

## COMMUNITY

## Meetings

• ISLAND CITY — The Union Soil and Water Conservation District Board will meet via phone Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m. Go to [www.unionswcd.org](http://www.unionswcd.org) for call-in details. Principal subjects to be discussed are monthly financial statements, staff reports and partner agency reports.

## Briefs

## Fish for free this weekend

SALEM — No fishing licenses or tags are required to fish Saturday and Sunday in Oregon. Due to concerns and restrictions related to the coronavirus, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is not hosting or sponsoring any events for the annual free fishing weekend, and all anglers are reminded to follow the ongoing precautions.

All other fishing regulations apply, including closures, bag limits and size restrictions.

See the Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations to find out more and remember to check for any in season regulation changes at <https://myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report>.

## Landmarks Commission considers historical appropriateness

LA GRANDE — The city of La Grande Landmarks Commission will meet via phone Thursday, June 11 at 6 p.m. The commission will discuss the historical appropriateness of details regarding Brickyard Lanes, 1526 Jefferson Ave., and Oregon Rural Action, occupants of the Peare Building, 11112 1/2 Adams Ave.

Due to coronavirus pandemic guidelines, this meeting is for the sole purpose of conducting business on the agenda.

The commission will not take public comments at this meeting related to non-agenda items. The call-in option will be the only opportunity for citizens to engage in the meeting.

To listen to the meeting or participate in the public comment opportunity, call 253-215-8782 or 669-900-9128 and enter meeting ID number 875 7269 7289; then enter password 850648. To provide public comment in writing, email it to [mboquist@cityoflagrande.org](mailto:mboquist@cityoflagrande.org) or mail it to P.O. Box 670, La Grande.

## Union County Senior Center takeout lunch menu, June 8-12

Pickup 11:30 a.m. to 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.

## JUNE 8-12

**Monday:** Swedish meatballs topped with cheese, salad greens, steamed Italian blend vegetables, garlic bread, fresh fruit.

**Tuesday:** mac and cheese with ham, garden salad, sliced melon, bread, ice cream.

**Wednesday:** fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, spinach salad, rolls, dessert.

**Thursday:** spaghetti, salad greens, garlic bread, fruit, dessert.

**Friday:** foot-long hot dog or hamburger, potato salad, cabbage slaw, chips, fresh fruit.

## Union County Summer Food Program grab &amp; go lunch menu, June 8-12

Pickup 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Riviera Activity Center, 2609 Second St., La Grande.

Free for age 1-18; all others, \$4.

## JUNE 8-12

**Monday:** pork sliders, steak fries, coleslaw, fresh fruit, cookies.

**Tuesday:** spaghetti, salad, rolls, fresh fruit, dessert.

**Wednesday:** fried chicken, macaroni salad, carrot sticks, fresh fruit, Jell-O.

**Thursday:** mac and cheese, garden salad, melon, sherbet cups.

**Friday:** super dogs, chips, apple slaw, orange slices, sherbet cups.

## Alice J. (Taylor) Gipson

1944-2020 • Formerly of Cove

Alice Joyce Gipson, 75, of Ontario and formerly of Cove, died May 13 after a short triumphant battle with cancer. A celebration of her life will be held July 25 at 2 p.m. at the Ascension School on Church Street in Cove (pending lifting of restrictions).

Alice was born Dec. 24, 1944, in Denver, Colorado, to Clifford and Berenice Taylor. She was raised in Cove along with her siblings, Stephen, Melody, Marilee and Grant. She graduated from high school in 1963 from Cove Secondary School. Shortly thereafter she married Gary Gipson and gave birth to her first of four children, Lisa.

Alice studied medical transcription at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario from 1987-1990. She held many occupations over the years and retired from Holy Rosary Medical Center in Ontario in 2011.

Alice loved gardening, fishing, camping and her family. She was gifted at knitting and crocheting

and passed many treasures to her loved ones over the years.

Surviving relatives include her sister, Melody Evans of Gold Canyon, Arizona; brother, Grant Born of Cove; daughters, Lisa Cain, Christy Waggoner and Marilee Gripto; son, Wade Gipson; and seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## William 'Bill' H. Nelson

Formerly of La Grande • 1968-2020

William "Bill" Harold Nelson, 51, formerly of La Grande, died unexpectedly Feb. 29 at his home in Guthrie, Oklahoma. A memorial service will be held June 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the



Mulhall Community Center in Mulhall, Oklahoma.

