

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• LA GRANDE — The La Grande School District Board of Directors will meet Wednesday, June 10, at 7 p.m. Due to social distancing, the meeting will be available online, by phone and via the Blue Mountain Translator District. The agenda and meeting access information is available on the district's website. The school board's second meeting of its budget committee begins at 5:30 p.m., also virtually, before the regular meeting.

Briefs

Some campgrounds reopen at Oregon state parks

SALEM — Oregon State Parks announced that limited overnight camping at select parks across the state will begin on Tuesday, June 9. Included in the select list is Wallowa Lake State Park. RV and tent campers with existing reservations for a campground that opens will be honored beginning June 9. Not all sites or loops may be available at open campgrounds. The online reservation system (www.stateparks.oregon.gov), which has been suspended since April 28, is slated to reopen for new reservations. New reservations will be accepted one day to two weeks in advance.

Additionally, a few eastern Oregon campgrounds are now open for overnight stays. These include Minam Park, Hilgard Junction and Catherine Creek state parks.

Man jailed in Tuesday night assault at Morgan Lake Campground

The Observer

LA GRANDE — La Grande police Tuesday night arrested a 44-year-old man on accusations of felony assault and related charges.

Officers at 10:13 p.m. responded to a call at Morgan Lake on a report of an assault, according to the press release from the La Grande Police Department. Police contacted the victim, a 48-year-old La Grande man who had several injuries. The victim reported his friend,

Scott Neal of La Grande, assaulted him. "According to the victim, they were friends for the last 20 years," La Grande Police Lt. Jason Hays said, "and the assault was sudden and unprovoked. Motivation is unclear at this time."

The La Grande Fire Department ambulance arrived and transported the victim to Grande Ronde Hospital for medical treatment. Neal left the camping

site prior to police arrival, according to the press release, and officers asked the the Union County Sheriff's Office to bring its in police dog, Molly.

Deputy Dane Jensen arrived with Molly, who found Neal hiding in bushes approximately 100 yards from the camping site. Officers took Neal into custody and booked him into the Union County Jail. He faces charges of strangulation, menacing and second-degree assault.

Incident management team stands down

The Observer

UNION COUNTY — The Union County Incident Management Team has transferred command of coronavirus response to the Center for Human Development Inc., Union County Public Health, according to a press release form the Northeast Oregon Joint Information Center.

"The local response to COVID-19 has slowed to a pace that allowed this transition," the press release said.

Carrie Brogoitti, public health administrator for

the center, said the rate of the disease is not overwhelming the systems in the county and people are able to manage tasks within their normal work hours, which has lessened the need for the Incident Management Response Team. In taking over command, Brogoitti said, there will be no significant changes.

"We have been and will continue to do the work we are required to do," Brogoitti said. "We will continue to take a lead role in the public health spe-

cific components to the response."

The team consisted of 30 representatives from various agencies and fields, including emergency services, law enforcement and medicine.

The local joint information center also reported it is concluding daily updates, and individual organizations will provide information regarding the coronavirus and COVID-19. However, the management team and information center will resume operations should the need arise.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY

8:36 a.m. — A caller reported a dead cat on the 100 block of 13th Street, La Grande. The animal enforcement officer explained options.

1:28 p.m. — A caller reported an unattended child on the 1200 block of Washington Avenue, La Grande. An officer resounded and found there was no problem.

8:10 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a mentally ill person on the 1900 block of Third Street. Police checked and determined the call was unfounded.

11:02 p.m. — A caller reported a burglary on the 1200 block of X Avenue, La Grande. Police responded and took a report.

11:19 p.m. — La Grande police took a report of vehicle theft on the 1100 block of Jefferson

Avenue. 11:29 p.m. — La Grande police arrested Christopher Lee Cox, 25, for second-degree burglary.

TUESDAY

9:12 a.m. — A caller reported a cow on the road on Highway 203, La Grande.

10:02 p.m. — A La Grande officer saw a person litter on the 1900 block of Adams Avenue and advised the person to pick up the trash and discard it appropriately.

4:01 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a juvenile tampering with mail on the 3200 block of Columbia Street.

9:04 .m. — A male verbally threatened a La Grande police officer on the 2000 block of Adams Avenue. Oregon State Police responded but did not find the person.

OBITUARIES

Shirley J. Stephens
La Grande

Shirley J. Stephens, 78, of La Grande, died June 2 at St. Luke's Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.



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

Carl Monroe Nelson
February 14, 1946 - October 31, 2020

Carl Monroe Nelson, 74, of La Grande, passed away on Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at his residence, following an extended illness. He went peacefully with his wife and children by his side. The family will have a celebration of life later this summer.

