

New manager of Wallowa County Farmers Market has big plans

By ANN BLOOM
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — Jessica Bogard, the new manager of the Wallowa County Farmers Market has plans for the market. Big plans.

When describing the market, she uses words such as “vibrancy,” “passion” and “fantastic.”

Bogard is not new to market management. She managed the La Grande Farmers Market for years and was on its board of directors. Prior to her appointment to her position with the Wallowa County market, she was on its board of directors. She has also been a vendor at the La Grande market, so she has seen all sides of a farmers market. She is also a master gardener.

Her background includes owning the Looking Glass bookstore in La Grande (she holds a bachelor of arts in English from Oregon State University), owning and developing a website and blog



Bogard

focused on healthy food and sustainable living and creating an agricultural flower business.

Bogard was drawn to the position of the Wallowa County Farmers Market manager, she says, because “I felt that my talents were more toward vendor relations, the farmers and the community (than on a board) and that I could best help in this position.”

What she loves most about a farmers market are the people.

“I love the passion of

farmers and artisans. I enjoy the sustainability of food systems. I enjoy how we target families who need us (with SNAP and EBT availability),” she said.

Other than the farmers market, there are no other easily accessible food options other than grocery stores in Wallowa County.

Bogard wants to see the market return to its former glory, pre-pandemic. She is interested in vendor retention, community relations and stabilizing the market. She said she wants to “bring back the vibrancy lost during COVID. I want to bring back musicians and prepared food. Part of having a farmers market is the vibrancy.”

And, she added, “I have a huge amount of passion for our community reflected in our artisans and artists.”

She said it is important for a community to have a farmers market for several reasons: “It is important for community growth. For the quality of life for community members — farmers,

artisans, artists — to build up businesses. What is a town without a farmers market?”

The Wallowa County Farmers Market attracts what Bogard refers to as “end-of-the-road tourism.” Since Wallowa County is a destination spot, tourism helps support the market. A market the size of the Wallowa County Farmers Market might not be as supported in a larger area with more amenities or attractions to draw from, or compete for attention.

Asked if there was anything she would want people to know about the market, Bogard said the Wallowa community is a community of “fantastic artists and producers. Farmers markets are vital to a community — to the vibrancy and health of a community. I’m committed to our tradition of a farmers market. Our little market is a tough little market, and it always comes out ahead. I’m passionate about continuing that tradition.”

In addition to its traditional fundraising special events, such as the pie sale, strawberry shortcake sale and cider pressing, the market will have live music on several Saturdays, featuring many local musicians patrons of the market have grown to know and appreciate over the years.

The Wallowa County

Farmers Market, held in Joseph at the Stein’s Distillery parking lot, is set to open Saturday, May 28, at 9 a.m. The market runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday, rain or shine, until mid-October. For more information, or information on how to become a vendor, or to volunteer, email wallowacountyfarmers-market@gmail.com.

MILESTONE

Shirley Lester to celebrate 85th birthday

Shirley Lester, of Island City, will celebrate her 85th birthday on Friday, April 15, from 1-3 p.m. at Market Place Fresh Foods, 1912 Fourth St., La Grande, in the upstairs dining area. Her friends are invited to mark the occasion with her. Cake, coffee and finger sandwiches will be provided.



Lester

DEATH NOTICE

Wilford D. Hamilton

La Grande

Wilford D. Hamilton, 71, of La Grande, died April 11, 2022, at Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

UPCOMING LOCAL SERVICES



April 14 — **BOB BERRY**: 10 a.m. graveside service and burial, Island City Cemetery.

April 16 — **RICK SPRINGER**: 2 p.m. celebration of life, Elgin Community Center.

April 23 — **FRANCES BOLLMAN**: 11 a.m. graveside service and vault interment, Enterprise Cemetery.

April 24 — **MICHAEL ROBINSON**: 2 p.m. celebration of life, Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande; followed by reception at Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

May 7 — **TODD McCOY**: 1 p.m. graveside service, Prairie Creek Cemetery, Joseph.

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

May 21 — **MARY SCOTT**: 11 a.m. celebration of life potluck, Elgin Community Center.

June 23 — **DAN KRAMER**: 2 p.m. memorial service, Grandview Cemetery, La Grande.

— Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

MEETINGS

• **UNION** — The Union Rural Fire Protection District Board will meet Tuesday, April 19, at 7 p.m. at the fire hall. For more information, call 541-910-3114 or email union.rfpd@outlook.com.

BRIEFS

Learn about hospice at free presentation

LA GRANDE — The Union County Senior Center, 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande, on Thursday, April 14, is hosting a hospice presentation at 1 p.m. All are welcome to come meet Kristina Maughmer from Heart ‘n Home Hospice and learn about hospice as a community resource.

The Easter Bunny is coming to town

LA GRANDE — The Riverside Park Easter egg hunt in La Grande is canceled this year — organizers had to decide in late January whether or not to organize the event. They hope to return the hunt in 2023. But, don’t worry, there are other options.

On Friday, April 15, beginning at 4 p.m., Grande Ronde Retirement Residence, 1809 Gekeler Lane, invites kids ages 1-12 to hunt eggs, snack on hot dogs and chips and have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny.

