

**PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT**

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19**

10:02 a.m. — An Elgin resident made a complaint about telephonic harassment. A Union County sheriff's deputy made contact and took information.

2:24 p.m. — A La Grande police officer responded to Benton Avenue and Depot Street on a report of a suspicious male and warned him for trespass.

3:20 p.m. — An animal enforcement officer saw dogs on the loose on the 62200 block of Peacock Road, La Grande, and warned their owner.

3:24 p.m. — The animal enforcement officer then saw dogs on the loose on the 62100 block of Chandler Loop, La Grande, and warned their owners.

4:23 p.m. — La Grande police on the 1100 block of Washington Avenue questioned a man, and ended up arresting him. Ryan Mitchell Kelly, 37, of Weston, had several warrants for his arrest, including a Grant County warrant charging first-degree burglary, second-degree theft, second-degree criminal mischief and vehicle theft and a Walla Walla County warrant charging vehicle theft, driving while suspended, defrauding an innkeeper, possession of stolen property and second-degree identity theft.

5:17 p.m. — La Grande police responded to a residence on the 1900 block of Cove Avenue for a disturbance involving a juvenile. Officers explained options.

6:36 p.m. — A caller reported an assault on the 1000 block of Frontier Court, La Grande. Police responded and took information.

8:41 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a disturbance on the 1300 block of Washington Avenue. An officer responded and asked a male to leave.

9:14 p.m. — Union County sheriff's deputies and medical services responded to the area of 65700 Hunter Road, Summerville, for a crash involving injuries.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 20**

10:05 a.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about fraud on the 3300 block of Columbia Street. An officer made contact and explained options.

3:21 p.m. — A La Grande police officer helped a person who requested assistance on the 700 block of K Avenue.

4:55 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about harassment at The La Grande Inn, 2612 Island Ave. An officer made contact and explained options.

8:15 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about theft and a person experiencing a mental or emotional crisis. Officers responded and took a report.

9:21 p.m. — A caller reported a suspicious person at Greenwood Street and V Avenue, La Grande. An officer responded and found a person was walking their dog.

11:34 p.m. — A caller reported a suspicious vehicle at Grocery Outlet, 11301 Island Ave., Island City. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and found a driver was resting after getting off work.

**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

**MEETING**

• **IMBLER** — The Imbler School District Board of Directors will meet for a special session on Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 5:30 p.m. at the high school. The meeting will begin with an executive session for the purpose of selecting a superintendent. The public is welcome to attend all open sessions of the Imbler School Board.

**BRIEFS**

**Short-staffed library, city pool close temporarily**  
LA GRANDE — The Veterans' Memorial Pool and Cook Memorial Library, both in La Grande, had to close this week due to staffing issues, according to a press release. The pool closed Friday, Jan. 21, and the library won't be open Saturday, Jan. 22. Both the library and pool plan to reopen with regular hours on Monday, Jan. 24.

**Sign up for paint night in Union**

UNION — The Catherine Creek Community Center, located in the former Methodist Church in Union, is hosting its first paint night on Thursday, Jan. 27, at 6 p.m. The cost is \$40 and includes instruction, all supplies, snacks and drinks. For more details and to sign up, call 541-562-2038, check out the center's Facebook page, or go to [www.catherinecreekcommunitycenter.com](http://www.catherinecreekcommunitycenter.com).

— *The Observer*



Catherine Creek Community Center/Contributed Photo, File  
**The Catherine Creek Community Center will host a paint night at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27. Cost is \$40 and all supplies are provided.**

**BIRTHS**

**GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL**

**BERG:** Bentley Paul Berg, born Dec. 30, 2021, to Kaylee Ann Berg, of La Grande. Grandparents are Brandy and Dan Berg.

**BUTTERFIELD:** Ellelee Rae Butterfield, born Dec. 29, 2021, to Rachelle Dawn Butterfield and Jaymes Morgan Butterfield, of Joseph. Grandparents are Ron and Cindy Bonney and Mark and Anna Butterfield.

**HUDDLESTON:** Arella Fay Sue Huddleston, born Jan. 7, 2022, to Brittney Spurgeon and Andrew Huddleston, of La Grande. Grandparents are Gail Huddleston, Melissa McCoy and David Spurgeon.