Carl was born on February 14, 1946, in Ontario, Oregon to Samuel and Faye (Fincher) Nelson. He resided in Baker City, OR and La Grande, OR. He attended Troutdale High School. Carl married Jojean Cully (1965) who faithfully cared for him during his extended illness.

Carl was employed in various occupations. He spent most of his time as a woodsman, logger and forest fire fighter, also working at Hilgard Boys home. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, picking huckleberries and morels, horse backpacking and loved to watch old westerns. He especially loved spending time with his grandchildren who were the love of his life.

Carl is survived by his wife, Jojean; children, Craig Nelson (Angie) of La Grande, OR, Carla Gorham (Travis) of La Grande, OR and Anthony Nelson (Lori) of Tigard, OR; sister, JoeAnn Lawry of La Grande; 6 grandchildren, Sam Wise, Derik & Austyn Nelson, Tristan Gorham and Sophie & Sadie Nelson; 4 great grandchildren, Isaac, Blakely, Jaiden and Wesley. He was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel and Faye; brothers, Everett & Bill Nelson sister Sally Lawry.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.loveland-funeralchapel.com.



Youth can grab a lunch and go

Free lunches offered in Union and Wallowa counties

By Dick Mason
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Youths in Union and Wallowa counties again will have an opportunity to enjoy weekday lunches at no cost this summer.

The free meals will be available in several towns, including La Grande, Cove, Elgin, Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph.

The La Grande lunches will be served at the Riviera Activity Center each weekday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. by Community Connection of Northeast Oregon from June 8 to Aug. 21. The lunches will be free to anyone age one to 18 regardless of where they live or their family's income level. The cost for people older than 18 is \$4.

The meals will be available on a grab-and-go basis. Nobody will be allowed to eat meals inside the Riviera Activity Center, 2609 Second St., La Grande, because of state social distancing rules in place to protect people from the COVID-19 pandemic, said Jeff Hensley, assistant director of Community Connection of Northeast Oregon.

The lunches will be prepared at the Union County Senior Center by its food service staff led by Sydney Gleeson, the center's food service nutrition department manager. This will be done to boost efficiency since meals are already being prepared there for the center's senior meals program, which is part of Community Connection, Hensley said.

"I can't thank Sydney and her staff enough for taking on this project," Hensley said.

In previous years the meals were prepared at the Riviera Activity Center.

Community Connection has operated a lunch program at Riviera since 2005. Hensley, who has helped Community Connection provide this service at Riviera since that time, said the most rewarding part of being involved in the project is observing how much the youths helped by the program welcome it.

"Seeing the smiles on the faces of the children makes all of the hard work

worth it," he said.

The free lunches in Cove are available at Founders Hall on the corner of Church Street and Highway 237. Meals can be picked up from 10-11 a.m. each weekday through the end of July. The lunches are free to anyone age 18 or younger.

The Cove program, which began providing the lunches for the first time on June 1, is sponsored by the Cove Ascension Camp and Conference Center and the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon.

"We felt like we needed to do something to lift the community," said Kim Lee, operations manager for Ascension center.

According to the center's website, signing up for the service is required. Additional information on the program is available at coveascensionschool.com.

The free lunches in Elgin will be available starting June 8 and will be provided by the Elgin School District. Youths age 18 and younger will be able to pick up the lunches between 11 a.m. and noon each weekday at the east entrance of Stella Mayfield Elementary School. The grab-and-go lunches must be eaten outside the school building because of social distancing regulations.

Meals will be available to adults for \$4, said Dianne Greif, superintendent of the Elgin School District.

The Elgin School District and Community Connection will be reimbursed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the lunches they serve.

WALLOWA COUNTY

The free meals to be provided in Wallowa County will be offered by Building Healthy Families. BHF will offer grab-and-go curbside pickup at sites in Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph Monday through Thursday from June 15 to Aug. 6.

The lunches will be free to all youths age 18 and younger from noon to 12:30 p.m. at the following sites: the east side of Enterprise City Park, the east side of Evans Park in Wal-

lowa, and the parking lot of the Joseph United Methodist Church.

In addition to local donors, sponsors of the Wallowa County summer lunch program include the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Grace Lutheran Church, The Ford Family Foundation, Women's Foundation of Oregon and the Lora L. & Martin N. Kelley Foundation.

For additional information on free lunches in Wallowa County, call Building Healthy Families at 541-426-9411.

