

**PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT**

**MONDAY, FEB. 7**

7:29 a.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about harassment involving a person who may be mentally ill. An officer made contact and explained options.

9:24 a.m. — A caller reported the theft of a vehicle from the 65000 block of Booth Lane, Cove. A Union County sheriff's deputy made contact and took a report.

11:38 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a complaint about a person violating a restraining order on the 600 block of North Dewey Street, Union. Deputies responded and arrested James Michael Fitzpatrick, 31, for a restraining order violation.

3:22 p.m. — La Grande police issued a correction about the Feb. 1 arrest of Caleb Austin Walker. Police reported he was cited for reckless driving and not hit-and-run. Police did not change information about the charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

3:53 p.m. — An Imbler caller reported

suspicious circumstances. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and counseled the subject.

5:27 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2000 block of Fourth Street on a report of a suspicious person and resolved the situation.

11:21 p.m. — La Grande police during a field interrogation at Eighth Street and O Avenue arrested Tierra Catherine Prince, 29, on warrants for failure to appear and additional charges of initiating a false report and misuse of 911.

**TUESDAY, FEB. 8**

3:45 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2000 block of Gekeler Lane on a complaint about people being loud. An officer counseled the subject.

11:34 a.m. — A caller on the 1200 block of Hill Street, Cove, reported a dog bit someone. An animal enforcement officer made contact and took a report.

1:27 p.m. — A caller at Grande Ronde

Hospital, 900 Sunset Drive, La Grande, reported identity theft. An officer made contact and took a report.

2:42 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about a possible sex crime. An officer made contact and took a report.

4:07 p.m. — A resident on the 1200 block of Jasper Street, Cove, reported juveniles were harassing dogs. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded but did not find the juveniles.

6:21 p.m. — La Grande police arrested Terry Allen Higgins Jr., 45, on a restraining order violation.

8:42 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to a residence on the 200 block of North Main Street, Union, on a report of a disturbance between a father and son. The deputy took a report.

9:58 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1900 block of Cedar Street on a report of a disturbance involving an adult brother and sister. The siblings separated for the night.

**Michael Ray Garrard**  
June 14, 1952 - January 17, 2022



Mike Garrard passed away on Jan. 17, 2022, unexpectedly of natural causes, while on a walk near his home. Mike was born June 14, 1952, in La Grande, Oregon, to Martin and Harriet Garrard of Perry, Oregon. They moved to La Grande where Mike attended Willow Elementary School and La Grande Junior and Senior High School, graduating in 1970.

Mike went to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1975. He retired as a major after a career in the U.S. Army and settled in Oregon. In August 2020, he moved to Washington to be near his children and grandchildren.

Growing up Mike enjoyed playing baseball, earning the MVP award for La Grande High School baseball. He also enjoyed skiing, racquetball, video games, visiting the Oregon Coast and spending time with his family. Mike married Jane (Marlieb) and they had three children. They later divorced.

Mike is survived by his daughter, Katherine (Brad) Wright of Gig Harbor, Washington; son, Dr. Robert (Tara) Garrard of Lake Tapps, Washington; and son, James (Tamika) Garrard of Portland, Oregon; brother, Rod (Patti) of La Grande; four grandchildren, Jessica, Mathew, Ellie and Noah Wright; nephew, Logan Garrard; and niece, Hilary (Brian) Dibble.

Mike was preceded in death by his brother, Gary, and parents, Harriet and Martin.

At Mike's request, there will be no services. Cremation arrangements were under the direction of Hill Funeral Home, Puyallup, Washington.

**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

**MEETINGS**

• UNION — The Union Rural Fire Protection District Board will meet Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. at the fire hall.

For more information, call 541-910-3114 or email union.rfpd@outlook.com.

**BRIEFS**

**Suggested meal prices increase at senior center**

• LA GRANDE — Due to rises in the price of goods and services, the Union County Senior Center, La Grande, in January increased the prices of its weekday meal program. Suggested donations are now \$4 for seniors age 60 and older, and \$7 for everyone younger than 60.

The meals are served in person at the center, 1504 N. Albany St., Monday

through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Those who wish to eat the meal on-site are asked to use the front entrance and observe social distancing. To-go lunches may be picked up between noon and 1 p.m. at the kitchen's back door.

**DEATH NOTICES**

**Melvin Collier**

La Grande  
Melvin Collier, 68, of La Grande, died Feb. 8, 2022, at his home. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

**Gary W. Lilleston**

La Grande  
Gary Wayne Lilleston, 70, of La Grande, died Feb. 7, 2022, at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

**Della Gradella Heutzenroeder**

March 12, 1931 - February 2, 2022  
Della Gradella Heutzenroeder, 90, of La Grande, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, at Grande Ronde Hospital. At her request, there will be no service.

