

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• **LA GRANDE CITY COUNCIL** — The La Grande City Council will meet in a special session Monday, May 18, at 6 p.m., to conduct a public hearing on Community Development Block Grant funding. Any person may submit written comments or questions in advance of the meeting. Written comments must be received by 9 a.m. May 18. Public comments should be emailed to rstrope@cityofla-grande.org. The meeting will be available for viewing via the city’s scheduled Charter Communications channel 180, on the La Grande Alive website at <https://lagrandealive.tv/> city-events, or on the Eastern Oregon Alive.TV Facebook page at www.facebook.com/EasternOregonAliveTV.

— A work session of the city council will immediately follow this special session. In work sessions, the council informally discusses topics and does not make decisions or vote. Per ORS 192.670(1), councilors will be participating by electronic communication. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the work session is for the sole purpose of conducting business on the agenda. Public comments will not be entertained at the session but the meeting will be available for viewing via the online options outlined above. The work session agenda includes discussion of the phasing plan for finishing the Adams Avenue Streetscape project downtown and the costs of completing the side streets.

— On Tuesday, May 19, the city council will again meet in special session, beginning at 6 p.m., to approve the minutes of Monday’s special session. Per ORS 192.670(1), some councilors will be participating by electronic communication. Public comments will not be entertained, but the session may be viewed on Facebook Live at the following link: www.facebook.com/CityofLaGrande.

• **BLUE MOUNTAIN TRANSLATOR DISTRICT, LA GRANDE** — The Blue Mountain Translator District Board of Directors will convene for a regular meeting Wednesday, May 20, at 6 p.m. In compliance with Executive Order 20-16, the meeting will be held via phone and video conference. Members of the public may participate via phone (conference number: 253-215-8782; meeting ID: 81635105239). The meeting also will be streamed online at bmtd.org/public-notice prior to the meeting.

• **ELGIN SCHOOL DISTRICT** — The Elgin School District Board of Directors will have a regular meeting Monday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m. via phone. Prior to the session at 6 p.m., the budget committee will meet, also via phone. For more information, call Denise Ludwig at 541-437-1211.

Leo B. Wagoner

Union • 1950-2020

Leo B. Wagoner, 69, of Union, died April 22 at his home in Wildflower Lodge in La Grande. A memorial service will be held at a later time.



Leo was born May 25, 1950, in La Grande, to James and Essie (White) Wagoner. He was raised along with nine siblings on Wagoner Hill in Summerville and attended school in Imbler from first grade through graduation. After graduation, Leo began working for the Union Pacific Railroad,

where he worked until an injury forced his early retirement. He loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, gathering mushrooms and picking huckleberries. Leo lived by the motto “The rougher the road, the better the berry picking.” He also enjoyed spending time swapping stories with his friends at the Union County Senior Center.

Surviving relatives include his son and spouse, Trent and Katina Wagoner of La Grande; stepsons and spouses, Les and Paula Webb of La Grande, Darin Webb of Rockaway Beach, Glen and Heather Still of Union, and Justin Still of Monticello, Utah; brothers

OBITUARIES

and spouses, Bill and Roma Wagoner of Hawaii, Paul and Barbara Wagoner of La Grande, Lenny and Connie Wagoner of La Grande, Myron and Judy Wagoner of Kenai, Alaska, and John Wagoner of Manteca, California; sisters and spouses, Trula and Wayne Wallace of Summerville, Raylene and Ted Wagner of Warden, Washington, Becky and John Weygandt of Willamina, and Jane and Gary Stroud of Washington, Utah; and 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia Andrews Wagoner, and parents, James and Essie

Wagoner.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneral-chapel.com.

James ‘Jack’ M. Cochran

Formerly of La Grande

James “Jack” Melvin Cochran, 84, of Pasco, Washington, and formerly of La Grande, died May 13 at Chaplaincy Hospice House in Kennewick, Washington.

Sandra L. Benson

La Grande

The celebration of life for Sandra L. Benson planned for June 4 has been postponed. Sandra, 72, of La Grande, died March 2



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

at her residence. Arrangements are under the direction of Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory.

Eastern Oregon Film Festival partners with Ashland Independent Film Festival

■ See independent films online while supporting a local organization

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Eastern Oregon Film Festival is collaborating this year with the Ashland Independent Film Festival in showcasing independent shorts and films.

