

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• **UNION** — The Union City Council will hold a work session and its regular monthly meeting Monday, May 11, at city hall. The work session begins at 6 p.m., the regular meeting at 7 p.m. The meeting will be streamed live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofunion.ontheweb. Viewers may email comments to admin@cityofunion.com during the meeting. Call the city at 541-562-5197 for more information.

• **ISLAND CITY** — The Island City Budget Committee will meet Monday, May 11 at 6 p.m. at the Island City City Hall. Draft budgets are available at city hall, 10605 Island Ave. The public can submit written comments or can attend via telephone conference. To attend, contact city recorder Karen Howton 541-963-5017 or karen@islandcityhall.com.

• **LA GRANDE** — The Union County Fair Board will hold a public meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, May 13, at 6 p.m. to discuss public access to the fairgrounds. To attend the meeting virtually, use: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74122978280?pwd=Z0FnUytGOVRjbTFMdkVzTmFqOXN6Zz09>. The meeting ID is 741 2297 8280, and the password is 6WKJCU. For more information, email Heather Rajkovich at rhrakovich6212@outlook.com.

• **LA GRANDE** — The City of La Grande Landmarks Commission will meet in Thursday, May 14, at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers of La Grande City Hall, 1000 Adams Ave.

Briefs

Liberty Theatre seeks volunteers for board

LA GRANDE — With renovation moving ahead and a goal of a soft opening in late 2020, the Liberty Theatre Foundation is seeking volunteers to serve on the nonprofit's board of directors. People with business education and experience are especially needed on the board.

Anyone who has an interest in helping oversee the performing arts center's renovation project and eventual operation is encouraged to submit a letter introducing themselves and explaining their interest.

The letter should also include a brief overview of the person's background. Letters may be emailed to Ashley O'Toole, board chairman, at asotoole1985@gmail.com.

Union County Senior Center takeout lunch menu

Pickup from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande. For delivery, call 541-963-7532 before 10 a.m. Age 60+, \$3 suggested donation; all others, \$5

May 11-15

Monday: baked potato bar, salad greens.

Tuesday: sesame chicken, rice, salad greens, bread, fresh fruit.

Wednesday: fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cashew-pea salad, dessert.

Thursday: hearty soup with a variety of salads, freshly baked bread, fruit, dessert.

Friday: bacon cheeseburgers, steak fries, sliced fruit, cookies.

Rescue from crashed Jeep leads to DUII charges

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Rescuers on Tuesday saved a grandmother and her 3-year-old granddaughter after their vehicle crashed into the Grande Ronde River. The grandmother, Toni L. Campbell, 63, of La Grande, also ended up in handcuffs.

Oregon State Police reported troopers and other emergency personnel at 3:07 p.m. responded to a report of a single-vehicle crash that occurred on Highway 244 near milepost 46 near Hilgard. Units en route learned a Jeep left the highway and entered the Grande Ronde River.

The La Grande Rural Fire Protection District and the La Grande Fire Department responded, along with the Union County Sheriff's Office. Personnel rescued Campbell, the granddaughter and a dog from the vehicle. State police sent a jet boat and crew to help, which arrived as the team



Photo courtesy of Oregon State Police

Emergency personnel prepare to save Toni L. Campbell, 63, of La Grande, her 3-year-old granddaughter and a dog Tuesday from this Jeep that crashed into the Grande Ronde River near Hilgard. Police subsequently arrested Campbell for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

pulled everyone to safety.

Preliminary information revealed Campbell was driving the Jeep eastbound on 244 when it entered the shoulder. She overcorrected and slid across both lanes before going down an

embankment and into the Grande Ronde River. State police also reported the Jeep floated approximately 150 yards before coming to a stop in the river.

Medical personnel on scene cleared the woman



Photo courtesy of Oregon State Police

Oregon State Police and other emergency workers save a 3-year-old girl Tuesday from this Jeep that crashed into the Grande Ronde River near Hilgard.

and child, according to state police, and the dog also was OK.

However, state police reported the ensuing investigation resulted in troopers arresting Campbell and

booking her into the Union County Jail, La Grande, on accusations of under the influence of intoxicants.

State police also reported family members on scene took the girl and the dog.

PLAN

Continued from Page 1A

orders and Oregonians' adherence to safety precautions with the state's infection rate.

