

# 'Spring Fling' to be revamped in Joseph



Contributed Photo  
Musician Jimmy Bivens headlines an outdoor music series in Joseph this summer.

Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — A series of concerts will take place in downtown Joseph most Wednesdays from July 6 through Aug. 24, headlined by Americana musician Jimmy Bivens and sponsored by the Joseph Chamber of Commerce.

The concerts will run from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the courtyard across Main Street from Embers Brew-house, Bivens said. There will be no performance July 27 — the week of Chief Joseph Days.

He said he's been asked

by the chamber to revise the "Spring Fling" concert series that usually takes place downtown. The guitarist plays Western swing, blues, rock and more. In a band situation, he often does lead vocals and serves as the front man.

"It's mostly any kind of music you can think of in a troubadour style," he said of his song list.

A 10-year resident of Enterprise, Bivens hopes to draw more musicians to the series.

"I want to support those touring artists while mixing in some local acts," he said. Bivens said the con-

cert series is being done in honor and memory of Henry Kinsley, who owned and operated a shop in the courtyard where it will take place.

He often draws from the audience to participate in his performance.

"One of my fortes has been to get someone from the audience to come up and play," he said.

But the main goal is to simply bring enjoyment: "My first goal is to entertain people, to put smiles on people's faces."

For a sample of Bivens' work and to learn more, visit [www.jimmybivens.com](http://www.jimmybivens.com).

## This week at the library: LEGO contest and more

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Summer Reading has begun at Cook Memorial Library, 2006 Fourth St., La Grande. This free program is open to all ages, from children to adults, and runs through Friday, July 29. Sign up anytime.

The library will host a LEGO competition on July 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Community Room. This is a free activity for ages 18 and younger. Hobby Habit gift certificates will be awarded to winners in four age groups. LEGO pieces are provided and creations will be on display in the

library through July.

Storytime will be held in the Story Circle on July 7 at 10:30 a.m. with songs, stories and a pinecone craft. The special guest this week will be Teresa Gustafson, Urban Forester with the city of La Grande.

Teen Zen will be on July 7 at 3 p.m. in the Community Room. Led by Kitia Chambers, this program gives teens creative and fun ways to de-stress. Teens will make a craft with crystals during this fifth and final day of the Teen Zen series offered in partnership with Youth Alliance Union County and Union County Safe Com-

munities Coalition.

Kid Craft Fridays are offered from 3-4 p.m. for children ages 7-10. On July 8, children will make a leaf rubbing painting with watercolors. Supplies are provided.

Sing, dance and play during Campfire Sing-Along on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. in the library's Story Circle.

For more information on summer events visit the library's web, Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest pages; call 541-962-1339; or stop by the library 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

## Area college students earn degrees, place on honor rolls

EO Media Group

UNION AND WALLOWA COUNTIES — The following college students from Union and Wallowa counties were reported to EO Media Group as earning recognition for their academic achievements in the spring of 2022 or receiving a degree in their chosen field of study.

ALISHA BEIRL, Enterprise — Weber State University (Ogden, Utah): Academic Excellence, GPA of 3.50 or higher.

MICHAEL DIGGINS, Wallowa — Sheridan College (Sheridan, Wyoming): President's Honor Roll, GPA of 4.0.

STACY DOUGLASS, Wallowa — Oregon State University (Corvallis):

bachelor of sciences degree, animal sciences.

CLAIRE FARWELL, Enterprise — Gonzaga University (Spokane, Washington): President's List, GPA of 3.85-4.0.

NATALIE GORHAM, Joseph — Gonzaga University (Spokane, Washington): Dean's List, GPA of 3.50-3.84.

ADDIE KILGORE, Joseph — Oregon State University (Corvallis): bachelor of arts degree, speech communication.

AUBRINA MELVILLE, Enterprise — South Dakota State University (Brookings, South Dakota): Dean's List.

JORDAN NULL, La Grande — Whitman College (Walla Walla, Washington): Academic Distinction, GPA of

3.50 or higher.

SOPHIA PETTIT, Cove — Weber State University (Ogden, Utah): Academic Excellence, GPA of 3.50 or higher; degree in child and family studies.

SCOTT REMILY, La Grande — Gonzaga University (Spokane, Washington): President's List, GPA of 3.85-4.0.

ARIANNA SHUKLE, La Grande — George Fox University (Newberg): bachelor of arts degree, studio art.

SIERRA SMITH, La Grande — Whitman College (Walla Walla, Washington): bachelor's degree, psychology.

