

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• **COVE** — The Cove City Council will hold a regular meeting Tuesday, May 5, at 7 p.m. at Cove City Hall, 504 Alder St. Residents can connect to the meeting virtually. Instructions are available at www.cityofcove.org. To receive a link and the agenda or to submit public comment, email cityadmin@cityofcove.org prior to Tuesday evening. To dial in using your phone, call 1-877-309-2073 and use the access code: 566-891-733.

• **IMBLER** — The Imbler School District Budget Committee will meet for its first session Tuesday, May 5, at 7 p.m. via ZOOM Webinar. At this meeting, the committee will receive the 2020-21 proposed budget and message and take public comment. The public can attend this meeting virtually. For instructions on accessing the meeting and a copy of the proposed budget, call the district office at 541-534-5331.

UNION COUNTY SENIOR CENTERTAKEOUT LUNCH MENU

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May 4-8

Monday: manicotti topped with cheese, salad greens, steamed Italian blend vegetables, garlic bread, fresh fruit.

Tuesday: hot ham sandwiches, mozzarella cheese, tomato soup, fresh fruit garnish, cookies.

Wednesday: BBQ country ribs, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls, ice cream.

Thursday: taco salad, chips and salsa, flan.

Friday: handcrafted pizza, hearty vegetable salad, fresh melon, cookies.

PLAN

Continued from Page 1A

new guidelines, said Commissioner Donna Beverage, which could take a week.

The commissioners learned the state would make significant changes in its guidelines Friday afternoon during an online discussion with Gov. Kate Brown. The board then met at 3 p.m. to vote to approve the plan.

Commissioner Paul Anderes called it “an excellent plan” and complimented J.B. Brock, Union County emergency manger, and Carrie Brogoitti, public health administrator for the Center for Human Development Inc., for their efforts in leading the Incident Management Team to create the reopening plan.

Beverage said the plan will be useful as the county moves forward and makes changes to conform to the new guidelines from the governor’s office. The commissioners had thought

the plan conformed to state guidelines when they scheduled Friday’s emergency meeting on Thursday because they did not realize new guidelines would be coming later.

Harney, Umatilla, Baker and Douglas counties also have submitted letters asking the governor for approval to reopen. Brown on Friday said she hopes some rural areas with few or no COVID-19 cases can start reopening for business and other activities as soon as May 15.

“Assuming these counties have these processes in place, that would enable us to safely and slowly begin the reopening process on May 15 for some counties — only if they meet all the criteria,” she said during a Friday morning press conference conducted by phone and video.

Brown also held video conferences Friday afternoon with county and hospital officials in Central and Eastern Oregon to talk about testing, con-

tact tracing and isolating of people infected with the coronavirus.

Brown said criteria would be released soon for counties that have had more than five COVID-19 cases. All of Oregon’s urban counties and some rural counties are in that situation.

“We’re not going to be able to reopen Oregon quickly or in one fell swoop,” Brown said, adding that Oregonians will still need to maintain physical distancing, wear masks in public and follow proper hygiene to prevent spreading the coronavirus.

“I wish I could tell folks in Eastern Oregon that our lives are going to get back to normal. It is just going to be a different type of normal. And until we have a vaccine or we have medicine, we are going to have to be extremely careful regarding the virus.”

The Oregon Health Authority and Brown’s staff, working in consultation with advisory groups, have been drafting guidelines for

how specific business sectors could reopen. As of Friday, medical, dental and veterinary facilities were allowed to resume regular procedures so long as they followed those rules.

Brown announced what she said was a thorough strategy to diagnose those who have COVID-19 and to determine places where the coronavirus might be hiding. She said testing should be available throughout Oregon for anyone who displays COVID-19 symptoms, as well as to people in nursing homes, farm-worker housing, prisons, fishing boats and other group living situations where the disease was suspected.

Public health officials will trace who came in contact with infected individuals. Anyone who did so will be asked to self-quarantine at home for 14 days.

In addition, Oregon Health & Science University will launch a year-long statewide study in which 100,000 Oregonians are

selected at random and asked to volunteer for daily monitoring. Invitations to volunteer will be mailed out the week of May 11. Brown called the program a game changer that will provide a “more accurate understanding of the true rate of infection in Oregon.”

OHSU President Dr. Danny Jacobs said the data would help Oregon manage through the pandemic until a vaccine is developed. But he cautioned, “If we move too quickly in resuming our pre-COVID-19 lives, we put ourselves at increased risk of a secondary or second wave of infection.”

Brown said the state would be ready to tighten restrictions if COVID-19 surged. Key metrics include the number of people going to hospital emergency departments for COVID-19 treatment, the average number of new cases and hospitalization rates.

Dick Hughes for the Oregon Capital Bureau contributed to this report.

Benjamin ‘Benji’ L. Hays

Elgin • 1934-2020

Benjamin “Benji” Luther Hays, 85, of Elgin, died April 27 at his residence. A private family service will be held at a later date.

Known as Benji, he was born June 29, 1934, in La Grande, to Luther and Ellen (Bennett) Hays. He resided in La Grande and Island City and moved to Elgin in 1945. He started school at Greenwood in La Grande and then attended Elgin schools. He married Betty





Upcoming local services are pending due to efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Jean Shafer in 1957.

Benji was employed with the Mt. Emily Lumber in Elgin, then Boise Cascade as a forklift operator

Beverly Hays; brother, Oliver Hays; sister and brother-in-law, Beatrice and Larry Shaffer; and brother-in-law, Joe Stephens.

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

Susan M. Baker

La Grande

Susan M. Baker, 73, of La Grande, died May 1 at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

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Joy A. Smith

Union

Joy A. Smith, 91, of Union, died April 29 at her residence. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

WEDNESDAY

1:53 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of vandalism on the 2300 block of Q Avenue.

8:23 a.m. — A Union County sheriff’s deputy told campers at the Mount Emily Recreation Area about 4 miles north of La Grande to move along because the site is closed.

12:10 p.m. — A caller reported animal abuse or neglect on the 65700 block of Grays Corner Road, Cove.

1:09 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office received a report of vandalism on the 73800 block of Gordon Creek Road, Elgin.

5:28 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1900 block of Third Street on a report of a person in crisis. Police contacted the person, who lives with mental illness but was OK.

7:28 p.m. — Union County sheriff’s deputies and Oregon State Police troopers responded to the first block of Highway 82, Elgin, for a domestic disturbance. Law enforcement officers talked to the people involved.

THURSDAY

11:45 a.m. — La Grande

police responded to the 3000 block of Umatilla Street for someone having a mental health issue.

2:28 p.m. — La Grande police arrested Rachel Jannie McCall, 38, of La Grande, for third-degree assault, first-degree criminal mistreatment, aggravated harassment and resisting arrest.

7:14 p.m. — A caller reported cows on the loose at Courtney Lane and Highway 82, Sum-

merville.

8:54 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office responded to the 300 block of Baltimore Street, Elgin, for a domestic disturbance and separated the parties involved.

FRIDAY

12:26 a.m. — A caller reported cattle on the road at Summerville and Sandridge roads, Imbler. A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded and moved the bovines off the

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