

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• LA GRANDE — The La Grande School District Budget Committee will have its first meeting Wednesday, June 3, at 6:30 p.m. Blue Mountain Translator District will broadcast the meeting at www.bmtd.org. Due to COVID-19, attending the meeting will be possible via phone (call 1-530-395-1030; PIN: 993 524 122#) or online (www.meet.google.com/cnx-sgpps-jiw). This meeting will include the election of the budget committee officers. The committee also will meet June 10 and June 26.

Briefs

Elgin Chamber of Commerce delays banquet

ELGIN — The Elgin Chamber of Commerce rescheduled its annual awards dinner due to the coronavirus. The banquet, which was set for March 17 then postponed until June 16, is now tentatively planned for Sept. 22 at the Elgin Community Center.

Kathy Bonney, president of the Elgin Chamber of Commerce's board of directors, said hopefully by September the restrictions on the size of group gatherings in Oregon because of COVID-19 will ease to the point that awards dinner can go on. Bonney said the annual banquet usually draws about 90 people.

Art Center East delays Color Run, seeks teachers for online classes

LA GRANDE — Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, the Art Center East Board of Directors voted to postpone the annual 5K Color Run indefinitely. The center will announce updates as the state continues to reopen.

The center is scheduling online classes. Teaching artists interested in offering a class can contact Nancy Knowles at president@artcentereast.org. ACE will work with teachers to figure out the best way to offer their classes online.

Wallowa County summer lunch program readies

ENTERPRISE — Building Healthy Families in a press release announced it will be operating the Summer Lunch Program in Wallowa County.

During the school year, more than 22 million children receive free and reduced price breakfasts and lunches through federal programs. When school is out during the summer, many children no longer have access to even one nutritious meal each day. Research shows a lack of nutrition during the summer may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins. Summer meal programs help fill the gap. Building Healthy Families will offer grab-and-go curbside pickup of lunch at three sites on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning June 15 and running through Aug. 6. Pickup of lunches are available noon to 12:30 p.m. Lunches are free to all children under the age of 18.

The curbside grab-and-go lunches will be offered in Enterprise City Park on the east side; Evans Park in Wallowa on the east side; and at the Methodist United Church parking lot in Joseph.

Local fiscal sponsors of this year's lunches include Bank of Eastern Oregon; Grace Lutheran Church; The Ford Family Foundation and others. Anyone who would like to support the program can make a donation through Building Healthy Families. For menus or questions, call Building Healthy Families at 541-426-9411.

How to wash cloth face coverings

LA GRANDE — The Northeast Oregon Joint Information Center in a recent update included these suggestions on caring for and cleaning cloth face coverings:

Bandannas, face scarves and masks made of fabric, such as cotton, can be washed in your regular laundry using hot water. After laundering fabric masks, tumble dry in the dryer on a high heat setting. Hand washing masks is also effective, using hot, soapy water. Scrub the mask for at least 20 seconds, and dry on high heat in the dryer.

Library book drops open, takeout service coming soon

Cook Memorial Library is excited to announce our book drops are open Monday, June 1, and our takeout service starts Monday, June 8.

Patrons may place holds for items in the catalog and over the phone starting Monday.

And come June 8, takeout times will be scheduled between 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays. When arriving at the building's Fourth Street entrance, patrons need to call us or ring the new doorbell. Staff will set bagged items on a table outside; no patrons are allowed in the building. For more details about our phased reopening plan, see our website, cookmemorial-



OFF THE SHELF
ROSE PEACOCK

library.org. Our online 2020 Summer Reading Program, "Imagine Your Story," starts Monday and runs through Aug. 14. The program has tracks for children, teens, and adults. Register online

under the Beanstack tab on our website or download the Beanstack app. Earn points by logging reading time and badges by doing activities. Participants in each category are entered into weekly prize drawings: gift cards to local businesses.

