

COMMUNITY

Briefs

Harvest Share available by appointment at senior center

LA GRANDE — Harvest Share items still are available at the Union County Senior Center, 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande, but people must call 541-963-7532 to arrange pickup. Staff will bring the free bag of food to the door, with the goal of maintaining the mandated 6 feet of separation.

Silhouette shoots will resume in December

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club has canceled its April 5 .22 Silhouette Shoot. These matches will resume in December. For more information, contact Gary Langlitz at 541-786-0809.

Latin dancing restricted to living room

LA GRANDE — The Latin dance lessons at Wine Down, La Grande, held on Monday evenings, are canceled until further notice.

EOLS postpones kickoff

UNION — The Eastern Oregon Livestock Show has postponed its 2020 Kickoff Dinner that was scheduled for April 4.

Rotary tracks open businesses

Photo by Bill Bradshaw/
EO Media Group

Range Rider in Enterprise in Wallowa County switched to takeout and delivery service. The Rotary Club of Wallowa County is letting people know what businesses still are open.

UNION COUNTY SENIOR CENTER TAKEOUT LUNCH MENU

Takeout only, pickup from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande for delivery, call 541-963-7532 before 10 a.m.

March 30-April 3 Monday:

chicken strips, steak fries, coleslaw, fresh fruit, cookies.

Tuesday: ravioli, spinach salad, steamed winter-blend vegetables, garlic bread, fruit.

Wednesday-Friday: April menu not yet available.

EO Media Group staff

Federal funds available to avoid layoffs

LA GRANDE — The Eastern Oregon Workforce Board reported it has funding to help area businesses that are at risk of laying off employees due to the novel coronavirus.

“The flexibility allowed for this money is unprecedented for federal funds, as they may be used for any activities to prevent, or minimize the duration of, unemployment resulting from layoffs,” according to the board. “For example, the money could be used for a deep clean to keep employees safe and healthy, laptop computers that enable employees to work remotely, or any other supplies or services that qualify.”

You can find the application at the board’s website: www.eowb.org. Return it with a completed W-9 to info@eowb.org, by noon each Wednesday. Applications will be accepted until funds have been depleted. Successful applicants will be announced weekly.

Call 541-963-3693 and leave a message for Brenda or Erin during regular business hours with your questions.

Oregon fuel still 4th most expensive in nation

PORTLAND — Gasoline prices are plummeting across the country but fuel in Oregon, as well as other western states, is much more expensive than the national average.

That’s actually a typical situation, although the nationwide drop, which reflects decreased demand due to coronavirus restrictions and crude oil prices at their lowest level since 2002, is not normal, said Marie Dodds of AAA Oregon/Idaho.

“The West Coast usually has the highest prices,” Dodds said.

Oregon, with an average price of \$2.80 per gallon for regular unleaded, down a dime over the past week, ranks as the 4th-highest price among states. Oregon has been in that spot for eight straight weeks.

The national average is \$2.10. Oklahoma has

NEWS BRIEFS

the cheapest gas, with an average of \$1.70 per gallon. A total of 29 states have an average below \$2. Hawaii, as it often does, has the highest average price at \$3.44, followed by California (\$3.17) and Washington (\$2.87).

Dodds said the main reason that gas prices in West Coast states typically exceed the national average, and often by 50 cents and more, is that there are relatively few fuel refineries in the region (none in Oregon), and the distance to major refining states such as Texas is such that transportation costs boost prices at the pump.

Another factor, Dodds said, is California law requiring gas sold in that state contain less carbon to reduce pollution. That gas blend is more expensive because only certain refineries produce it, she said, and sometimes other states, including Oregon, end up selling the California-blend fuel.

Regionally, Baker County’s average price of \$2.83 ranks second-highest among Eastern Oregon counties, behind Wal-

lowa County (\$3.02 — the highest price in the state).

Other average prices among counties:

- Malheur, \$2.63
- Umatilla, \$2.66
- Union, \$2.69
- Morrow, \$2.70
- Grant, \$2.73
- Harney, \$2.75

Thirteen of Oregon’s 36 counties have a higher average price than Baker County’s. Eleven of those counties are west of the Cascades, including Multnomah, the state’s most populous county, which ranks second behind Wallowa County at \$2.98 per gallon. Linn County, in the Willamette Valley, has the lowest average at \$2.46.

