

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• **BAKER CITY** — The Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, May 26. Among other agenda items, the board is scheduled to discuss COVID-19 updates and financial projections. Decision items include the OTEC 501(c)(3) Foundation and lineman and trade school scholarships. OTEC is headquartered at 4005 23rd St., Baker City. For specifics on how the meeting will be held, contact Michele Grove, OTEC administrative assistant, at 541-524-2853 or mgrove@otec.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 26-30
Monday: closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday: fish and chips, baked beans, coleslaw, dessert.

Wednesday: pork roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, steamed green beans, salad greens, baked apples, dessert.

Thursday: tomatoes stuffed with cashew-chicken salad, salad greens, veggies, freshly baked bread, fruit tarts.

Friday: chicken Alfredo, steamed vegetables, Caesar salad, bread sticks, fresh fruit.

Bruce Hepburn

Formerly of La Grande • 1950-2020

Bruce Hepburn, 69, formerly of La Grande, died May 6 from complications of Parkinson's disease. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



Bruce was born June 12, 1950, in Portland, to Don and Ruby Hepburn. The family moved to La Grande in the fall of 1954. Bruce attended Ackerman Elementary School and graduated from La Grande High School in 1968 and what is now Eastern Oregon University in 1973.

For many years, Bruce worked as a railroad engineer for Union Pacific Railroad in Portland. He retired in 2003.

Bruce enjoyed sports cars and owned several of his own over the years. He also enjoyed electric trains and for the last few years of his life always set up and ran the Christmas train at his assisted living facility.

Surviving relatives include his sister, Mary

Prescott; niece, Emily Braman; nephews, Brad Schatzel and Tom Prescott; and several cousins.

Memories and condolences may be shared online at autumn-funerals-cremation.com.

Harold G. Thompson

Formerly of Elgin • 1942-2020

Harold Gene Thompson, 77, formerly of Elgin, died May 6 at his home in Albany. The family is planning a memorial in Eastern Oregon this summer.



Harold was born Nov. 15, 1942, in La Grande. The second of six siblings, he grew up in

Elgin and graduated from Elgin High School in 1961.

A hard worker, Harold worked for the Laborers Union for almost 40 years and helped build highways and buildings all around the state.

Harold was a loving father, dedicated to his wife and children. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping at the Oregon

OBITUARIES



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

He was preceded in death by his father, Ralph Thompson; mother, Jane Thompson; sister, Alberta Thompson; and wife, Darlene Thompson.

Robert D. Way

Elgin • 1933-2020

Robert "Bob" Duane Way, 86, of Elgin, died May 19 at his residence. A private graveside service will be held.



Known as Bob, he was born Dec. 29, 1933, in Walla Walla, Washington, to Jay and Maurine

(Larson) Way. He resided in Salem, Arlington, North Powder and Pendleton and in Arkansas, settling in Elgin in 1963. He married Eva Pelton on June 14, 1954.

Bob was the owner/operator of Robert Way Logging. He established this successful logging and trucking business with a seventh-grade education. He enjoyed farming, gardening, being in the mountains and hunting mushrooms. He spent as much

time with his family as he could and even enjoyed water fights with his family — and he won the Best Dad of the Year.

A longtime member of the Elgin Seventh-day Adventist Church, Bob was a spiritual leader for his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Eva; children and their spouses, Glenn and Susan Way of Vale, Bonnie and Terry Burgess of Spray, Kerry and Holly Way of Oakland, Jeanne and Marlin Wolfe of Midvale, Idaho, and Roy and Heather Way of Summerville; sister and brother-in-law, Dorothy and Alvin Bartholomew of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jay and Maurine Way, and brother, Don Way.

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

Rental assistance available in NE Oregon

The Observer

UNION COUNTY — Rental assistance is available for those affected by COVID-19 through Community Connection of Northeast Oregon Inc.

Rochelle Hamilton, homeless services manager for the nonprofit, said the state funds could bring some peace of mind to those struggling as a direct result of the novel coronavirus. "We have many programs, and there is never enough assistance, but this program is a way to help those directly impacted by COVID," Hamilton said. "If you have never been in this situation before I can just imagine the stress a person must be under."