New programs include our Storyline — call 541-314-4256 to listen to a children's storybook. A new story is posted each Monday.

Trivia Tuesday live-streams on Facebook at

5:30 p.m. each Tuesday in June. The online events last about 10 minutes and includes six questions, and the winner receives a \$5 gift certificate to the La Grande Farmers Market. Email rpeacock@cookmemoriallibrary.org with suggestions for trivia categories.

Foreign Film Festival is June 12-14. This month's highlighted country is Laos. Watch a suggested feature film, "The Rocket," available on the Kanopy app. Explore Laotian culture with books, audiobooks and documentaries available for free on the Hoopla and Kanopy apps. These apps are all free and available on our website.

Our YouTube channel, Cook Memorial Library-La Grande, Oregon, has Storytime with Alicia, presenting stories and a craft. Another

offering is Miss Carrie Reads. Also, our children's librarian is recording Bruce Coville's series, Moon-gobble and Me, accessible on our website.

If you don't have a library card, you can apply for an eCard. Online registration for a Cook Memorial Library card is open only to La Grande residents and residents of Union County who do not receive library services from another city within the county. Visit www.cookmemoriallibrary.org and click on the "Request Library Card" link. Include your email address or phone number so we can contact you with your card number and PIN. If you already have a regular library card, you do not need an eCard. If you need your PIN, call 541-962-1339, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Online resources include OverDrive and Libby for eBooks, eAudiobooks and magazines; Hoopla for movies, TV shows and comics; Kanopy for films; Freeding for always available eBooks; Freegal for music; and the genealogy database MyHeritage.

The library's WiFi (LGPLWiFi) is on for 24-hour access. The signal reaches to the building's entrances and the parking lot and does not require a password.

Call us at 541-962-1339, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Find out more on our website and our Facebook page, Cook Memorial Library-La Grande, OR.

About the Author
Rose Peacock oversees adult services at Cook Memorial Library, La Grande.

Public health in Union County to expand COVID-19 testing

The Observer

LA GRANDE — More testing for COVID-19 is coming to Union County.

The Center for Human Development Inc., which oversees public health in the county, announced Friday afternoon it will expand and offer more COVID-19 testing beginning this week.

The push is to support Oregon's plan to reopen and expand testing capacity and disease surveillance in the area, according to the press release. The center will offer testing to individuals who meet the Oregon Health Authority's revised and expanded testing criteria.

"OHA recommends that any person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 may be tested for COVID-19," the press release stated. "If you have one of the following: cough, shortness breath, difficulty breathing; or two of the following: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, new loss of smell or taste, or sore throat, you may be eligible for free testing."

The center also strongly

encouraged individuals in the following categories with symptoms to contact it for testing:

- Health care workers and first responders

- Residents, staff, children or others in a care facility or group living setting, such as a health care or correctional facility. When clinical laboratories have sufficient testing capacity, people in these settings without symptoms also can be considered for testing if disease clusters or outbreaks warrant.

- Workers who provide direct care or service in multiple group facilities or who provide in-home services, such as hospice care workers or occupational therapists.

- Essential front-line service workers who have regular contact with large numbers of people, such as grocery stores clerks, food service staff and delivery workers.

- Patients at least 60 years old.

- Patients with underlying medical conditions, including hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and compromised immune systems.

- People who identify as Black, African-American, Latino, Latina, Latinx, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, Pacific Islander or as having a disability. Data indicate these communities are at higher risk for COVID-19 and associated complications due to longstanding social and health inequities.

- People from linguistically diverse populations due to longstanding social and health inequities.

- Pregnant women.

- Patients who had contact with a suspect or lab-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of their symptom onset.

Anyone interested in requesting testing should call 541-624-2179 for more information. No out-of-pocket cost or insurance required.

The center also advised individuals who feel very ill should seek appropriate care. If it is an emergency, call 911. If it is not an emergency but you feel sick enough to need a medical appointment, call your primary care provider. If you don't have a doctor, call 211 for a list of providers near you.