Relief fund will support restaurant workers impacted by COVID-19 crisis

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation announced the creation of a Restaurant Employee Relief Fund to support U.S. restaurant workers financially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Industry icon Guy

Fieri will lead a nationwide fundraising drive.

“My entire career has been in the restaurant business,” Fieri said in a news release. “From bussing tables to flambe captain to dishwasher to chef... I’ve done it all. I’ve also spent the better part of the last 15 years traveling this great country meeting other folks who’ve dedicated their lives to this business and let me tell you something, they are the hardest working, most real deal workers you’ve ever met. But they need our help and with Restaurant Relief America, we can serve up some support when these restaurant employees need it most... right now.”

Starting Tuesday, affected restaurant workers will be able to apply online for a one-time, \$500 check to use toward housing, transportation, utilities, child care, groceries, medical bills and/or student loans. These grants will be administered by the NRAEF and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information on the application process or if you wish to donate to RERF, visit <https://rerf.us/>.

RELIEF

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response “to address these threats to their lives and their livelihood and they need it now.”

The \$2.2 trillion legislation will speed government payments of \$1,200 to most Americans and increase jobless benefits for millions of people thrown out of work. Businesses big and small will get loans, grants and tax breaks. It will send unprecedented billions to states and local governments, and the nation’s all but overwhelmed health care system.

“This is not a time for cynicism or invective or second-guessing,” said GOP Whip Liz Cheney of Wyoming. “This is a time to remember that we are citizens of the greatest nation on Earth, that we have overcome every challenge we have faced, and we will overcome this one.”

Despite reservations, arch conservatives joined with progressives like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., to back the bill, which moved quickly through a Congress that’s been battered by partisanship and is itself not immune to the suffering the virus has caused.

Reps. Joe Cunningham, D-S.C., and Mike Kelly, R-Pa., announced Friday that they’d tested positive, bringing the number of infected lawmakers to five.

Tea party Republicans said government orders to shutter businesses merited actions that conflict with their small-government ide-



Photo by Evan Vucci/The Associated Press

President Donald Trump speaks before he signs the coronavirus stimulus relief package in the Oval Office at the White House, Friday in Washington. Listening are, from left; Larry Kudlow, White House chief economic adviser, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarty of California.

ology. Liberals accepted generous corporate rescues that accompany larger unemployment benefits, deferrals of student loans, and an enormous surge of funding for health care and other agencies responding to the crisis.

“I’m going to have to vote for something that has things in it that break my heart,” said conservative Rep. David Schweikert, R-Ariz.

Many lawmakers summoned the bipartisan spirit of 9/11 and efforts to fight terrorism. Others praised the roles low-income workers play in keeping the country going and the heroism of health care workers. Some, like Iowa Democrat Abby Finkenauer, who had just learned of two addi-

tional coronavirus-related deaths in her district, came close to tears.

Others couldn’t restrain their partisan impulses. Republicans chided Democratic leaders for delays and provisions they see as extraneous, such as funding for public broadcasting and the arts; Democrats said too many elements are a bailout for corporations that may not need it.

Still, in a chamber increasingly populated by lawmakers whose chief skill often seems to be partisan attacks, Friday’s debate was a noteworthy break.

“We have no time to dither,” said Rep. Gerald Connolly, D-Va. “We have no time to engage in ideological or petty partisan fights. Our country needs

us as one.”

The run-up to the vote contained an element of drama because libertarian conservative Thomas Massie, R-Ky., announced plans to seek a roll call vote.

Leaders of both parties united to prevent that because it would have forced lawmakers back to the Capitol or blemished their voting records if they stayed home. Instead, they made sure enough lawmakers would attend Friday’s session to block Massie’s move under the rules, and lawmakers took the unprecedented step of sitting in the visitors galleries to establish the necessary quorum.

The House promptly adjourned for a weeks-long recess but will return later

in the spring to consider further legislation.

“This bill is not only a rescue package, it’s a commitment — a commitment that your government, and the people whom you elected to serve you, will do everything we can to limit the harm and hardship you face, both now and in the foreseeable future,” said Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif.

The massive CARES Act started as a draft plan among Republicans controlling the Senate who were seeking a greater voice in the coronavirus response efforts — especially after Pelosi was a dominant force in earlier legislation imposing a sick leave mandate on businesses.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., welcomed Democratic participation a week ago, and signed off on a major expansion of unemployment insurance, but his efforts to freeze out Pelosi and force a quick agreement were met with Democratic demands for large infusions of aid to states and hospitals, as well as an assortment of smaller items. McConnell and top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York wrestled for days, along with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and other administration officials.