While the La Grande-based festival still plans to hold its own event in the fall, movies lovers can enjoy independent films online May 22-June 14 via the Ashland group’s “Virtual Festival.” Visit the membership page of the EOFF’s website, www.eofilmfest.com, for a link to the online movie fest, which includes a discount for a subscription.

“We wanted to provide



Observer file photo

Filmmakers J.J. Hill and Liberty O’Dell discuss their film, “Out of Character, at the 2019 Eastern Oregon Film Festival. The La Grande festival has partnered with the Ashland Independent Film Festival, which is providing a virtual film fest due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

content at a special rate and for each of these festivals we partner with to reach out to their members and remind people we are still here,” said Molly Kreuzman, communications coordinator for the Ashland festival.

EOFF director Chris Jennings said the local festival typically partners

with other organizations to build an audience and maintain efforts to become a well-known regional arts event.

With COVID-19 restrictions in place, Jennings said, it has been difficult to fundraise for the October festival. Partnering with Ashland’s festival provides EOFF with a way to gain

EOU opens housing applications for fall 2020

By Phil Wright
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University announced it is accepting applications for fall 2020 housing.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Eastern Oregon University’s Residence Life Office has adapted its plans for fall 2020.

“We want to provide an experience as close to the ‘college experience’ as possible relative to what the conditions may be,” Director of Housing Jeremy Jones said.

The university expanded cleaning practices within dining services and residence halls, and on-campus dining services now offer takeout. The amount of

space at the university, he said, means “we do social distancing naturally.” Still, EOU took steps to provide students with more space at residence halls.

“We decreased the number of students per room and the number of occupied rooms per hall to increase the amount of space per student,” Jones said.

EOU can make the adaptations, he said, because all of the residence halls are suite-style or apartment layouts, and there are no communal bathrooms or other high-density spaces. The residence halls also provide a significant amount of square footage per student, which Jones said is above what is recommended.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

WEDNESDAY

8:20 a.m. — A caller reported a safety hazard because a line was down on the 1600 block of Sixth Street, La Grande. An officer checked it out and found it was a phone line and not a power line.

11:57 a.m. — A person waved down a Union County sheriff’s deputy at South Seventh Avenue and Cedar Street, Elgin, and reported a child who was alone. The mother, however, turned up in short order.

2:41 p.m. — A caller reported an unattended toddler on the 2500 block of Adams Avenue,

La Grande. An officer helped return the child home.

7:54 p.m. — La Grande responded to a call about a domestic disturbance and transported one person to Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande, for a mental health hold.

9:24 p.m. — People making too much noise on the 1600 block of Willow Street, La Grande, prompted a call to police. An officer responded and counseled the people involved.

THURSDAY

2:33 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the Super 8 by Wyndham, 2407 E. R Ave., for

people who should not be on the hotel property. Police trespassed two subjects.

8:10 a.m. — A truck broke off low-hanging tree branches that landed in the road at Spruce Street and Madison Avenue, La Grande.

12:56 p.m. — A Union caller on the 400 block of Lincoln Street reported a vehicle theft.

1:28 p.m. — A caller reported a burglary at a residence on the 700 block of Birch Street, Elgin. A Union County sheriff’s deputy will follow up.

2:12 p.m. — A Union County sheriff’s deputy responded

to the 2000 block of Gekeler Lane, La Grande, on a report of a duckling by itself. The deputy rescued the little water fowl, which turned out to be a gosling.

5:50 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1500 block of X Avenue on a report of continuing harassment. An officer talked to the caller and explained options.

11:26 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a possible domestic disturbance on the 2300 block of Q Avenue. Officers determined there were people arguing.

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 18-22

Monday: chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, steamed vegetables, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, ice cream.

Tuesday: Reuben sandwiches, potato salad, fruit garnish, light dessert.

Wednesday: tender beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, steamed vegetables, rolls, carrot-raisin salad, dessert.

Thursday: croissant sandwiches (choice of turkey or shrimp) with cream cheese and tomato, pasta salad, fresh fruit.

Friday: chicken strips, steak fries, baked beans, coleslaw, fresh fruit, cookies.

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