Known as Bill, he was born Nov. 11, 1968, in Edmonds, Washington, and spent his early years in La Grande. He came to live in Oklahoma at the age of 12.

Bill worked for almost 30 years at Ditch Witch in Perry, Oklahoma. He loved

## OBITUARIES

the many friends he met during that time.

Bill was an avid outdoorsman. Hunting, fishing and golf were some of his favorite pastimes. He was an OU fanatic and loved the Oregon Ducks. If you ever watched a football game with him, you knew the decibel level would exceed the recommended limit.

Bill had a big personality and was stubborn as the day was long. He had a knack for sarcasm and a love for four-letter words. If Bill called you a name with a smile on his face, you knew you were his friend. He was a great cook and loved to travel, especially if there was sand and ice-cold beer.

Bill leaves behind a huge family that he loved with his whole heart.

Surviving relatives include his mother, Ann Patterson; son, Bryce Nelson; bonus sons, Jared and Logan; sisters, Stephanie Orner and husband, Jonathan, Sarah Pressgrove and husband, Tommy, Shanna Shoulders, and Sandra Nelson; 20 nieces and nephews; and many aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his adoptive parents, Keith and Mary Jane Nelson; father, David Bussard; sister, Michelle Nelson; and stepfather, Perry Patterson.

## Ronald H. Caswell

La Grande

Ronald H. Caswell, 79, of La Grande, died March 18 at Grande Ronde Hospital. A memorial service and potluck will be held June 13 at 10 a.m. at the Riverside Park Pavilion (bring a dish to share). Loveland Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

## Martin U. Girrard

La Grande

Martin U. Girrard, 91, of La Grande, died May 29. A viewing will be held June 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by a funeral at 2 p.m., both at Loveland Funeral Chapel (a maximum of 50 people are allowed at one time).

## Mary E. McKague

La Grande

Mary E. McKague, 89, of La Grande, died April 12. A graveside service will

## Upcoming local services



## LOVELAND

FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY

## Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel

**June 11 — MARTIN GIRRARD:** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. viewing, 2 p.m. funeral; Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande (a maximum of 50 people are allowed at a time).

**June 12 — MARY MCKAGUE:** 2 p.m. graveside service; Hillcrest Cemetery, La Grande.

**June 13 — RONALD CASWELL:** 10 a.m. memorial service and potluck (bring a dish to share); Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

be held June 12 at 2 p.m. at Hillcrest Cemetery. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

## LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

EO Media Group

## Union County Public Health further expands testing criteria

LA GRANDE — The Oregon Health Authority further revised coronavirus testing guidelines to prioritize underserved populations and all frontline workers. The new criteria also has expanding symptom criteria and testing for people without symptoms.

The Center for Human Development Inc., La Grande, in a press release announced it will offer free testing to individuals who meet the revised OHA criteria.

The center encourages you to get tested if you have any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, congestion or runny nose, fever or chills, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain or body aches, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell.

If you identify as Black, African American, Latino, Latina, Latinx, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Asian American or Pacific Islander, identify as having a disability or if your first language is not English,

"We encourage individuals who are interested in requesting testing to call 541-624-2179 for more information. No out of pocket cost or insurance required," according to the press release.

Individuals who feel very ill are encouraged to 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.

## Lostine Post Office to move

LOSTINE — The Lostine Post Office is moving — not right away and certainly not out of Lostine.

"We're not going away, we're just moving," said Ashley Spaur, the new postmaster.

Spaur, who took over as postmaster after the February retirement of Lori Winslow-Ford, said the owner of the building that houses the post office declined to renew the lease because he wants the building back for his own use.

The post office's lease runs through August 2021 at 137A Highway 82. A post office has existed there since before the city was founded in 1884. The small town had a population of 213 in the 2010 Census.

"We're going to find somewhere for it to go in Lostine," Spaur said. "The community really wants it here."

She said there are a couple of possible sites for the new post office, but nothing has been decided. She said the new site must have adequate parking and a place for a mail truck to access the back of the building. She said the U.S. Postal Service is working with the Lostine City Council to find a suitable site.

"Call the city if you have property to lease," Spaur said.

