

COMMUNITY

Briefs

Union VFW Memorial Day ceremony open to the community

UNION — The Veterans of Foreign Wars High Valley Post 4060 will hold a Memorial Day ceremony beginning at 9 a.m. Monday, May 31, in the Union City Park. The community is invited to join the event, which will feature a short speech followed by the raising of each service branch's flag and the branch's service hymn; raising of the POW/MIA flag; and a rifle salute and the playing of Taps. The ceremony concludes with a reading of the names of veterans who are in the Union Cemetery.

Virtual statewide Memorial Day event planned

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs will honor the nation's fallen service members this Memorial Day during a virtual statewide Memorial Day ceremony.

According to a press release, the event is in line with continuing gathering limits in place in many areas due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is made possible through partnerships with the Oregon Military Department, Oregon National Guard, city of Wilsonville and Korean War Veterans Association.

ODVA Director Kelly Fitzpatrick will serve one of the event's keynote speakers. The event will also feature remarks by other honored veterans and distinguished guests as well as prerecorded ceremonial elements filmed on location (with no audience) at the Oregon Korean War Memorial in Wilsonville. These elements include a color guard ceremony, the national anthem, a wreath-laying ceremony and Taps.

The ceremony will premiere virtually at 10 a.m. Monday, May 31, on ODVA's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/odvavet) and YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/channel/UCAQVav59KmvDe-J425FY8A).

— The Observer

Mindy R. Musgrove

1980-2021 • La Grande
Mindy Renae Musgrove, 41, of La Grande, died May 10, 2021, at her home. A private family service will be held at a later date.

Mindy was born Feb. 21, 1980, in La Grande, to Kim Musgrove and Carla Niswender. She graduated from La Grande High School in 1998.

Mindy was employed at Bi-Mart for more than 12 years and was a volunteer with the Salvation Army. She enjoyed the outdoors, camping, horses, working in her flower beds, arts and crafts, working outside and physical labor.

Surviving relatives include her daughter, Parker Cattlin Burns of La Grande; parents, Kim Musgrove and Carla Niswender of La Grande; brother, Tyler Musgrove of Union; grandmother, Gayle Musgrove of La Grande; and grandfather, Robert Lewis Niswender of La Grande.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Kenneth Musgrove, and grandmother, Anna June (Robertson) Niswender.

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

Marlon Bryant

Elgin
Marlon Bryant, 81, of



OBITUARIES

Elgin, died Dec. 3, 2020, at his home. A celebration of life Irish-style wake and dinner will begin at noon May 30 at his ranch in Elgin. Arrangements are by Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Halfway.

Alvin D. Montgomery

1954-2021 • La Grande
Alvin Dean Montgomery, 66, of La Grande, died May 11, 2021, at Grande Ronde Hospital. A celebration of his life will be announced at a



later time.

Alvin was born Aug. 24, 1954, in Denver, Colorado, to William Alvin and A. Nadine (Tinkel) Montgomery. He resided in Clackamas County and Union County. He attended schools in the Clackamas County School District. He married Arlene Zemke in 1997.

Alvin was an accomplished heavy equipment operator and a member of the IUOE #701/Operating Engineers. He was employed at the family gravel pit in Carver, Portland Road and Drive, Montgomery Brothers Trucking and Lincoln Memorial Cemetery. In Union County, he was also employed at Rainbow Cab and the Longbranch.

Alvin enjoyed music. He played guitar, bass guitar

and drums on occasion. He was a singer and a songwriter who wrote and composed more than 100 original songs. His greatest enjoyment was performing for an audience. Alvin was founder and member of several bands, including Sweet-talker, which performed on the Portland music circuit, and the Huckleberries in Union County.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Arlene; children and spouses, Jason and Caitlin Montgomery of Union, Melissa and Nick Maszy of Gladstone, Jon and Christa Montgomery of Canby, and Alycia and Josh Reinertsen of Milwaukie; sister, Wilma Montgomery of Gladstone; brother, Bill Montgomery of St. Louis, Missouri; brother and sister-in-law, Roy and Glenda Montgomery of Carver; eight grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William "Bill" and Nadine Montgomery.

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

Courtney M. Hendrickson

La Grande
Courtney M. Hendrickson, 22, of La Grande, died May 22, 2021. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Upcoming local services



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

May 29 — BEVERLY LEDRIDGE: 1 p.m. memorial graveside service, Summer-ville Cemetery.

May 30 — MARLON BRYANT: noon celebration of life Irish-style wake and dinner, Bryant ranch, Elgin.

May 30 — CANDY WILLIAMS: noon to 2 p.m. celebration of life, Elgin Community Center.

June 5 — BETTY ALAM: 11 a.m. memorial graveside service, Grandview Cemetery, La Grande.