Della was born on March 12, 1931, in Boise, Idaho, to Aarel and Bessie (Norton) Sexton. She married Maurice Heutzenroeder.

Della is survived by her children, Phyllis Dickerson, of Portland, Oregon, Sandra Meyrick, of Spokane, Washington, Maurice Heutzenroeder, of La Pine, Oregon, Pamela Delarosa, of Hood River, Oregon, and Debbie Hessard, of Gresham, Oregon; grandchildren, Nina Neely, Winter, Shannon, Casey, Shawnie, Jason, Jesse, Allen, Susie, Alisa and many more great- and great-great grandchildren.

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



**Annette Gracie Leckenby**  
January 27, 1958 - February 2, 2022

Annette Gracie Leckenby, age 64, of La Grande, died Feb. 2, 2022, at Grande Ronde Hospital. A celebration of life will be announced later by Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center. Those who wish may make contributions in her memory to St. Jude's Hospital.

Annette was born on Jan. 27, 1958, the daughter of Earl and Georgia (Crawford) Winer in Broken Bow, Oklahoma. The family later moved to Lakeview, Oregon, where she graduated from high school with the class of 1976. She attended classes at Southern Oregon University towards a music major and moved to La Grande in 1978 after she married Lloyd "Kevin" Leckenby in Reno, Nevada. She was a mother of six, vice principal at the Lighthouse School for many years and caregiver to her mother. She loved gardening, football, especially the Seahawks, cooking shows and cooking, especially enjoying halibut, playing the slots and spending time with children and grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband, Lloyd "Kevin" Leckenby, of La Grande; children, Jason and Rosedy Leckenby, of La Grande, Nathan and Mina Leckenby, of Rock Springs, Wyoming, Matthew and Brittany Leckenby, of La Grande, Sarah and Tim Forsythe, of La Grande, Amos and Ashley Leckenby, of La Grande, and Dustin and Brandie Leckenby, of La Grande; 18 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sisters, Virginia Wakem of Locksberg, Arkansas and Penny Zaratem of Island City; and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings, Linda Miller, Larry Winer and Dewayne Winer.



**Ty Yohn Hallgarth**

August 20, 1968 - January 31, 2022

Ty Yohn Hallgarth, 53, of Elgin, passed away on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022, at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise, Idaho. A celebration of his life will be held at the Elgin Stampede Hall on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, at 1 p.m. The family prefers casual dress, and cowboy hats are encouraged.

Ty was born on Aug. 20, 1968, in La Grande, Oregon, to Larry and Janice "Jan" Rysdam Hallgarth. He was raised in Elgin and attended Stella Mayfield Elementary School, graduating from Elgin High School in 1987. He married Iris Boise in 1994 and they later divorced.

Ty was employed with the Union County Public Works Department as the maintenance supervisor. Prior employers were Gail Williams Trucking, Fuller Automotive, Terra Transportation and Rysdam Logging.

He was blessed with the natural ability to repair just about anything, fabricating new pieces and parts. When he was 14 years of age, he rebuilt his first engine.

During his school years the sports he loved and excelled in were baseball and wrestling, and he won many awards and medals. He loved the game of football and was a huge Pittsburgh Steelers fan from the time he was 6 years old.

Ty enjoyed hunting with his son, dad and brother, weight training and being involved with the Elgin Stampede. He was a member of the NHRA and the Elgin Stampede.

Ty's deep love and dedication were to his son, Wyatt, his parents, brother, nephew, Elgin Stampede family and friends. Ty was most proud of his son, Wyatt. He never missed a game or activity that Wyatt was involved in. He made sure Wyatt had life skills and knew he supported him 110% in everything he did. Ty was in his element whenever Wyatt and his friends filled their home and he was cooking for them or helping and teaching them to work on their vehicles. He loved these kids and always encouraged and cheered them on to do great things. He loved with his whole heart from the depth of his soul and would drop whatever he was doing to help family and friends.

Ty is survived by his son, Wyatt; parents, Larry and Janice Hallgarth; brother, Kyle Hallgarth; nephew, Tanner Hallgarth; aunt, Sandra Clark; and uncles, John Hallgarth and Arie L. Rysdam. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Arie and Marguerite Rysdam and Paul and Reta Hallgarth; aunts, Mary Louise Rysdam and Jodi Hallgarth; and uncle, Lloyd Clark.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Elgin Community Bank to the Wyatt Hallgarth College Fund.