## Baker County Fair to open with changes

BAKER CITY — The Baker County Fair will go on as scheduled, Aug. 3-7, but the annual event will be different due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"This fair won't look like it usually does, but it is important to the fair board that our local youth have the opportunity to show their 4-H and FFA projects," Ron Rowan, chairman of the Baker County Fair Board, said in a press release. "They've put a lot of effort into their exhibits, and we want them to have the opportunity to showcase their work."

Rowan said the fair board is working on logistics for how the event will be adjusted to implement guidelines related to the pandemic.

Events that will take place include, in addition to the 4-H and FFA market animal classes and auction, the small animal exhibits, horse show and static exhibits.

Each event will be modified to comply with social distancing and other Oregon regulations.

Open class shows will not take place, however, and premiums will not be awarded to exhibitors.

## PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

## WEDNESDAY

8:07 a.m. — La Grande police responded to Riverside Park for a male causing a disturbance. Police trespassed the person from the park.

9:28 a.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about harassment on the 1800 block of 26th Street. An officer contacted the two parties involved and advised them to leave each other alone.

12:33 p.m. — A caller complained about dogs on the loose on the 2900 block of Oak Street, La Grande. The animal enforcement officer responded and warned two pet owners for allowing their dogs to be

at large.

5:04 p.m. — A caller reported someone left a pet in a hot vehicle at Walmart, 11619 Island Ave., Island City. The vehicle was gone when law enforcement arrived.

9:45 p.m. — La Grande police responded to a report of a person living under the overpass on Island Avenue. The person agreed to leave in the morning.

## THURSDAY

9:23 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of graffiti at May Lane and Cottonwood Road. Someone also painted over the vandalism.

1:19 p.m. — A caller asked to speak to La Grande police about

a possible assault. A detective replied and took information.

1:28 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a vehicle theft at North Fifth Street and West Delta Avenue, Union.

4:45 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of child abuse.

4:54 p.m. — A caller reported animal abuse on the 1500 block of Monroe Avenue, La Grande.

7:04 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a child playing in the road on the 600 block of C Avenue. An officer responded and talked to the child and parent.

## Wallowa County OKs plan to improve recycling

EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa County Board of Commissioners on Monday unanimously approved recommendations to expand the recycling program in the county.

Wallowa County Recycling Task Force, a volunteer-led community group, drafted the recommendations and on May 20 presented them to the county commissioners, according to a press release from task force.

More than 30 community members attended the meeting via Zoom to demonstrate support. After reviewing the recommendations, the commissioners gave the green light for the task force to begin implementing initiatives to revitalize the community recycling program.

"We are excited to get started and are getting the word out to encourage community involvement," Shannon Wilson, task force member, said in an email.

The pro-recycling organization formed in March to address the negative impact that recycling market changes and other factors were having on the local recycling program. After expansive research and collaboration with county officials, the task force outlined initiatives in several areas that could increase the program's economic resiliency.

"A substantial factor that affects the recycling program's efficacy is contamination of materials through improper sorting and garbage disposal," according to the press release. "The task force will focus efforts on increasing the quality and quantity of recyclable materials accepted at the recycling facility through improved signage and on-site community outreach."

Other initiatives include expanding transportation and

buyer options and upgrading the recycling facility.

If the year-long campaign is successful, it will be a first step toward expanding the lifespan of the Ant Flat Landfill, strengthening the economic sustainability of the recycling program, and increasing Wallowa County's recycling rate from 21% closer to the state average of 41%.

The task force now will focus its efforts on tackling the facility

upgrades and outreach infrastructure that will be needed to facilitate the recycling center's ability to accommodate an expanded recycling program in July. The task force will coordinate efforts with the county and provide volunteer assistance on-site during July to assist community members with recycling program guideline changes.

Although the task force is a new community organization, it has a long-term vision for supporting a robust recycling program for Wallowa County residents. And for the community effort to be successful, the task force is looking for volunteers and material donations to help kick off the campaign.

Volunteers would help with the task force's education campaign, digital outreach and facility upgrade projects. There also are a few open spots on the task force board for anyone interested in really diving into the recycling program, the press release stated.

Additionally, the task force is seeking large tarps, as a short-term solution, to cover outside bales. This prevents degradation of materials, which results in lower market prices. Locals interested in learning more or joining the efforts can contact the task force by email at [wallowacountyrecycling@gmail.com](mailto:wallowacountyrecycling@gmail.com).

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