"These sacrifices have prevented as many as 70,000 COVID-19 infections," she said. "We still don't have everything we need but things are definitely improving."

Oregon's three phases allows businesses, personal service providers and retailers to reopen on a conditional basis, with guidelines for each business sector. Returning to in-person activities will depend largely on the risk factor of each activity, as well as health conditions and the number of COVID-19 cases in each county and region across the state.

Greg Smith, director of the Small Business Development Center, La Grande, said there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel.

"I'm cautious," he said. "I'm not an expert so like so many others I can offer an option, but it's only that. In my mind we need to

continue to be cautious to ensure public health and at the same time take those small common sense steps that will help open the economy."

Reopening would be "wonderful" for Union County and Northeast Oregon, he said, but "it's going to take time to get us out of that hole."

In all cases, state officials want residents to wear face masks when working in or entering any business, with exceptions for eating and drinking.

Phase 1

In counties approved to open during Phase 1, restaurants and bars could allow patrons to dine on-site, so long as tables are 6 feet apart. Employees would need to wear face masks and coverings and all activity must end by 10 p.m.

Fitness centers could open, with limits on the number of occupants, and salons could reopen by appointment only, but they'd need to keep a log of every customer who visits, to allow for contract tracing by health departments if needed.

Standalone retail shops

and boutiques also could resume activity under the Phase 1 plans, as long as they can follow specific guidelines laid out by the Oregon Health Authority.

State leaders said they aren't recommending group gatherings of more than 10 people yet.

A county could move on to Phase 2 after three weeks, only if they continue to meet the parameters of Phase 1.

Before entering Phase 1, a county would need to demonstrate a steady drop in COVID-19 hospitalizations for 14 days, with emergency room visits for COVID-like illness being below what they typically are for influenza.

Duidelines for testing regimens and contact tracing systems, along with supplies of personal protective equipment and other health care capacity also are identified as prerequisites in the state plan.

Counties were able to submit their plans for reopening — and if they met the requirements put forward by the governor — Friday, which Union County did. This was an update to the county's previous a plan.

Commissioner Matt Scarfo credited JB Brock, Union County emergency services manager, for doing much of the legwork to not only put the original plan together but the revised one.

"With our plan, with the amount of time JB has put in our plan, I truly think that May 15 Union County can open," Scarfo said.

Phase 2

Similar to Phase 1, with expanded gathering sizes, Brown's office said the goal of Phase 2 is to further expand allowable gathering sizes, allow more people to work together in offices and allow visitation at congregate care facilities.

Phase 3

Concerts, festivals will be last to return. Large gatherings won't see a comeback anytime soon. Initial guidance from the state indicates they will be postponed until at least September, but large events could be delayed

beyond that, until a vaccine or prevention is developed, draft guidelines indicate.

Thursday's announcement followed draft plans the governor's office released earlier this week.

"It worked. Oregon flattened the curve," Pat Allen, director of the Oregon Health Authority, said Thursday. "So far, we have avoided the tragic worst case scenarios we have seen play out around the world and in other places in the United States."

Allen said Oregon's COVID-19 death rate was the "eighth lowest in the country," but Allen and Brown cautioned that reopening certain aspects of public life doesn't mean the virus has diminished, and increased public activity could lead to a spike in infection.

Observer reporter Ronald Bond contributed to this article.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

WEDNESDAY

6:39 a.m. — A La Grande police officer responded to the 2800 block of Spruce Street for a tree that created a hazard.

11:24 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office took a report of vandalism on the 500 block of South Main Street, Union.

11:37 a.m. — A caller reported a dog killed some chickens on the 200 block of B Street, North Powder.

12:45 p.m. — Campers about 4 miles north of La Grande received warnings for criminal mischief and camping outside a

designated campground.

3:22 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a restraining order violation on the 1500 block of 21st Street. An officer responded.

9:10 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a vehicle theft on Catherine Creek Lane, Union.

THURSDAY

10:25 a.m. — La Grande police took a report for vandalism on the 2100 block of Aries Lane.

2:05 p.m. — A caller complained about a goat near the road on the 2800 block of

Highway 203, Union. The animal enforcement officer spoke to the goat's owner.

3:54 p.m. — A caller reported animal abuse on the 1600 block of Albany Street, La Grande. The animal enforcement officer counseled the people involved.

