies, fruit.

**Wednesday:** BREAKFAST: mini waffles, fresh fruit; LUNCH: pizza, veggies, fruit.

**Thursday:** BREAKFAST: ham-egg-cheese bagel, orange juice; LUNCH: soft beef taco, corn and black bean salsa, veggies, fruit.

**Friday:** BREAKFAST: strawberry-cream-cheese-filled bagel, fruit; LUNCH: popcorn chicken, roll, veggies, fruit.

La Grande and Middle schools

**Monday:** BREAKFAST: mini waffles, fresh fruit; LUNCH: BBQ rib sandwich, veggies, fruit.

**Tuesday:** BREAKFAST: ham-egg-

cheese biscuit, canned fruit; LUNCH: turkey deli sandwich, kettle chips, veggies, fruit.

**Wednesday:** BREAKFAST: blueberry muffin, cheese stick, fresh fruit; LUNCH: hot dog, golden French fries, veggies, fruit.

**Thursday:** BREAKFAST: breakfast burrito, orange juice; LUNCH: tuna sandwich, veggies, fruit.

**Friday:** BREAKFAST: strawberry-cream-cheese-filled bagel, canned fruit; LUNCH: chicken sub, veggies, fruit.

**La GRANDE AUTO REPAIR**  
975-2000  
[www.lagrandeautorepair.com](http://www.lagrandeautorepair.com)



**MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE**  
**ACDelcoTSS**

**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

**Uniton 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 17-21**  
**Monday:** biscuits and gravy, breakfast casserole, fresh fruit, yogurt.  
**Tuesday:** chef salad, cup of soup, fresh fruit, pie.  
**Wednesday:** tender beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, roll, dessert.  
**Thursday:** shrimp croissant (or turkey-cranberry sandwich), tomato-cucumber salad, strawberry surprise.  
**Friday:** chicken quesadilla, rice, salad greens, chips and salsa, flan.