**KNIGHT:** Violet Knight, born Jan. 3, 2022, to Allyson Smith and Keb Knight, of La Grande. Grandparents are Ron Smith, Vickie Slattery, Frances Weatherwax and Polly Parsons.

**MATTSON:** Kalem Dale Mattson, born Dec. 31, 2021, to Katie Lee Mattson and Cody Dale Mattson, of La Grande. Grandparents are Robert Fisher, Robert and Kelly Jo Lovelady, and Stacey and Loey Mattson.

**SANDERS:** Brick Bryant Crawford Sanders, born Jan. 5, 2022, to Lynique Tiare Oveson and Brian Leon Sanders, of Elgin. Grandparents are Greg and Eva Oveson and Dale and Julie Sanders.

**VAN ARSDALE:** Talon Van Arsdale, born Dec. 31, 2021, to Peyton Mathis and John Van Arsdale, of Elgin. Grandparents are Jody and Lisa Van Arsdale, Chad and Laurie Marx, Kevin and Voda Smolkowski, and Steve and Barb Mathis.

**MENU**

**UNION COUNTY SENIOR CENTER LUNCH MENU**

**Dine-in meals:** Served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; use front entrance and observe social distancing.

**Takeout meals:** Pick up from noon to 1 p.m. at kitchen's back door.

**Cost:** Age 60+, \$3 suggested donation; all others, \$6.

**JAN. 24-28**

**Monday:** lemon-almond chicken, rice pilaf, salad greens, bread, fresh fruit, cookie.

**Tuesday:** beef stew, layered salad, bread, dessert.

**Wednesday:** country-style ribs, baked beans, steak fries, fresh fruit, dessert.

**Thursday:** turkey-bacon-avocado sandwich, deli salad, fresh fruit, chips, cookie.

**Friday:** meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, rolls, light dessert.

**DEATH & SERVICE NOTICES**

**Dwight Brooks**

**Union**

Dwight Brooks, 92, of Union, died Jan. 17, 2022, at his home. Arrangements are by Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Halfway.

**Mary L. Clark**

**La Grande**

Mary L. Clark, 84, of La Grande, died Jan. 20, 2022, at her home. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

**Johnnie Durante**

**La Grande**

Johnnie Durante, 78, of La Grande, died Jan. 5, 2022, at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.

**David P. Kennedy**

**Elgin**

David P. Kennedy, 72, of Elgin, died Jan. 20, 2022, at his residence. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

**Dawn M. Murphy-Lewis**

**La Grande**

Dawn M. Murphy-Lewis, 68, of La Grande, died Jan. 2, 2022, at St. Alphonsus Hospital in Boise. Arrangements are by Accent Funeral Home and Cremation, Meridian, Idaho.

**Rose M. Reece**

**Formerly of La Grande**

Rose Marie Reece, 73, formerly of La Grande, died Jan. 17, 2022, at St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Nampa, Idaho. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

**Armia J. Shawver**

**La Grande**

Armia Jean Shawver, 92, of La Grande, died Dec. 30, 2021, at a local care facility. A memorial service will be held Jan. 25, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.

**UPCOMING LOCAL SERVICES**



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

**Jan. 22 — WAYNE WOLFE:** 1 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial, St. Katherine Catholic Church, Enterprise; vault interment follows at Walla Walla Cemetery.

**Jan. 25 — ARMIA SHAWVER:** 1 p.m. memorial service, Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.

**Feb. 4 — CECILIA CAMPBELL:** 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial, Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, La Grande.

— *calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel*

**Three featured in next Fishtrap Fireside**

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The February episode of Fishtrap Fireside will launch online on Friday, Feb. 4, with readings from three Wallowa County writers: longtime Fishtrap friend Rick Bombaci, retired health professional Kathy "Kat" Johnson and poet Katherine Marrone, according to a press release from Fishtrap.

Fishtrap Fireside is a monthly reading series designed to feature diverse voices from local Wallowa County writers. Anyone anywhere can take in Fireside online at [Fishtrap.org](http://Fishtrap.org) and on Fishtrap's YouTube Channel.

**Rick Bombaci** grew up in rural Connecticut. After a brief stint living and working in Portland, when, he had a view of Mount St. Helens before it blew up, he moved to Wallowa County, where he's been more or less stuck ever since.



