

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• COVE — The public is invited to view a special meeting Tuesday, July 14, of the Cove City Council for a presentation of the city’s updated charter, which will be on the Nov. 3 ballot. According to a press release, an information sheet has been sent out to the residents of Cove. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at city hall; connecting to the meeting virtually is encouraged. For instructions, go to www.cityofcove.org or request a link by emailing cityadmin@cityofcove.org.

Briefs

Library resumes take-out service, offers weekly trivia contest and call-in storytime

LA GRANDE — After a brief hiatus due to the local COVID-19 outbreak, Cook Memorial Library resumed its take-out service this week. If you received confirmation that items are waiting for you, pick them up Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to noon and from 4-6 p.m. If you placed items on hold during the hiatus, you will be notified as soon as they are packaged and ready.

If you’d like to place an order, you can place items on hold in the online catalog or call in your requests at 541-962-1339. When picking up or dropping off items, patrons are asked to wear a mask.

The library is not charging late fees and is working to update patrons’ accounts to reflect this.

Join Cook Memorial Library on Tuesdays online at 5:30 p.m. for a quick round of trivia. There are six questions total, and the whole event lasts about 10 minutes. The person who gets the highest number of first-posted correct answers during the livestream (and is not a recent winner) gets a \$5 gift certificate to the La Grande Farmers Market.

On Mondays at 11 a.m., parents may call 541-314-4256 to access a read-aloud storytime for children. A new story is read each week by Miss Carrie or one of the community’s local celebrities.

Menus

Union County Senior Center takeout lunch menu

Pickup 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.

JULY 13-20

Monday: stuffed pork tenderloin, rice pilaf, apple Waldorf salad, baked bread, dessert.

Tuesday: chicken Alfredo, Caesar salad, freshly baked bread, fruit tarts.

Wednesday: mini bacon-cheese tarts, garden salad, freshly baked bread, dessert.

Thursday: loaded chef salad, bread, fresh fruit.

Friday: Reuben sandwiches, potato salad, coleslaw, cookies.

Union County kids free grab & go lunch menu

Pickup 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Riviera Activity Center, 2609 Second St., La Grande. Free for age 1-18; all others, \$4.

JULY 13-20

Monday: roast pork, veggies, steak fries, baked apples, rolls.

Tuesday: BLT sandwiches, fruit salad, veggie sticks, cookies.

Wednesday: chicken Alfredo, salad, fruit, rolls, pudding.

Thursday: pulled-pork sliders, tater tots, veggies, fruit salad, Jell-O.

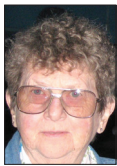
Friday: mac and cheese, veggie sticks, fresh fruit, rolls, dessert.

OBITUARIES

Donna J. (Sherod) Emmons

1931-2020 • Formerly of Wallowa

Donna Jean Emmons, 88, formerly of Wallowa, died March 17 at her home in Medford. A graveside service will be held July 18 at 11 a.m. at the Wallowa Cemetery, followed by a celebration of her life at the home of Elsie and Red Evans. Arrangements are by Bollman Funeral Home, Enterprise.



Donna was born July 22, 1931, in Wallowa, to Glen and Hilma Sherod. She was a 1949

graduate of Wallowa High School, where she was a member of the Gamma Theta Sorority.

Donna was introduced to LeRoy Emmons of La Grande by a friend. They were married Sept. 24,

1950, and made Wallowa their home. They had five children (one who passed away just days after his birth). They had been married for 29 years when LeRoy passed away in April 1979.

Donna worked many jobs in Wallowa, retiring from US Bank in 1996. After retirement she enjoyed planting, reading and collecting wind chimes. She also took care of her youngest daughter, Jeannie, who battled cancer for 24 years.

After Jeannie passed away in March 2007, Donna decided to move to Medford, where she could be closer to her remaining family. In her new home she had a beautiful sunroom where she continued to collect wind chimes and grow the best Christmas cactus you’ve ever seen. She enjoyed making new friends

with her neighbors, walking her dog to her daughter’s house just down the street, spoiling her great-grandchildren and jokingly giving the ones she loved most a hard time.