For a fun spin on the traditional Easter activity, come to the underwater egg hunt at Veterans’ Memorial Pool, at Pioneer Park on Palmer Avenue, on Friday, April 15. Doors open at 6 p.m. Admission is \$5 to swim and dive for eggs and cash them in for prizes. The event will be

divided into age groups: 6 months to 3 years at 7 p.m., 4-6 years at 7:30 p.m., and 7-9 years at 8 p.m.

The Elgin Women’s Service club’s Easter egg hunt is on Saturday, April 16, at Stella Mayfield Elementary School. This year’s event begins at 10 a.m. and is for ages 1-10.

In Wallowa County, the Joseph Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring an Easter egg hunt at the Joseph City Park from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, April 16. Hunts will be divided by age groups, ages newborn to 12. And in Wallowa, an Easter egg hunt for ages 0-11 happens at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 16, at Lions Club Park. Bonus: Kids can also meet the Easter Bunny.

Union VFW post welcomes donations for upcoming yard sale

UNION — The Veteran of Foreign Wars High Valley Post 4060 in Union is putting on a breakfast and yard sale on Saturday, April 30. The group welcomes donations (no clothes, please) for the yard sale, which will begin at 8 a.m.

A breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, juice and coffee will be served from 7-10 a.m., for \$9 per person.

Playwright hosts writing workshop

ENTERPRISE — E.M. Lewis, the writer-in-residence at Fishtrap, will lead a workshop titled “Telling Stories for the Stage: An Introduction to Playwriting” on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This in-person session will be in the Wallowa Land Trust Conference Room, 17 E. Main St., Enterprise. The cost

is listed as “pay what you can afford” — register at www.fishtrap.org/lewisplaywriting/#more-10885.

Lewis will provide an introduction to the fundamentals of playwriting, from dialogue to stage directions. The group will read from plays both old and new, and discuss the special power of theater. All are welcome, from beginning writers to more experienced writers in other genres who want to explore this form.

An award-winning playwright, teacher and opera librettist, Lewis has had her work produced around the world. She is currently enjoying a three-year Mellon Foundation National Playwright Residency at Artists Repertory Theater. To learn more, visit www.emlewisplaywright.com.



Lewis

‘Celebrate Elgin’ at 2022 chamber banquet

ELGIN — The 2022 Elgin Chamber of Commerce Banquet will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19. All are welcome to come “Celebrate Elgin.” Tickets are \$30 and are available at Community Bank, Elgin Branch.

Play ultimate frisbee on Saturdays

LA GRANDE — An Ultimate Frisbee League is underway in La Grande. Games are played every Saturday at 10 a.m. at the La Grande Nazarene Church, 109 18th St., and are open to adults and youth in middle school and high school. For more, go to www.facebook.com/UFUCLub.

— The Observer

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

2:45 a.m. — A caller reported possible gunshots on the 2600 block of Bearco Loop, La Grande. Police searched the area but found no suspects.

10:40 a.m. — A caller reported a disturbance on the 64800 block of Sammyville Lane, Elgin. A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded and determined this was a civil matter and explained options.

10:59 a.m. — La Grande police at La Grande Middle School, 1108 Fourth St., arrested a 47-year-old man for a restraining order violation and second-degree disorderly conduct.

2:36 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1800 block of 26th Street for a report of harassment at a residence. An officer explained options.

2:49 p.m. — A caller reported a disturbance involving a juvenile on the 1400 block of X Avenue, La Grande. An officer responded and explained options.

3:29 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a

burglary on the 1200 block of Adams Avenue. An officer responded and took a report.

6:28 p.m. — A caller reported two dogs were chasing livestock on the 1000 block of B Avenue, La Grande.

7:04 p.m. — A caller on the 500 block of South College Street, Union, made a report about menacing. Union County sheriff’s deputies responded and planned for a follow-up.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

3:17 a.m. — A La Grande police officer checked on the welfare of person in a vehicle on the 2000 block of Adams Avenue. Everything was OK.

12:56 p.m. — An Elgin resident reported fraud to his account. A Union County sheriff’s deputy made contact and referred the victim to his bank.

7:26 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a disturbance involving a juvenile at The La Grande Inn, 2612 Island Ave. An officer responded and counseled the juvenile.

7:52 p.m. — A resident on the 100 block of Willow Street,

La Grande, reported possible harassment. An officer made contact and explained options.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

12:55 a.m. — La Grande police received a request for a welfare check on the 1600 block of L Avenue. An officer responded and found the subject was OK.

9:46 a.m. — A resident on the 700 block of Esther Avenue, Imbler, reported a burglary. A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded and took a report.

12:44 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office received a report of a family issue on the 600 block of North 10th Street, Union. A deputy made contact and took information.

1:02 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a family issue on the 2800 block of Oak Street. An officer responded and took a report.

5:53 p.m. — A caller reported a traffic hazard at North 17th Avenue and Detroit Street, Elgin. A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded and moved a cable from the road.

7:54 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office received a report of an assault on Love Road, Cove. A Union County sheriff’s deputy made contact and took a report.

9:57 p.m. — A resident on the 1600 block of 21st Street, La Grande, reported possible harassment. An officer made contact and explained options.

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