VICTORIA SUTO, Enterprise — College of Saint Mary (Omaha, Nebraska): President's Honor Roll, GPA of 3.90 or higher.

## UPCOMING LOCAL SERVICES



**July 8 — DONNA JO FITZGERALD:** 1 p.m. graveside service, Hillcrest East Cemetery, La Grande.

**July 9 — JANET ALLREAD:** 10 a.m. celebration of life, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande (casual dress preferred).

**July 9 — MYRNA JOURNOT:** 1 p.m. celebration of life, Wallowa Assembly of God Church; interment follows at Promise Cemetery.

**July 9 — ART CANNON:** 4 p.m. memorial, Grange Hall, Flora; potluck follows.

**July 30 — CLARENCE WILSON:** 2 p.m. celebration of life, Lighthouse Pentecostal Church, Island City (casual dress preferred).

— Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

## OBITUARY AND DEATH NOTICE POLICY

OBITUARY PACKAGE • Paid • Advertising formatting

• CONTACT: Devi Mathson, [dmathson@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:dmathson@lagrandeobserver.com) • 541-624-6007

DEATH NOTICE • Free of charge • 150-word maximum in newspaper content style

• Includes name, age, town of residency and information about any funeral services or life celebrations. • No add-ons available (photos, etc.).

• DEADLINE: 11 a.m. the day prior to publication

• CONTACT: Lisa Lester Kelly, [lkelly@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:lkelly@lagrandeobserver.com) • 541-624-6019

### Donna René (Koonce) Metzger

April 13, 1953 - June 26, 2022

Donna René Koonce was born to Leona (Brice) Koonce and Frederick Koonce on April 13, 1953, in North Bend, Oregon. Donna spent her childhood in North Bend and Coos Bay, then later moved to Hillsboro, where she graduated from HillHi in 1971.

Donna moved to Klamath Falls later that year where she met her future husband, Roland Metzger. They were married on Dec. 9, 1971. The couple welcomed their first born, Sidra, in August of 1973. The three moved around a little between Nevada and Western Oregon. The trio became a quartet in March of 1977, when they added Kai to the family. After moving to La Grande in 1979, they added baby number three, Kezra, in September of 1980. Donna and her family moved back to Western Oregon in the spring of 1989, and made their home there until 2017 when they moved east again.

When the children were young, Donna was a full-time mother. As they grew older, Donna returned to school and finished her associate's degree then began a career with the Oregon Health Authority. She brought caring, compassion and humor to her work, brightening the lives of coworkers and ensuring the best medical care for Oregonians.

Donna always said, and made clear, that being a mom and grandma was her greatest joy, but those who know her understand that she was a woman of boundless love. Donna took time to befriend countless people, offering her home, a helping hand or a listening ear to those who needed it. Over the years she ministered in the Union County Jail, worked as a volunteer mentor for struggling teens and as a day care helper at the YMCA, and packed and delivered food to Salem's unhoused with her church group.

While Donna was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in her early 20s, being active was always extremely important to her. Donna loved a challenge and even rode her bike 700 miles one summer. She had an amazing zest for life and refused to let some silly disease get in the way of fun.

Donna lost her short battle with cancer on Sunday, June 26, 2022, in Walla Walla, Washington. She was surrounded by her family.

Donna is survived by her husband, Roland Metzger of Weston, Oregon; children, Sidra Metzger (John) of Moultrie, Georgia, Kai Metzger (Lydia) of Independence, Oregon, and Kezra Presleigh (Harley) of Salem, Oregon; grandchildren, Kobe Metzger, Taegan Metzger, Kade Metzger, Morgen Metzger, Titus Metzger, Kaison Metzger, Nicholas Presleigh, Kashlin Metzger, Eli Stovall and Taya Stovall; great-grandchildren, Koda Metzger, Aniya Metzger and Kingston Matthews; siblings, Kay Harley, Frederick D. Koonce II, Doug Barnett, Debra Cheek, Mardi Heiberlin, Judith Ohlsen, Debra Stump and Donald Koonce; and aunts and uncles, Rebecca Fields, Judy Critchfield, Harold Brice and Ramona Rohrs.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, Leona Barnett, Harry Barnett and Frederick D. Koonce Sr., and brothers, Michael Koonce and Terry Koonce.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, July 8, 2022, at the Christian Church in Athena, Oregon.



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

### MEETINGS

• LA GRANDE — A regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners is slated for Wednesday, July 6, at 9 a.m. at 1106 K Ave., La Grande. Meetings are open to the public in person and via Zoom videoconference. The agenda and access information may be found at [www.union-county.org/commissioners/agendaminutes](http://www.union-county.org/commissioners/agendaminutes).