As Donna grew older, her decision to move to Medford proved to be a blessing. Her son Roger was able to move into her home to assist with her care. When her condition declined, she was constantly comforted and cared for by her daughter Vickie and, with multiple trips from his home, her son David.

Surviving relatives include her children, David Emmons and his wife, Roxanne, Roger Emmons, and Vickie Sutton; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, Glen Sherod; mother, Hilma Sherod; husband, LeRoy

Emmons; sister, Genevieve Keyser; daughter, Jeannie Emmons; and son-in-law, Craig Sutton.

Glen R. Marshall

Formerly of La Grande

Glen Raymond Marshall, 90, of Sumpter and formerly of La Grande, died July 9 at his residence. Arrangements are by Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel, Baker City.

Joyce Wicklander

Joseph

Joyce Wicklander, 77, of Joseph, died July 8 at her home. Arrangements are by Bollman Funeral Home, Enterprise.

Alice Gipson

Formerly of Cove

Alice Gipson, 75, of Ontario and formerly of Cove, died May 13. The celebration of life planned for July 25 has been can-

Upcoming local services



July 18 — DONNA EMMONS: 11 a.m. graveside service, Wallowa Cemetery; followed by a celebration of life at the home of Elsie and Red Evans.

July 24 — IRMA ROGERS: noon graveside service, Hillcrest East Cemetery, La Grande; please wear a mask.

— *Calendar*
courtesy of *Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande*

celed due to the pandemic. Instead, a private service will be held. Interested friends may contact the family with questions.

Wallowa County Fair coming together

By Bill Bradshaw

EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — Plans still are underway for a Wallowa County Fair to be held July 31 to Aug. 8 at the fairgrounds in Enterprise, and organizers are beginning to get an idea of how it’s going to look.

Initial plans, so far, are to avoid any close-packed group gatherings to comply with Gov. Kate Brown’s executive restrictions for the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We have a small community fair and we think we can conduct it” under those restrictions, said Todd Nash, the Wallowa County commissioner who is most closely involved with the fair. “Our fair’s quite different from most others around the state. We think we can come in under what’s required of us by the governor’s executive order and do it safely.”

Nash and Brenda Stanley, chairwoman of the Wallowa County Fair Board, said they expect to



EO Media Group file photo

FFA and 4-H sheep handlers line up outside the livestock arena during the 2019 Wallowa County Fair. Under guidelines the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners and the fair board are working out, no such group gatherings are likely at this year’s fair to comply with Gov. Kate Brown’s restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

limit the number of animals each youth can show to one. A youth will be able to bring a market animal or a breeding-stock animal, but not both.

“We can’t have them bring a whole herd,” Stanley said. “We just can’t contain them.”

Nash agreed, after discussing it with fair representatives at the county commission meeting Wednesday, July 1.

“If you take a market animal, you won’t be able to also take a breeding animal,” he said Thursday. “Likely, that’s the way it’s

going to go.”

However, he and Stanley emphasized, no firm decisions have yet been made. Just rough outlines of a number of the events have been agreed upon.

“Nothing’s set in stone,” Nash said.

The commissioners

First-time homebuyers eligible for grants

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Oregon Housing and Community Services has awarded Community Connection of Northeast Oregon’s Housing Resource Center a \$300,000 grant to provide down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers.

Applicants can receive up to \$15,000 in down payment and closing costs toward the purchase of their home.

Eligible applicants must have gross annual income less than the Area Median Income, be first-time homebuyers, have net worth limitations, and be lender-ready within one year.

Area Median Income for the counties served by CCNO are:

- Baker County, \$58,100
- Grant County, \$60,800
- Union County, \$58,900
- Wallowa County, \$64,400

In addition, Community Connection provides pre-purchase counseling to residents interested in purchasing a home. The program helps position prospective buyers for lender approval by addressing budget, credit and debt and offers education on available loan products.

The agency also offers Individual Development Accounts for first-time homebuyers, allowing qualified buyers to save up to \$12,000 toward a down payment over a course of three years, as well as foreclosure intervention and default counseling.

For more details on the down payment grants and CCNO’s other programs, go to www.ccno.org or contact Debbie MacBaker, manager of the Housing Resource Center, at 541-963-3186 or debbie@ccno.org.