The funding came as part of the Oregon Legislature's \$12 million to Oregon housing and community services, with \$8.5 million to provide rent relief. Community Connection received \$162,250 to provide assistance to those who have been unable to pay rent due to a loss in income or job loss.

This loss in income, according to Hamilton, can include those who still work but had to cut back on hours due to the need to stay home for reasons including someone in the household being sick, or lack of childcare and needing to stay home and watch children.

The only other requirement for funding assistance is the person or family requesting must be under the income limit for their county. For Union, Baker and Grant Counties that means an individual must make less than \$21,500 to qualify, more if there are multiple members of a household. Walla Walla County residents income limit for an individual is \$22,300.

For more information, visit Community Connection's website at www.ccn.org.

The Observer

Business webinar answers reopening questions

UNION COUNTY — The Union County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a webinar Tuesday at 2 p.m. for businesses in Union and Walla counties. Experts will go over requirements and answer questions about daily operations under coronavirus reopening requirements.

Summer camps to open in La Grande

LA GRANDE — A limited number of La Grande Parks and Recreation summer camps will be open under Gov. Kate Brown's provisions for reopening, with listings of the camps available on the depart-

ment's website. Each camp can have 10 children and only full- or half-day camps are open to registration.

Complete the Census to win prizes

LA GRANDE — The Cook Memorial Library is operating a contest to encourage residents to complete their 2020 Census forms. La Grande and Union County residents who complete the census form can enter into a drawing for one of five \$25 prizes. To enter, email your name, address and phone number and proof that you completed the 2020 Census to libdirector@cookmemoriallibrary.org.

If you completed the census online, attach a photo of your online confirmation number. If you

answered by mail, submit a photo of your completed questionnaire. If you answered by phone, email your confirmation number.

Starting Tuesday, winners will be randomly picked weekly and announced on the Library's Facebook page and other social media channels. Award winners also will be emailed. The weekly prizes are:

Week 1: \$25 La Grande Farmers Market gift certificate

Week 2: \$25 Marketplace Fresh Foods gift certificate

Week 3: \$25 La Grande Drive-in gift certificate

Week 4: \$25 Looking Glass Books gift certificate

Week 5: \$25 gift certificate at a local business of your choice

Complete the Census at

mycensus2020.gov or by calling 844-330-2020 for your chance to win.

La Grande among state's safest cities

SALT LAKE CITY — The home safety review website SafeWise ranks La Grande as the fourth safest city in Oregon for 2020.

SafeWise recently released its sixth annual Safest Cities in Oregon report. La Grande, with a population of 13,186, was one of four new cities to make the list, along with West Linn, St. Helens and Newberg-Dundee.

La Grande's violent crime rate came in at 0.9 incidents per 1,000 people, and its property crime rate is 20 per 1,000. Oregon's violent crime rate is lower than the national average

— 2.9 incidents per 1,000 people versus 3.7, according to the report — while property crime in Oregon happens at a rate of 28.9 incidents per 1,000, compared to 22.0 nationwide.

La Grande was the only Eastern Oregon city in the top 20. SafeWise calculates crime rates for every city in Oregon that meets the company's population threshold. According to the report, cities that don't make the list are below the population threshold or did not submit a complete crime report to the FBI in 2018.

West Linn, population 26,934, was the safest city in Oregon, per the report, and Tigard, population 53,880, rounded out the top 20. Baker City came in at No. 23, Pendleton at No. 24 and Hermiston at No. 27.

Enterprise continues egg drop tradition



Contributed photo

EO Media Group

Enterprise students on Thursday concluded the 44th annual Egg Week. Chuck Corak started the tradition, and his daughter, Enterprise third grade teacher Tori Christman, continues it with her class. The weeklong unit is to help teach students responsibility and also focuses on creativity, math, science and writing. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Enterprise Fire Department helped with Egg Graduation. Students had to create a device that would allow for an egg to be dropped from the firetruck ladder and land without a crack. Firefighters Gary Gassett, Dean Brown and Brian Rahn were there to help the students.

PUBLIC SAFETY

WEDNESDAY

7:59 a.m. — La Grande police stopped a driver who was using a cellphone and counseled the person about driving while using handheld electronic devices.