• LA GRANDE — The Northeast Area Commission on Transportation will hold its next meeting Thursday July 7, 2022, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Oregon Department of Transportation Region 5 Headquarters, 3012 Island Ave., La Grande. The meeting

is open to the public. An audio option also is available by calling 971-277-1965 (meeting number: 147 137 168#).

### BRIEFS

#### Help children cope with divorce, separation

LA GRANDE — Learn how divorce or separation impacts your children and what you can do to help them at a free online workshop offered from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, July 13. The workshop is facilitated by Mary Lu Pierce and sponsored by the Family Law Advisory Committee. Support persons and community members may also attend. Pre-registra-

tion is required. To sign up and for Zoom access information, email your name, mailing address, phone number and the date of the class to [tesla.sunderman@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:tesla.sunderman@ojd.state.or.us). For more information call 541-962-9500 ext. 42.

#### Terry LaMont to play at dance

LA GRANDE — Terry LaMont will provide the music for a community dance on Saturday, July 9, from 6-9 p.m. at the Union County Senior Center, 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande. Admission is \$5, free for ages 12 and younger. The evening includes a finger-food potluck.

— The Observer

## PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

### FRIDAY, JULY 1

7:39 a.m. — A caller on the 2500 block of Fir Street, La Grande, reported juveniles were starting a fire. An officer responded and took a report.

10:22 a.m. — La Grande police responded to Birnie Park on a call about a suspicious person. Police arrested Jennifer Lucky, 24, of La Grande, for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

2:12 p.m. — A resident on the 71000 block of Merritt Lane, Elgin, reported the theft of a companion animal. A Union County sheriff's deputy made contact and determined this was a civil situation.

7:44 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 200 block of Willow Street on a report of a juvenile in a disturbance. Police took a report.

8:49 p.m. — A caller in Elgin reported a dog bit someone. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and took a report.

10 p.m. — A resident on the 2800 block of Athens Court, La Grande, reported a loud party. An officer responded and counseled the parties.

### SATURDAY, JULY 2

1:54 a.m. — A La Grande police officer observed a loud party on Jakob Avenue and counseled the subjects.

10:07 a.m. — La Grande police responded to Fir Street and Jackson Avenue on a report of a domestic disturbance. Officers warned two people for disorderly conduct and arrested a 26-year-old man on a Baker County warrant with a charge of giving false information to a police officer.

10:59 a.m. — A caller reported the theft of fuel on the 300 block of

Fourth Street, La Grande. An officer responded and took information.

11:42 a.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to Gekeler Lane and Phys Road, La Grande, on a report a deer stuck in a fence. The deputy freed the deer.

12:06 p.m. — A caller at Walmart, 11619 Island Ave., Island City, reported animal cruelty.

9:33 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy on the west end of Adams Avenue, La Grande, assisted a motorist who had locked themselves out of their car.

11:13 p.m. — A La Grande police officer responded to Adams and Island avenues on a report of a fight. The officer arrested Justin L. Ransford, 25, for first-degree kidnapping, harassment, resisting arrest, stalking, menacing and second-degree disorderly conduct.

### SUNDAY, JULY 3

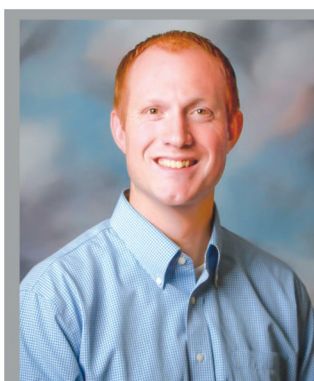
8:35 a.m. — A caller reported an injured deer on the 2000 block of Z Avenue, La Grande. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded but did not find the deer.

3:51 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the Orchard Motel, 2206 Adams Ave., on a report of a disturbance. Police warned one person.

6:57 p.m. — A caller in the area of 57000 High Valley Road, Union, reported finding a goat.

9:25 p.m. — A caller made a complaint about fireworks on the first block of Depot Street, La Grande. An officer responded and found the fireworks were legal.

11:05 p.m. — La Grande police received the first of several complaints about fireworks going off in town.



Turning 65?  
We're here to help!

Joel Myer

[jmyer@valleyinsurance.com](mailto:jmyer@valleyinsurance.com)



1603 Washington Ave, La Grande

(541) 963-3121

Let us take the  
mystery out of  
Medicare for you!



Kathy Rienti

[krienti@valleyinsurance.com](mailto:krienti@valleyinsurance.com)