Contributed Photo

**Rick Bombaci is one of three writers who will read Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, during an online Fishtrap presentation.**

Rick has worked as a U.S. Forest Service wilderness ranger, a waiter, a bicycle mechanic, a high school teacher, a computer consultant, a grant writer and a nonprofit consultant. He has one daughter and a number of obsessions, including long distance hiking and a grandson.

**Kathleen "Kat" Johnson** was born and



**Johnson**

raised in Colorado. She has been a substitute teacher, library aide, Scout leader, EMT, nurse, and companion to cats, dogs, ducks, goats and horses. After more than 30 years, finding herself happily retired but not so happily widowed,

she decided to begin a new chapter of her life by joining her daughter, Fishtrap Executive Director Shannon Mc Nerney in Wallowa County.

**Katherine Marrone** is a writer, activist and editor of Fishtrap's community zine, Circle of Seasons. She works as a legal advocate at Safe Harbors in Enterprise, where she helps survivors of domestic/sexual violence and stalking seek justice and safety in Wallowa County. Her poems and essays explore gender, human rights and empathy; the meandering path of healing after trauma; finding pockets of joy in the mundane; traveling alone as a woman; and her obsession with the question: How and who do we love — and why?

Learn more at Fishtrap.org.



**Marrone**

**Bikepacking tour webinar is Jan. 25**

Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — A webinar on the Wallowas Bikepacking Tour will be hosted by Dirty Freehub at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25.

Route designer Ben Groeneveld will discuss his latest adventure and why this is his favorite place to ride in North-eastern Oregon. With the snowcapped Wallowa Mountains as the backdrop, the towns of Halfway, Cove, Wallowa and Innaha will be part of the tour, as will the Hells Canyon overlook and the Zumwalt Prairie.

The webinar will be moderated by Linda English, the executive director of Dirty Freehub, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that is an online guide for five-star gravel bike

routes. Dirty Freehub's goal is to build a community of gravel cyclists who care about where they ride.

The group hopes to get participants involved as advocates, volunteers or donors with organizations that protect and preserve recreational lands.

To participate in the Zoom webinar, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86410473402?pwd=TWV2bCtGR-jFMZF11YmY4c2V1TH-pzQT09>. The meeting ID is 864 1047 3402 and the passcode is Bikepack.

Those without Zoom capabilities can attend by phone by visiting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86410473402> to find a local phone number. The meeting ID is 864 1047 3402 and the passcode is 36012512.

**Union County Warming Station seeks donations and volunteers**



Kaleb Lay/The Observer, File

**A man rests on a bench, braced against the cold, in December 2020 in La Grande. The Union County Warming Station is looking for volunteers to help it provide a warm place and meals for those who need them during the winter.**

The Observer

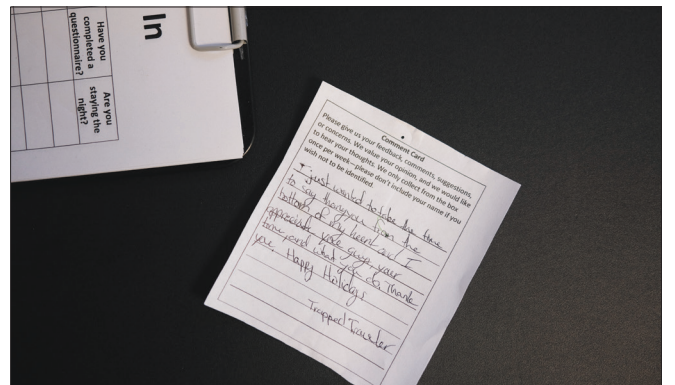
LA GRANDE — The warming station is in need of more volunteers. Community members who are interested in donating their time to help people be warm and safe during frigid nights — or to donate items or cash to support the organization's mission — will find the details at [www.ucwarmingstation.org](http://www.ucwarmingstation.org).

The Union County Warming Station, 2008 Third St., Suite B, La Grande, is a volunteer-run

effort to preserve the life and health of those with no place to sleep during cold Union County winters. The free shelter offers safe and warm sleeping accommodations overnight during the winter months as well as food and warm drinks.

All are welcome to take shelter at the warming station, from those facing house instability to people who have lost power or are stranded by closed roads.

More information is available by calling 541-624-5895.



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

**A note from a visitor to the Union County Warming Station reads, "I just wanted to take the time to say thank you from the bottom of my heart and I appreciate you guys, your time, and what you do. Thank you. Happy Holidays. — Trapped Traveler"**