7:53 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a possible explosion on the 73400 block of Gordon Creek Road, Elgin.

9:59 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office responded to an Elgin location for a juvenile causing a disturbance.

OBITUARIES

Janice K. (Womack) Smith

Formerly of Wallowa and La Grande • 1938-2020

Janice Kay Smith, 81, of Battle Ground, Washington, and formerly of Wallowa and La Grande, died April 15. Arrangements are under



the direction of Evergreen Memorial Gardens of Vancouver, Washington.

Janice was born Aug. 23, 1938, in Wallowa, to Marley Osborne and Bertha Nona (Winters) Womack. She graduated from Wallowa High School in 1956. After high school, she moved to La Grande, where she met her future husband, Chuchel Leo Smith. They were married May 19, 1958, in Weiser, Idaho.

Janice and Chuchel lived most of their married life in Carver and Vancouver, Washington; and, most recently, Battle Ground, Washington. They celebrated 61 years of marriage on their last anniversary. They were best

LOVELAND FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY

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

couver, Washington, as the kitchen manager.

Surviving relatives include her daughter, Julie Murray; son, Randall Smith; son-in-law, Kevin Murray; and five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marley and Bertha; brother, Vernon Womack; daughter, Jonna Lynn Smith; and sister, Joyce Beeman.

Melada L. Comstock

La Grande
Melada L. Comstock, 79, of La Grande, died May 8 at a local care facility. Arrangements by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Douglas L. Trice

La Grande
Douglas L. Trice, 68, of La Grande, died May 6 at his residence. Arrangements by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

★ As Your ★ ★ ★ COMMISSIONER ★ ★ ★

Check your Voter's Pamphlet for more details.

WORKING FOR ALL OF UNION COUNTY

Vote! DONNA BEVERAGE FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Vote Election Day! May 19th

★ Paid for by Beverage for Commissioner ★



Terrence Roy Huffman
September 15, 1938 - April 6, 2020

Terrence "Terry" Roy Huffman of Imbler, OR passed away on April 6, 2020. Terry was born September 15, 1938 to Marshall Eldridge and Ruth (Cusick) Huffman. He lived in LaGrande, OR before moving to Imbler, OR. He attended LaGrande High School and later Eastern Oregon College. He married Virginia Mae Jensen. Together they had three boys, Tony, Tim and Ted before divorcing. Later he married Geraldine Louise Rogers and together with his boys and her children, Leslie, Mike and Tami they lived in Imbler, OR.

Terry worked for the natural gas company and as a welder in La-Grande. He was proud to serve and retire from the Oregon National Guard and worked for the Imbler School District maintenance department for 18 years. Terry took extreme pride and care in building and maintaining the Imbler High School Football field and grounds.

He was a member of the Elks, Eagles, Masons and the American Legion. He was proud to be a part of the elusive Blue Mountain Boys. Terry was a Master Mason. He was the 1973-74 Elk of the Year for Lodge No 433. He was 2000-01 Officer of the Year (Exalted Ruler) Elks Lodge No 433. He also received the Oregon National Guard Exceptional Service Medal.

Family was very important to Terry. He was extremely proud to carry on his initials through the family. Each new member born into the family has the initial TRH. With the new additions coming this year there will be 13 TRH's in the Huffman family.

Terry also enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycles as well as hunting and camping. Water skiing was a sport he loved on a sunny day at the lake. His favorite days were spent in the mountains with his family.

Surviving relatives include his children and their spouses, Tony Ray Huffman (Elgin, OR), Timothy Robert and Jill Huffman (Enterprise, OR), Theodore Ronald Huffman (LaGrande, OR), Leslie Gayle and Lewie Michael (LaGrande, OR); Tamara Tracie and Dale Johnston (Imbler, OR); and adopted kids Forest and Evie Stacey(Elgin,Or) sister Barbara Huffman Weeks (Susanville, CA); Special nephew Darrin Williams and Donna Torgason; Eighteen grandchildren, Eleven great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father Marshall Eldridge Huffman, mother Ruth Joyce (Cusick) Huffman, brother James Marshall Huffman, daughter Susan Marie Huffman, and bonus son Michael Eugene Trotter.

Date of service is to be determined. Terry wishes for family and friends to be able to gather but due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines that is not possible at this time. A service will be planned and announced at a later date.