Charles "Leroy" Poe
September 6, 1946 - May 28, 2020

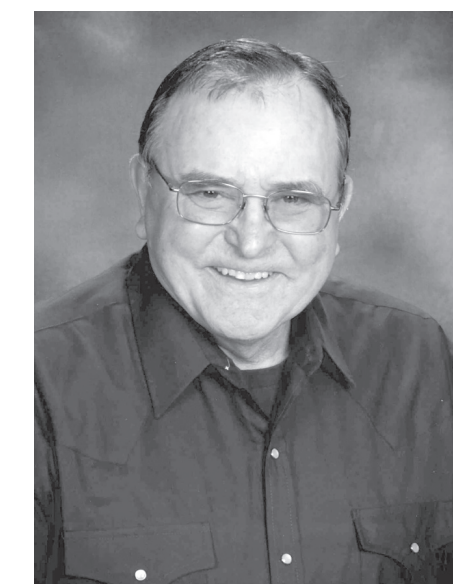
Charles "Leroy" Poe, 73, of Island City, Oregon died May 28, 2020 at his residence. A private graveside service will be held at Summerville Cemetery. A celebration of life will be held at a later time.

Leroy was born September 6, 1946 to Charles E. Poe and Ruby Jewell (Dalton) Poe in Stella, Missouri and lived in Jane, Missouri. He was the 8th of 10 children. He lost his father at the age of 11.

Leroy attended 1st thru 4th grade at Enterprise Elementary in Jane, MO then moved to White Rock Elementary in Jane, MO thru the 8th grade, and later attended Rocky Comfort High School. At the age of 15, Leroy went to Nebraska to work on a hay crew at a family ranch. At the end of the summer, he took a train to Burns, Oregon to live with a sister. After a couple of years of bouncing around, he got a job at the Edward Hines Lumber Co. in Hines, Oregon. In 1980, Edward Hines Lumber Co. closed the mill. In 1981, he was hired at the Boise Cascade Plywood plant in Elgin, OR and moved his family to Imbler, OR. He retired from Boise Cascade in 2009.

In Burns, Oregon, he met Beverly Studebaker. They were married May 7, 1966 and enjoyed 54 years together. They had a son Mike Poe (Josette) Imbler, OR and a daughter Sandy Wyland (Mike Bennett) La Grande, OR. He has 5 granddaughters, Kira Bills (Robert) Perry, Georgia, Chelsea Poe, Kennewick, WA, Jessica Wyland, La Grande, OR, Katia Olson Elgin, Texas and Baily Bennett. He has one grandson Brandon Wyland, La Grande, OR. He has one great-granddaughter, Olivia Bills. He loved all of his family very much. Despite the distance between him and his siblings, he stayed very close to them visiting with them often. He also stayed in contact with many of his numerous nieces and nephews and tracked what their families were doing throughout the years.

Leroy liked to be active. He enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing, woodworking, construction projects, softball, bowling, golf, playing cards, as well as socializing with friends. In 1976, he pitched on a softball team from Burns that finished 4th at the Northwest Industrial Softball tournament, which was the first time an Oregon team had placed in the tournament. He completed numerous construction projects over the years, home additions, remodels, garages, sheds, etc. He spent many hours in retirement honing his



woodworking skills. He made beautiful cedar chests for 5 grandchildren as graduation gifts. Leroy was a member of 3 camping organizations (because each group only camped 1 week a month, he needed 3 groups), Good Sams, The Happy Ramblers, and FMCA Coaches for Christ. In retirement, the summer months were filled with camping. The winters were filled with woodworking projects and attending the grandkids sporting events and school activities. Everything in his life was scheduled around the kids and grandkids activities.

Leroy had an ornery streak, anyone that worked with him knew this. He would often laugh about pranks he pulled throughout his life. He never had a neighbor he did not know and he never had a neighbor that needed help that he did not help.

Leroy is survived by his wife Bev, 2 children, 6 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, sisters, Mary Banks of Jane, MO, Charlene Bennett Monett, MO, Delores Forrester (Jerry) Rocky Comfort, MO; brother, Jack Poe (Linda) Noel, MO; brother-in-law's, Bob Horton Simco, MO, Marvin Studebaker (Maria) Eugene, OR; sister-in-law, Evelyn Blubaugh (Russell) Olathe, KS. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Bill Poe, Bob Poe; sisters, Marie Wellesley, Ruth Horton, Laurana Shrum; brother-in-law's, Steve Studebaker, Freddie Banks, Clint Bennett, Roy Shrum and grandson Ryan Bennett.

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

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