CHD

Continued from Page 1A

Brogioiti said.

One of the tools that has become vital for CHD, according to Thompson, is communication. He said a large portion of the challenge with the COVID-19 response is in the heavy amount of information reaching the public. And with the issue becoming more politicized, the information becomes polarized, he said.

"There is so much information in the world right now, it further complicates getting accurate and good information to those who need it," he said.

Locally, Thompson said, he has seen the information around wearing a mask and the number of cases as some of the biggest issues in getting the public to listen to accurate data from the center.

However, the Center for Human Development is doing what it can to share accurate information, utilizing partnerships in the community and with the state and federal government. Brogioiti said the frequent meetings with the

incident management team, which includes the county emergency manager, representatives from Grande Ronde Hospital and emergency response services, have strengthened the organizations' relationships with one another.

"There are different partners in the community who are responding to this public health emergency," Brogioiti said. "We get to see their strengths and learn about how they operate. This experience really helps us build that foundation. For public health, we are deepening and solidifying these relationships. We are all in this together. We have this really strong mission to protect the community. We are all really committed to the same objective."

Thompson said the pandemic also has brought more collaboration internally at the center as people who were not working a pandemic response type of job are now stepping up to help where it is needed.

According to Brogioiti, this global pandemic remains in the beginning stages, so changes in public health are not entirely measurable. But, the differences that can be seen are in the

strength of relationships the community is building. Thompson hopes this is something that can continue into the future.

"I want to carry forward," Thompson said. "I think it is really important to engage our community at a local level and to understand our local dynamics. I think it is important to work at a local level and set politics aside and work together. My hope in the future is the community as a whole wants to learn more about the organizations in it — who supports us and how we can support them. It is really easy to disconnect and isolate and hopefully it reconnects people in our community, helping our community be vibrant and thrive in the future."

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY

9:59 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of a possible burglary on the 1300 block of Willow Street. An officer took down information.

10:43 a.m. — A caller reported possible animal neglect on the 1600 block of Russell Avenue, La Grande.

11:34 a.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande, for a victim of a dog bite. The deputy took a report.

8:44 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a vehicle theft on the 65800 block of Hemlock Street, Elgin. A deputy took a report.

SATURDAY

7:36 a.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about ongoing problems with an aggressive dog on the loose on the 1200 block of 25th Street.

2:50 p.m. — A caller reported seeing a dog inside a hot car at Walmart, 11619 Island Ave., Island City. Someone took care of the problem before a deputy arrived.

5:07 p.m. — A caller reported vandalism at Wolf Creek Reservoir, North Powder. A Union County sheriff's deputy

made contact and planned to follow up.

SUNDAY

6:02 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1100 block of Jefferson Avenue on a report of a trespasser. Police arrested Gregory Rex Stephens, 73, of La Grande, on accusations of first-degree trespass, second-degree burglary and third-degree theft.

1:02 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of harassment on the 2100 block of Adams Avenue. Police responded and arrested Christopher Lee Cox, 35, of La Grande, on accusations of second-degree burglary, second-degree trespass, second-degree disorderly conduct and offensive littering.

4:51 p.m. — A caller reported possible wolf depredation on the 73000 block of Highway 82, Elgin.

6:15 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office arrested Chucky Eugene Pool, 19, of Elgin, on accusations of trespass, using a minor in the commission of a controlled substance offense, endangering the welfare of a minor, burglary, second-degree theft and third-degree criminal mischief.

OBITUARIES

Jennifer K. Albert-Garcia

Formerly of La Grande

Jennifer Kellie Albert-Garcia, 59, formerly of La Grande, died May 14 in Rosarito, Mexico.

Martin U. Girrard

La Grande

Martin U. Girrard, 91, of La Grande, died May 29 at Grande Ronde Retirement Residence. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.



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

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