June 5 — BARBARA "BOBBY" BUCE: 11 a.m. memorial service, Damascus Road Community Church, La Grande.

June 6 — ERMAL GOUCHER: 11 a.m. celebration of life, Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande; reception immediately follows at Island City City Hall.

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 — 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

Audrey Sue Simer

April 20, 1940 - May 23, 2021

Audrey Sue Simer "Sue", 81, of La Grande, passed peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, May 23, 2021. At her request there will be no service.

Sue was born in Helena, Montana, on April 20, 1940 to Loami and Winifred Goss.

Sue enjoyed baking, crocheting, counted cross stitch, puzzle books, coloring and traveling. Her greatest joy was her family and spending time with them. She will be deeply missed by them.

The family would like to extend a sincere thank you to Heart 'n Home Hospice and Grande Ronde Retirement Residence for the care you gave to our loved one.

Sue is survived by her only child; Nancy A. Warren of Union, Oregon; grandchildren; Brandie (Mike) of Union, Oregon, Remington of La Grande, Oregon, Ritter (Amanda) of Dallas, Oregon and Chandra of Kennewick, Washington; great-grandchildren; Sadie Rae, JC, Draven, Leicee, Tobi, Greyson and Brogan.

Sue was preceded in death by her son-in-law, Art P. Warren and her parents.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Sue's name to the American Diabetes Association, 4380 SW Macadam Avenue #210, Portland, OR, 97239 or charity of one's choice.

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



PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY, MAY 24

8:11 a.m. — La Grande police arrested a 42-year-old La Grande woman for driving while revoked.

12:29 p.m. — A caller reported a disturbance on the 10200 block of West Railroad Avenue. Union County sheriff's deputies responded and counseled the parties.

2:54 p.m. — A caller in the area of 63400 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, reported stalking. A Union County sheriff's deputy made contact and talked about options.

3:02 p.m. — LA Grande police received a report of vandalism to a vehicle on the 2800 block of Third Street.

5:29 p.m. — A caller reported possible animal abuse on the 700 block of North Ninth Avenue, Elgin. An animal enforcement officer made contact.

6:55 p.m. — Local law enforcement and emergency services responded to vehicle crash on Morgan Lake Road, La Grande, and arrested Shad Daniel Groven, 28, for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

7:59 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the area of N Avenue and Eighth Street for a male "tearing around the neighborhood on a dirt bike." Police found and counseled the rider.

TUESDAY, MAY 25

10:36 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1100 block of D Avenue for a disturbance. Officers separated the parties.

1:54 p.m. — Local law enforcement and emergency services responded to a vehicle crash with reports of injuries at May Lane and Spruce Street, La Grande. Police took a report.

3:13 p.m. — La Grande police left 48-hour tow notices on three vehicles at 18th Street and Adams Avenue.

7:12 p.m. — A caller on the 1300 block of Z Avenue, La Grande, asked to speak to an officer regarding crim-

inal mischief. An officer took a report.

Recent Oregon State Police activity

May 23, 5:17 p.m. — A trooper spotted a vehicle in the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area near La Grande and found the occupants showed signs of recent drug use. The 37-year-old man and 24-year-old woman each showed the trooper vials of methamphetamine. The trooper gave a citation to each for possession of meth.

May 21, 6:53 a.m. — A GMC pickup crashed on Oregon Department of Transportation property in Union County and fled. Troopers in Pendleton found the vehicle and arrested the driver, a 31-year-old man from Battleground, Washington, for hit-and-run involving property and failure to carry and present a driver's license.

May 18, 5:19 p.m. — A 35-year-old Los Angeles man told Oregon State Police someone stole his identification and presented it in 2019 during a traffic stop in Union County. A trooper took information from the victim and sent a report to the district attorney's office.

LG Parks and Rec offers summer child care

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The city of La Grande Parks and Recreation is offering full-day child care from June 7 to Aug. 13 for children who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade. The program will let children participate in a variety of activities, such as STEM projects, field games, crafts, water activities and field trips.

The program runs from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (early drop off starting at 7:45 am, and late pickup until 5:15 p.m.) at the Pioneer Park Pavilion. The cost is \$100 per week and includes lunch. The parents of students in the La Grande School District are reminded to use the coupon code.

La GRANDE AUTO REPAIR
975-2000
www.lagrandeautorepair.com



Joe Horst

MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE
ACDelcoTSS

Creating Memories
YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR FOUNDER'S DAY —BBQ—
Sat. May 29, 2021 • 10am - 4pm
Creating Memories Camp @ Wallowa Lake

Tour our camp property, hike the waterfall and enjoy a FREE lunch (11am-1pm). PELASE park at the Marina parking lot. We will provide shuttle service to the camp property! Due to COVID-19 guidelines physical distancing will be maintained.

Door Prizes, Games, Face Painting, Live Music and Karaoke!

