

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY
Today is Saturday, May 2, the 123rd day of 2020. There are 243 days left in the year.
TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT
On May 2, 1994, Nelson Mandela claimed victory in the wake of South Africa's first democratic elections; President F.W. de Klerk acknowledged defeat.
LOTTERY
Megabucks: \$3.8 million
13-15-18-28-44-46
Mega Millions: \$200 million
13-19-53-54-63-17 x3
Powerball: \$51 million
2-20-49-61-67 — PB-20 x2
Win for Life: April 29
15-24-36-55
Pick 4: April 30
• 1 p.m.: 8-5-8-8; • 4 p.m.: 9-9-7-2
• 7 p.m.: 7-1-0-7; • 10 p.m.: 2-9-7-8
Pick 4: April 29
• 1 p.m.: 9-4-6-9; • 4 p.m.: 5-0-8-1
• 7 p.m.: 3-3-6-6; • 10 p.m.: 0-0-8-5
DELIVERY ISSUES?
If you have any problems receiving your Observer, call the office at 541-963-3161.
TODAY'S QUOTE
"What experience and history teach is this: that people and governments have never learned anything from history."
— Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, German philosopher (1770-1831)

La Grande's proposed budget increases more than 3.6%

Police, fire take small dips, public works gets boost

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Budget Committee approved a budgeting topping \$51 million for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The proposed budget is \$1.81 million more than the 2019-20 budget, an increase of about 3.7%.

The city also enters the upcoming fiscal year debt free, having repaid all "borrowed money for improvements to buildings, water and sewer systems, streets or large equipment," according to the budget proposal.

City Manager Robert Strobe said the city could absorb some lost revenue — which there likely could be this year as a result of the coronavirus — and not see its expenditures take a hit. He also said there will be an impact on what the city receives in gas tax funds, but indicated the city still is waiting on a forecast from

the governor's office before he will know what the revenue loss could be.

Most of the city's departments or funds are within 10% — increased or decreased — of the total from the prior year, according to the budget proposal, which is on the city's website.

The general fund is for 2020-21 is at about \$14.8 million, a drop of just less than 2% from the roughly \$15.1 million in the general fund a year ago. A notable change that came out of the committee meeting was the decision to take one-third of the city's proposed con-

tingency fund — which was a proposed total of \$750,000 for the upcoming year — and move it into the council manager's budget for 2020-21 to meet needs that would be specifically related to the coronavirus.

The budget for the city's police department also is down from last year, sitting at \$3.56 million, a decrease of about \$71,000 from a year ago. This is because a software upgrade has its first year of maintenance in the purchase cost.

The budget for the city's fire and emergency services department is just more than 9% lower at about \$2.7

million. The drop is due to lower funding for PERS and medical, dental and vision insurance to meet the level for six entry-level employees the department added.

The costs of both departments match what they requested for the city for the upcoming year.

The highest increase in proposed expenses is in the Public Works Department, which has almost \$27.5 million for the upcoming year, a jump of nearly 10%. The largest spike within public works is in street maintenance, which has just more than \$1 million in proposed

costs after a toll of about \$660,000 last year. Water and sewer reserves have an increased proposal of about 20%.

Of the \$51 million in the budget, the city is carrying over close to \$23 million in "beginning resources" from 2019-20, and roughly \$20 million of the funding comes from taxes, fees and other charges.

The city's Urban Renewal Agency general fund is close to 13% higher at \$1,734,546.

The city council will vote on the budget before July 1, when it has to go into effect.

Grande Ronde Hospital and Clinics proudly welcomes: Ellen Barlow, FNP-C

To the GRH Regional Medical Clinic team as a Primary Care Provider (PCP)

Ellen Barlow, FNP-C, joins the GRH Regional Medical Clinic from Boise, Idaho, where she worked as a registered nurse in a busy emergency department for the past several years. She completed her Master's Degree at Gonzaga University, and her undergraduate degree at Boise State University. Ellen has background as a Union Hotshots wildland firefighter and EMT, and looks forward to utilizing her diverse set of skills to transition into her new role as a primary care family nurse practitioner. She has a particular interest in developing a long-term relationship with each of her patients, while empowering them to attain their health goals. Ellen was born and raised here in La Grande, and is eager to return to her roots with her husband and two dogs. She looks forward to enjoying all the outdoor activities that Eastern Oregon has to offer.



Ellen Barlow, FNP-C

GRH Regional Medical Clinic

506 4th Street, La Grande • 541.663.3138 • grh.org/RMC/

Now accepting new patients!

Learn more about Ellen in our online Provider Directory at www.grh.org today!



NEWS BRIEFS

OSP asks for help in hit-and-run crash

LA GRANDE — Oregon State Police is seeking the public's help in identifying a semi driver who caused a crash and kept rolling.

Troopers on Wednesday at 5:47 p.m. responded to a hit-and-run crash on Interstate 84 near milepost 277, about 14 miles southeast of La Grande. Troopers found a Mazda 626 in the median. The driver, Robert Floyd, 56, of North Powder, had minor injuries.

Floyd told troopers he was passing a semitrailer when it changed lanes, striking his car and causing him to lose control. The Mazda rolled several times before coming to a stop.

