

# Literary event celebrates Women's History Month

The Observer

ENTERPRISE — Fishtrap Fireside celebrates Women's History Month with featured readings from Wallowa County writers Debbie Carson, Talia Filipek and Toni Marie Jones. The virtual literary event will be released on Friday, March 4, at [www.fishtrap.org](http://www.fishtrap.org) and on Fishtrap's YouTube channel.

The monthly literary gathering typically includes three writers reading from their works. The stream may be watched at any time after it's released. The March episode of Fishtrap Fireside is sponsored by Alder Slope Nursery.

Carson, a native of Philadel-



Carson Filipek Jones

phia, also lived as a child in then-rural Connecticut, where surrounding dairy farms gave way to insurance company campuses. She acquired an art degree and held a variety of jobs before heading West. While living in Eugene, she joined Hoedads Reforestation Co-op, making lifelong friends, while earning very little planting trees. She fared better working as a U.S. Forest Service temp, but

eventually returned to college. Now retired from school librarianship and teaching art, she has two adult children, an itchy foot and a love for being on the water.

Filipek lives in Enterprise, ogling at the mountains with a cup of cocoa in one hand and a baby in the other arm. Growing up, she visited here with her Eastern Oregon-based family many summers to camp and explore, and then returned as a young adult to work for the USFS as a ranger in the Eagle Cap Wilderness and the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Her professional career has taken her to Corvallis, Culver, Estacada, Bend and tall buildings for work in design, editorial, pho-

tography, outdoor ed and social sciences. Though she loves variety in her adventures, she always knew that near the Wallows would be her base camp one day.

Jones is a Wallowa County native whose Irish immigrant great-great-grandparents homesteaded on the Zumwalt Prairie in 1880. Her direct Indian lineage includes Cayuse, Assiniboine, Northern Cree and Muskego Cree. Two of her third great-grandfathers were interpreters for the Nez Perce and the Cayuse during the 1855 Treaty negotiations. She holds a liberal studies degree with an anthropology minor specializing in Oregon Indians. After a career working

for the Oregon University System as a secretary, program manager and then graphic artist, and another working as a marketing director and consultant for non-profit air ambulance companies, she is happily retired and grateful to have more time for writing and making. Jones is the co-editor of the Frenchtown Historical Foundation newsletter, a publication focusing on the Native American, French-Canadian and Metis families' history of the area. Her work has appeared in two Fishtrap Outpost chapbooks, and she is a member of the Write Women and Sheep Creek Word Herders, local writing groups headed up by author and rancher Janie Tippett.

## Multitasking on the sidelines



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Members of the North Powder girls basketball team and other North Powder students pretend to read Go! Magazine (a publication of EO Media Group) during a match between North Powder and Condon at North Powder High School on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022. The Powder Valley Badgers won 80-63 against the Condon Blue Devils in the OSAA 1A State Championship playoff.

## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

### BRIEFS

#### Inaugural 'Last Fridays' market set for Feb. 25

UNION — Catherine Creek Community Center, housed in the former Methodist Church buildings on Main Street in Union, is launching a new monthly program called "Last Fridays." Beginning Feb. 25, on the last Friday of the month the center will be open from 4-8:30 p.m. for vendors to sell their wares. Spaces are open to artists, crafters, farmers, foodies, home-based businesses, etc.

Vendor spaces start at \$20. The center's commercial kitchen may be used with advance reservations, and the stage will be open for musicians.

The goal is to give local makers and home businesses a storefront, and to create a farmers market-type program with a variety of products, services and activities.

To sign up or for more information, email [ccc667@gmail.com](mailto:ccc667@gmail.com), visit the center's Facebook page or call 541-562-2038.

#### BlueMountaineers bring live music back to the senior center

LA GRANDE — With the COVID-19 pandemic waning, events are returning to the Union County Senior Center, 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande — including the end-of-the-month dances featuring live music by The BlueMountaineers. The community dance is scheduled

for Saturday, Feb. 26, from 6-9 p.m. This is their first gathering in two years, said Denny Langford, one of the organizers.

There will be a finger-food potluck and door prizes in addition to the live music and dancing. Admission is \$5 per person, or free for ages 12 and younger.