Negotiations finally produced a deal early Wednesday morning, and the Senate passed the measure by a 96-0 vote.

The legislation dwarfs prior Washington responses to crises like 9/11, the 2008 financial crisis, and natural disasters.

OBITUARIES

Inski H. Yu

La Grande

Dr. Inski H. Yu, 43, of La Grande, died March 22 at his residence. Arrangements by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Nayda V. (Byrd) Wiseman

La Grande • 1925-2020

Nayda Virginia Byrd Adams Wiseman, 94, of La Grande, died March 21 at a local care facility. At her request, there will not be a service.

Nayda was born April 16, 1925, in Portland, to Franklin and Marie (Stone) Byrd. She was

raised in Corvallis, where she attended grade school and graduated from high school. As a young adult, she lived in Portland, and she moved to La Grande in 1958.

In 1946, Nayda married Dr. John C. Adams. That marriage ended in

divorce. She then married Gary Wiseman in 1973. Nayda retired in 1988 after 30 years as a secretary, first at Mt. Emily Lumber and then at Boise Cascade.

Nayda enjoyed gardening, music (Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Goodman, Count Basie), sports cars, a glass of good wine and traveling, including trips to South America, Mexico, Canada, Europe (several times), the Canary Islands and through the Straits of Magellan.

Nayda also was an avid skier at Little Anthony and Anthony Lakes. She was a member of the Women in Timber organization and a volunteer at Grande Ronde Hospital.

Surviving relatives include her daughter, Nancy Adams of Beaverton, and one nephew.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Franklin and Marie; son, John F. Adams; sister, Dorothy Winters; brother,

Upcoming local services

LOVELAND
FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY

APRIL 3
Loren Fihn:
5 p.m. burial of cremains, Island City Cemetery; followed by reception dinner.

APRIL 18
Linda Johnston:
1 p.m. celebration of life and potluck, Elgin Community Center.

Robert Byrd; and brother-in-law, Larry Winters.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of choice.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

WEDNESDAY

12:42 p.m. — Law enforcement received a report of a vehicle not yielding for an ambulance on the 11600 block of Island Avenue, Island City. A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded and issued a citation.

4:45 p.m. — La Grande police received a noise complaint on the 2200 block of Cove Avenue. An officer responded and told people to keep it down.

4:56 p.m. — A caller reported aggressive dogs on the 800 block of South Third Street, Union. An animal enforcement officer responded, returned the dogs to their home and left a notice for their owner.

7:07 p.m. — A caller in Union reported a disturbance on the 1000 block of South Main Street. Union County sheriff’s deputies responded and warned the subject about making too much noise.

8:32 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of loud bangs in the area of Riverside Park. Law enforcement responded but found no one in the area.

THURSDAY

9:10 a.m. — A caller reported two dogs chased horses in the area of 300 Inverness Street, Summerville. An animal enforcement officer responded and cited the owner of the dogs.

9:59 a.m. — A caller in Cove reported animal abuse. The Union County Sheriff’s Office is looking into the situation.

12:09 p.m. — La Grande police received a request to check on someone. An officer responded, and the person in question went to the hospital. Police also took a report.

4:35 p.m. — La Grande police cited three La Grande teens: an 18-year-old for first-degree theft and unlawful entry into a vehicle; a 17-year-old for first-degree theft and unlawful entry into a

vehicle; and a 15-year-old for juvenile in possession of a firearm and theft by receiving.

7:52 p.m. — A caller reported someone throwing garbage around on the 2700 block of Bearco Loop, La Grande. Police arrived. The person decided to clean up the mess.

8:27 p.m. — Law enforcement received a report of several loud bangs in the area of the 62100 block of Mount Glen Road. A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded but did not find any cause.

La Grande Post Acute would like to extend a Great Big THANK YOU!

to all our family members who have been so supportive about following our guidelines with this Covid-19. We would also like to let our family members know that all is well, and have had no outbreak of this violent epidemic. Activities have been modified to suit the needs, Walkie Talkie Bingo was a big hit. If you would like to support your family at La Grande Post Acute, Saturday-April 4, 2020 we will be outside 11:30a to 1:30p decorating the windows for the residents.



LaGrande
Post Acute Care

Call Dona at
541-963-8678
and let me know
if you are coming.



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