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



**UPCOMING LOCAL SERVICES**

**LOVELAND FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY**

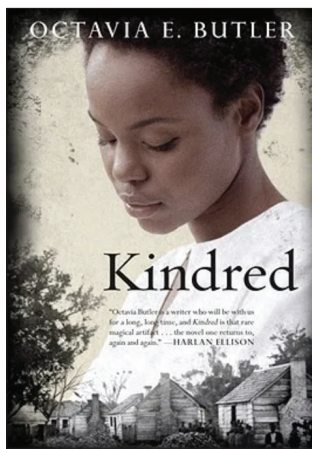
Feb. 12 — **TY HALLGARTH**: 1 p.m. celebration of life, Elgin Stampede Hall (casual dress preferred, cowboy hats encouraged).

Feb. 19 — **WANDA LOWE**: 1 p.m. memorial celebration, Mountain Life Church, La Grande.

March 26 — **JUDY HUNT**: 3 p.m. celebration of life, La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church.

*Please follow guidelines regarding face coverings and social distancing at gatherings. Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande.*

**Join book club's Black History Month discussion**



Joseph Center/Contributed Photo  
**The Joseph Library's book club will discuss "Kindred" by Octavia Butler, at its February meeting.**

JOSEPH — The Joseph Library's book group will meet virtually on Thursday, Feb. 24, at noon to discuss "Kindred," by Octavia Butler.

The book — a Good Morning America 2021 Top Summer Read Pick — was chosen in honor of Black History Month.

According to the Joseph Center's website, "The visionary author's masterpiece pulls us — along with her Black female hero — through time to face the horrors of slavery and explore the impacts of racism, sexism and white supremacy then and now."

Here's a synopsis: Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has a chance to begin.

The livestream discussion begins at noon. To join the book group, go to [www.library.josephy.org/book-group/](http://www.library.josephy.org/book-group/) for the link and passcode.



**Arlan "AW" or "A-Dub" Wesley Taal**  
October 16, 1936 - February 1, 2022

Arlan Wesley "AW or A-Dub" Taal, age 85, of La Grande, passed peacefully Feb. 1 from natural causes.

Arlan was born October 16, 1936, to Lester Lynn and Gertrude Isabel (Swart) Taal in La Grande. At the age of 3, he moved briefly with his parents to North Powder. They eventually moved back to La Grande, where he ended up graduating at La Grande High School with the class of 1955. After graduation, he briefly went to work for Goss Motors in its parts department. He then hired on at Union Pacific Rail Road (UPRR) in water service.

In 1957, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he was stationed in Anchorage, Alaska, and served two years with honors in the motor pool. He was always proud to say that he was the requested choice to drive a two-star general around during his time of service. In 1959, he arrived back home in La Grande and went back to work for UPRR as a fireman, then worked his way up to locomotive engineer, where he remained until retirement in 1999, after 44 years of service. During this time, at the age of 23 while working in Hermiston, he met and eventually married Shirlee Upton in August 1959. Soon after they welcomed three of the best children ever born (so say those same three children, who he bailed out of trouble more times than he could count). Many happy family times were had over the years going to Wallowa Lake with family and friends, and short-day excursions going huckleberry picking, mushrooming, shooting and riding motorcycles in the valley and the surrounding mountains.

In 1985, Arlan married Paula Benintendi and with her, opened The Sunspot, the first tanning salon in Union County.

Spending time with his grandchildren was Arlan's favorite pastime and when they couldn't come stay with him, he made many trips to Portland just so he could celebrate their special days with them. In his

later years, Arlan enjoyed reading western and crime novels, which he shared back and forth with his sister, Donna. He had always found enjoyment in watching auto racing, football and basketball, both on TV and in-person at local games when his grand-niece and nephew were participating. He had a lifelong passion for automobiles, both new and old, and spent countless hours, weeks and even years, in a labor of love, restoring the original local A&W Drive-In 1950 Chevy pickup, which won him numerous awards (mainly peoples choice) at



car shows.

Arlan was a kind and caring person, who was well loved by anyone who had the good fortune to know him. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to a friend or neighbor and he did often. He had a great sense of humor, which gave his family and friends a lot of laughter and enjoyment over the years.

He is survived by his children, Debbie Larson, of La Grande, Julie Decker, of Beaverton, Michael and Doris (Barrow) Taal, of San Antonio, Texas; his sister, Donna Hudson, of La Grande; his beloved grandchildren, Justin, Katelynn, Whitney, Courtney; and one great-grandchild, Elizabeth; and nieces, nephews; and numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by a son, Michael Brett Taal; his brother, David Taal; and both of his parents.

We love you so much Dad! Rest easy and drive fast.

XOXO Debbie, Julie, and Jibber Jabber.

Arlan's family is planning a celebration of life for June 12, with the location yet to be determined. Details to be forthcoming.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his honor to the charity of your choice.

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

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