#### Seeking Meals on Wheels volunteers

LA GRANDE — Community Connection is seeking volunteers to help with the Meals on Wheels program in Union County. For more information, call Sydney Gleeson at 541-963-7532, ext. 1104, or stop by 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande.

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## PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

### MONDAY, FEB. 21

8:40 a.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to Walmart, 11619 Island Ave., Island City, on a report of a trespass. The deputy cited a man for trespassing.

10:05 a.m. — A caller reported animal cruelty on the 600 block of Fourth Street, North Powder.

10:10 a.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to the 700 block of South Second Street, Union, on a report of a juvenile disturbance. The deputy explained options.

1:51 p.m. — A caller on the 2500 block of Second Street, La Grande, reported a dog bit a person. An officer made contact and advised animal enforcement.

5:14 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to Walmart and gave a trespassing citation to the same man as earlier.

5:50 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to the 200 block of South 19th Avenue, Elgin, on a report of a burglary. The deputy took a report.

6:53 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 700 block of K Avenue on a report of a suspicious vehicle. An officer counseled juveniles.

8:04 p.m. — A resident on the 62700 block of Fruitdale Lane, La Grande, reported of a mail theft. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and took a report.

11 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 2600 block of Island Avenue on a report of a possible car prow. Officers counseled two in the area.

### TUESDAY, FEB. 22

12:25 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 200 block of Depot Street for a disturbance. Officers separated and counseled the parties and trespassed one person.

12:39 a.m. — Police responded the 2600 block of Island Avenue, La Grande, on a report of harassment and counseled the people involved.

7:49 a.m. — A caller reported animal neglect at a residence on the 600 block of Y Avenue, La Grande.

9:12 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a person who went out last night from the area of 58300 Grande Ronde Road, La Grande, to help vehicles stuck on U.S. Forest Service Road 51. A deputy located the subject and helped get several vehicles unstuck.

2:51 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about check fraud from Market Place Fresh Foods, 1912 Fourth St. An officer responded and took a report.

3:28 p.m. — A caller reported suspicious circumstances involving burning dirt at a residence at Tamarack Courts Apartments, 1613 21st St., La Grande. An officer made contact and took information.

7:41 p.m. — La Grande police recovered a firearm that was out of Umatilla County.

## UPCOMING LOCAL SERVICES



**Feb. 25 — RUBY WREN:** 1 p.m. graveside service, Weston Cemetery.

**Feb. 25 and Feb. 26 — STEVE HAMBLIN:** Friday, 5-7 p.m. viewing, Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande; Saturday 10 a.m. funeral, Loveland Funeral Chapel (casual dress preferred), followed by Summer-ville Cemetery graveside service and potluck.

**March 5 — DAVID KENNEDY:** noon celebration of life, Elgin Community Center (dropped off potluck dishes at the center after 10 a.m.).

**March 11 — GEORGE RUSH:** 10:30 a.m. memorial service, Catherine Creek Community Center, Union.

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

**May 19 — ORVA MURRILL:** 2 p.m. graveside service, Union Victorian Cemetery.

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

### Orva Lu (Loftus) Murrill May 21, 1931 – February 5, 2022

Orva Lu Murrill, 90, of Union, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, at a local care facility. A graveside service will be held at the Union Victorian Cemetery on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 2 p.m.

Orva was born on May 21, 1931, in Enterprise, Oregon, to James and Lucy (Baker) Loftus. She resided in Union, Enterprise, Imnaha and Lostine, Oregon. She attended schools in Imnaha and Enterprise, Oregon. She married Leonard Murrill.

Orva was a devoted wife and mother. She also worked as a bartender and cook. She enjoyed playing cards, camping, fishing and crossword puzzles.

Orva is survived by her husband, Leonard; children, Lennie Murrill (Donna) and Gayle Murrill (Debbie), both of Milton-Freewater, Oreon; daughter-in-law, Denise Murrill; six grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Lucy; sons, Eddie and Carl Murrill; sisters, Leona Whitmore and Francis Kangus; and brothers, Samuel Loftus and Paul Loftus.

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



## DEATH NOTICES

### Helen Cochrane

La Grande

Helen Cochrane, 98, of La Grande, died Feb. 19, 2022. A celebration of her life will be held in the spring. Arrangements are by Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.