Eagle Cap Excursion Train cancels season

The Observer

ELGIN — The Eagle Cap Excursion Train will not run this season.

The Friends of the Joseph Branch Board of Directors on Friday announced the cancellation of the train’s season.

The board reported in a press release it has watched the status of the coronavirus pandemic and decided to not operate the Eagle Cap Excursion Train this season.

“When considering the average age of passengers and volunteers, the enclosed and close environment on the train and what it would entail to reduce the risk for all involved, the board members voted unanimously not to run,” according to the press release. “Instead, they will concentrate this year on making further improvements to the equipment, work with the Wallowa Union Rail Authority to upgrade the tracks and lay the groundwork for an amazing season in 2021.”

“A majority of our passengers are of the population most vulnerable to the virus and it would be difficult to keep the



Observer file photo

A group of veterans exit the Eagle Cap Excursion Train in Elgin in this 2017 file photo. The Friends of the Joseph Branch Board of Directors announced Friday the cancellation of the train’s season due to the pandemic.

social distance parameters during the trips, while carrying enough passengers to cover costs,” Ed Spaulding, board president and engineer, said in the press release. “As always, our top priority is the health and safety of passengers and volunteers, and to ensure they have an enjoyable experience. We believe the best way to achieve that is to delay all activity until the virus is under control.”

After announcing a busy season in March, the group cancelled its

May and June trips, then announced delaying the season until fall. The board reported it negative impacts shutting down will have on Union and Wallowa County businesses.

“We look forward to serving our passengers again and will work hard to help rebuild the tourism industry in 2021,” Spaulding concluded.

The nonprofit Friends of the Joseph Branch is contacting people with people with reservations and offering refunds or vouchers for use in 2021.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

WEDNESDAY

5:15 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office arrested Mark Alvin Wisdom, 62, of North Powder, on accusations of interfering with making a report, four counts of menacing, four counts of pointing a firearm at another and unlawful possession of a weapon.

7:50 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of the theft of a vehicle from the 1300 block of Jefferson Avenue.

11:40 a.m. — A caller reported a prowler near a residence on the 3000 block of Birch Street, La Grande. Officers arrived and found the suspect was a relative of the homeowners.

2:47 p.m. — A resident on the 63100 block of Gekeler Lane, La Grande, reported a burglary. A Union County sheriff’s deputy

took a report.

4:05 p.m. — A caller on the 600 block of Fourth Street, Powder River, reported a dog in distress.

6:17 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about someone going through a dumpster on the 2000 block of Second Street. Subsequent reports about the same complaint in La Grande came in at 7:57 p.m. on the 2200 block of Island City and at 8:19 p.m. on the 1900 block of Fourth Street.

THURSDAY

7:49 a.m. — A caller reported someone left dogs in their vehicle with windows up at Walmart, 11619 Island Ave., Island City.

9:31 a.m. — A caller reported vandalism to a vehicle on the 2800 block of Adams Avenue, La

Grande. Police responded and took a report.

10:58 a.m. — La Grande police cited an 18-year-old Elgin male for minor in possession of alcohol.

1:03 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff’s Office received a report of people shooting in a prohibited area off Fox Hill Road, La Grande. A deputy checked the area but did not find anyone.

1:29 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of vandalism to a sign on the 1900 block of Island Avenue.

3:11 p.m. — A caller reported vandalism to a building on the 2600 block of Second Street, La Grande.

9:22 p.m. — A caller reported juveniles caused a disturbance on the 1200 block of Cedar Street, Elgin.



Eva Bennett

The family of Eva Bennett would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your kindness and thoughtfulness during the recent loss of our loved one. A special thanks to Dr. Gornowicz, the staff of Grande Ronde Hospital and the staff of Grande Ronde Hospice for their care and guidance the last six months, the staff of Grande Retirement Residence for their attendance to her everyday needs, Ian Murphy, Zee Koza and the staff of Loveland Funeral Chapel for their professionalism and compassion in these strange times and all of you who sent cards, food, flowers, donations and kind thoughts and prayers.

The Brogoitti’s

Cathy, Allen, Carrie, Dutch, Meggen, McKenzie, Stella and Maggie