Another semi driver had a dash camera going and recorded the wreck: https://youtu.be/yFCVzm_ux_g

The semi in the crash had Ontario, Canada, license plates. Oregon State Police is asking anyone who may have information regarding the semi or its driver to call the OSP dispatch at 800-442-2068 or *OSP and reference case SP-20-112219.

Fire hydrant testing continues

LA GRANDE — The city of La Grande is continuing its semi-annual fire hydrant testing and maintenance program to check water availability for fire-fighting and rid the city's water distribution system of sedimentation deposits.

The city in a press release reported it has a higher than normal amount of sedimentation deposits, thus resulting in periodic water clarity problems. In a normal year, most residents would be at work during the tests, according to the city, but due to the COVID-19 quarantine, more people are using water when the tests stir up the sediment.

"Be aware, although the water may be discolored or have a slight odor," the city reported, "it has still been treated and meets the requirements for potable water. We are working our way through the system as efficiently as possible, but expect periods in which discolored water will be encountered."

Residents who have unusual water clarity problems during the hydrant flushing should turn on a cold-water faucet outside (if possible) and let it run for 10-15 minutes. This will normally clear up the agitated water from the service



Photo contributed by Oregon State Police

Oregon State Police is seeking the public's help in identifying this semitrailer that caused a car to crash Wednesday on Interstate 84 near milepost 277.

line.

For other problems, call the La Grande Public Works Department at 541-962-1325.

The city reported it expects to conduct the tests Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., until it has flushed every hydrant.

"We have currently worked through approximately half of the city," according to the press release, "and will attempt to keep locations of future work areas updated on our Facebook page."

La Grande man faces felonies from crash

LA GRANDE — Michael Duane Lee of La Grande is out of jail on a security release agreement while he faces felony charges stemming from a crash.

Oregon State Police troopers responded Sunday afternoon to a crash on Highway 203 in North Powder where the driver fled after the wreck ejected a 23-year-old woman.

According to state police, a trooper found the pickup at a home in North Powder, where Lee was in the backyard, passed out in a lawn chair. Lee failed a sobriety test and was arrested on accusations of driving under the influence of intoxicants, failure to perform the duties of a driver to an injured person and third-degree assault.

He later gave a breath sample that tested his blood-alcohol content at 0.16%, twice the .08% legal limit.

Lee, 32, signed the release deal Wednesday. His next court appearance is May 26.

RE-ELECT BOYD RASMUSSEN for SHERIFF



"I worked with Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen when I was Union County Commissioner and now as a local educator. I have no doubt he is the best candidate for Sheriff and he has my full support in this election. Please join me in voting for Boyd." John Lamoreau



Boyd understands our community and how important it is to keep it safe as he has a vested interest in maintaining the rural lifestyle we enjoy in this valley. We need his experience and management skills for another four years! urge you to vote for Boyd Rasmussen. Skip Pereira



We are voting for Boyd Rasmussen for Union County Sheriff because of the job he has done for our communities. We do not know every deputy, but the ones we come into contact with are courteous and helpful. We believe that is tribute to their leader, Boyd Rasmussen. We feel safe living in Union County. We appreciate the efforts of our officers and encourage others to consider electing Boyd Rasmussen in the May election. Doug & Patty Hislop (local educators)

WE SUPPORT SHERIFF BOYD RASMUSSEN

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gregory Acres | Joaquin Grant | Craig Nightingale |
| Fred Alexis | Gordon and Barbara Gribling | David R. Orcutt |
| Walt and Linda Anderson | Gary and Ginny Hager | Chris and Linda Panike |
| Katherine Austin | Risa Hallgarth | Michael and Tracy Partney |
| Martha J. Bailey | Andy and Cindy Hale | Ralph Patterson |
| Greg Barreto | Mr and Mrs Boyd Harmon | Tony Pedro |
| Greg M. Baxter | Mark and Linda Harris | Skip Pereira |
| Sharon Beck | Phil and Trudy Hassinger | Joseph and Cathy Petrussek |
| Dan Bellmore | Jamie and Mike Hicks | Howard and Suzanne Perry |
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| Wade and Angie Bingaman | Curt and Annette Howell | Robb Roy |
| Julie Bodfish | Tod and Angel Hull | G and Val Royes |
| Jack and Jennifer Boyd | Brent and Donna Huntsman | Brett Rudd |
| Kem Brainerd | Matt and Melanie Insko | Todd and Gidget Sannar |
| Jim Brainerd | Sonny and Mary Jane Johnson | Terry and Annie Secl |
| Keith and Helen Brindell | Don's Lawn Service (Don Junker) | Ed Schmittle |
| Betty Bronson | All Air HVAC Service (Scott Kaber) | Lance C. Shoemaker |
| JD and Audrey Cant | Bruce and Karen Kevan | Rick Simmonis |
| Christine Carlson | Ken Knott | Mark Simmons |
| Shari Carpenter | Jim Kopp | Troy Simmons |
| John Cavin | Alicia Koller | Wayne and Ernestine Simonis |
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| John and Melissa Fullerton | Verl Miller and Kathryn Lusk | Bev White |
| Dr Gerrie Gardner | Glenn and Anita McIntosh | Mike Wisdom |
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| James and Tracey Gorham | Steve Neumann | Rich and Rachel Zinzer |
| | Maureen O'Connell | |

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Boyd Rasmussen Sheriff, Rita McMahan, Treasurer, 62436 Mink, Summerville



Reed & Associates for excellent service **LOCALLY!**



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