12:20 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy found a transient camp off the U.S. Forest Service 100 Road near Union.

3:50 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a complaint about possible child neglect in Island City.

8:36 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received another complaint about possible child neglect, this time in Cove.

THURSDAY

10:01 a.m. — A caller reported goats on the loose on the 63200 block of Wolf Creek Lane, North Powder.

2:43 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of possible sex abuse.

3:48 p.m. — A caller reported animal abuse on the 200 block of First Street, North Powder.

5:42 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 3000 block of Q Avenue for a domestic disturbance and separated the parties.

9:39 p.m. — A La Grande police officer reported a tree leaning on power lines at H Avenue and 16th Street. Dispatch contacted the public works department and the Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative.

TEN DEPOT STREET

Take Out Menu
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
5pm-8pm

<p>Appetizers</p> <p>BBQ Pork \$8 Artichoke Dip \$8 Peel and Eat Shrimp \$8 Combo Plates small \$12 large \$20</p> <p>Soup</p> <p>Clam Chowder-Friday Chicken Bisque-Saturday</p> <p>Salad</p> <p>Taco Salad-beef or chicken \$12 Caesar \$10 House Salad \$7 Add chicken or shrimp \$3</p> <p>Blue Plate Special \$12</p> <p>Beef and Beer Stew with Nilla Mae's Spring mix and bread Pint of Guinness \$2</p>	<p>Entrees</p> <p>Prime Rib 8oz \$25 12oz \$30 16oz \$35 New York Strip \$25 Grilled Scallops with Fettuccine Alfredo \$15</p> <p>Small Plates</p> <p>4oz Prime Rib \$12 Teriyaki Chicken \$10</p> <p>Sandwiches</p> <p>Prime Rib Sandwich \$18 Roast Beef Dip \$14 Teriyaki Chicken \$12</p> <p>Desserts</p> <p>Our Very Best Chocolate Cake \$6 Cheesecake \$6 Chocolate Hazelnut Torte \$6</p> <p>Sunday Night Cajun BBQ Ribs \$15</p>
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Bertha (Berdie) Lue Stephens

February 1, 1926 - May 12, 2020



Bertha (Berdie) Lue Stephens - 94
Died May 12, 2020, at Clearwater Health and Rehab in Orofino, ID. She was born Feb 1, 1926, to Luther and Ellen Hays in Seattle, WA, and grew up with four brothers and one sister in

Eugene, OR. Berdie married Sidney Eugene Allen in 1945, and had a daughter, Linda. She later married Joe Lee Stephens on Feb 9, 1956, and worked as a cook and bartender in Elgin until the family moved to Idaho. Her many hobbies included crossword puzzles, crochet, recording music, and reading mystery novels. She and Joe spent time living and working between Eastern Oregon and Northern Idaho in their 32 years of marriage. After Joe died, she moved to Bremerton, WA, with her daughter Linda. Upon Linda's passing in 2004, she returned to Idaho to live with family. Frank and Lanette Jenkins of Kooskia, and Gene and Leslie Warden of Grangeville, along with their families, generously loved and cared for her until Nov 2019, when Berdie could no longer maintain her stability.

She is survived by grandson Ray (Julie) Pearce and family of Ottawa, IL; stepdaughter Jean Lyan of Kamiah, ID; brother Charley (Corky) Hays of Elgin, OR; 12 grandchildren, 31 g-grandchildren, 55 g-g grandchildren, and 1 g-g-g grandchild - honoring special relationships to: Terry Lyle Shaffer, Clarence and Beverly Hays' children, and granddaughter Kitty Jo Heidenhain.

She was preceded in death by her husband Joe Stephens; daughter Linda Pearce; granddaughter Dallas Lee Pearce; stepsons Garl and Delmont Stephens; g-grandson Michael Stephens; brothers Oliver, Clarence, and Benji Hays, and sister Bea Shaffer.

Berdie always loved getting calls and visits from her cherished friends and family. We will miss her humor and the special way she made us feel. May her unforgettable spirit live long in all the lives she touched. We loved you MOST!

Donations can be made in her honor to:

Tahoe QRU
786 Leitch Creek Rd
Kooskia, ID 83539