Eagle Cap Excursion Train
We're back on track!
And excited about the 2021 season!
Beginnng Saturday, July 3
Two Rivers Train Ride

See the full schedule and book online or call 541.437.3652

www.eaglecaptrainrides.com

TEN DEPOT STREET
Open Fri-Sun 5pm-8pm
"Real Food for the People"
Take-out Menu Updated Weekly
www.tendepotstreet.com
541-963-8766
tendepotstreet@gmail.com

Teresa Lin DiFalco

June 6, 1968 - April 21, 2021

It was a Thursday afternoon on June 6, 1968, when John and Janis Bozarth lovingly welcomed their daughter into this world. "Teresa Lin is here," her ecstatic dad exclaimed, loud enough for everyone in the waiting room to hear. And so, she began her young life. At the age of eight, her family moved to La Grande, Oregon, where she flourished, attending Central Grade School, taking CCD classes at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, and in 1986 graduating with honors from La Grande High School. While in high school, Teresa achieved academic accolades from the National Honor Society. She also played JV basketball and competed on the Varsity tennis team. She was chosen Queen for the jazz ensemble in the May Music Festival and received State recognition at the Jr. Bach Festival. Teresa's love of piano and jazz followed her throughout her life. She often frequented jazz clubs in New York City and Portland, and jazz hummed in the background in all her homes.

Teresa then spent two years at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. She transferred to Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, where she graduated in 1991 with a degree in English.

After college, Teresa worked as a software program trainer for a tech company based in Pennsylvania. It was here she met her future husband, Anthony DiFalco. They married in the summer of 1998 and moved to Weehawken, New Jersey, where Teresa took a job at Fieldstone, a large tech company based in New York City. They were thrilled to welcome two children, Anthony and Gianna. They moved back to Oregon in 2000 and eventually settled in McMinnville where Teresa focused on her family, and began her career as a freelance writer and editor. (Although they would divorce in 2010, they remained close.)

Teresa's work appeared in numerous publications including the New York Times, The Oregonian, the McMinnville News-Register, and Vancouver Family Magazine. She was a long-time contributing editor for Parents' Choice, the nation's oldest nonprofit guide to quality children's media and toys. She also sat on the Parents' Choice Award committee.

Teresa published two essays in "Modern Love," the popular and critically acclaimed New York Times column. Her first story entitled, "It Took a Villain To Save Our Marriage," examined the difficult, often unspoken, side of marriage. "Teresa DiFalco's essay gets at an uncomfortable truth... the story spirals into unexpected places and becomes an odd, intimate dance with danger," New York Times editor Daniel Jones said. "I'm drawn to strange stories that explore the dark side of marriages with brutal honesty." The story was later turned into a podcast, read by film actress, Melanie Lynskey. In 2018, it was

named one of the Top Nine Modern Love Podcasts. In addition to her own writing, Teresa was hired as the ghostwriter on the novel, "A Dangerous Age," published by Gallery Books in 2016.

She also worked with her sister-in-law, Carole Radziwill, first as an editor on her 2006 memoir, "What Remains," and then a novel, "A Widow's Guide to Sex and Dating," published by Holt in 2014. "Teresa taught me nearly everything I know about writing, and story-telling," recalls Radziwill. "No one wrote a better sentence or turned a phrase with as much ease or dexterity. Her take on even the most mundane details of life, her illogical fear of Odorous house ants, and her razor sharp wit would keep me laughing for days on end. She was the most original thinker - and most unique person. I've ever known. She was my favorite everything."

They formed a partnership and collaborated on numerous other writing projects including; "Office Politics: Blue and Red America Collide," a non-fiction political discourse which Teresa edited and wrote the forward, a novel titled, "Who Killed Jetta James," about reality TV and murder, and an untitled TV comedy series revolving around the lives of residents living in a quirky New York City apartment building. They were also working on a TV adaptation of Widow's Guide.

Teresa often drew on her life experience for her own writing. She examined the monotonous side of life with acute clarity, insight and honesty. At the time of her death, she was working on a novel, "Crane Flies and Other Domestic Terrors," a love story about the disintegration of a marriage. She was represented by Inkwell Management. But despite her many achievements, no award came close to the pride she had in her two children, Anthony, 22 and Gianna, 19, both active in the social justice movement in Portland. She will be remembered through her writing and the family she cherished.

Teresa passed away on April 21, 2021 in Portland, Oregon. She was 52. She is survived by her children; Anthony O. DiFalco and Gianna L. DiFalco, Portland, Oregon; her parents; John and Janis Bozarth, La Grande, Oregon; her in-laws; Helen and Tony DiFalco, Suffern, New York; and her sister-in-law and friend Carole Radziwill, New York, New York.

A graveside service was held May 8 at Grandview Cemetery, La Grande, Oregon.

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

