

COMMUNITY

Meetings

• LA GRANDE — The Blue Mountain Translator District Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, Aug. 4, at 6:30 p.m. via phone and video conference. Members of the public may participate via phone (dial Conference Number: 253-215-8782 and use Meeting ID: 89434971892). The meeting will be streamed live at www.bmtd.org/now. Meeting materials will be posted online prior to the meeting at www.bmtd.org/public-notice.

Honors

La Grande residents earn master's degrees

SALT LAKE CITY — Sabrina Coggins and Shauna Kretschmer, both of La Grande, earned a degree from Western Governors University. Coggins received a master of science degree in nursing, leadership and management (BSN to MSN). Kretschmer received a master of science degree in special education.

WGU is an online, nonprofit university and has graduated more than 190,000 students from across the country since its inception in 1997. Designed to meet the needs of busy working adults, WGU's competency-based model makes it possible for students to set their own study schedules.

Menus

Union County Senior Center 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.

AUG. 3-7

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

Tuesday: chicken pot pie, salad greens, cottage cheese, fresh fruit, cookies.

Wednesday: honey-glazed ham, scalloped potatoes, spinach salad, fresh bread, fruit, dessert.

Thursday: hand-crafted pizza, Caesar salad, fruit, cookies.

Friday: turkey-bacon-avocado wraps or shrimp croissant sandwiches, broccoli-raisin salad, fruit, chips.

Brief

Ladd canyon paving starts Sunday

LA GRANDE — The freeway improvements in the Ladd Canyon area will continue with concrete paving the night of Sunday, Aug. 2, through Thursday, Aug. 6.

Crews will work from about 10 p.m. to 10 a.m., and electrical work will continue for lighting and a weather information system.

Work crews also will close the eastbound slow lane one evening this week to smooth out the bumps in that lane going through the work zone. ODOT also asks drivers to use caution on the Ladd Creek Road off-ramp, which will have a gravel surface until paving work in late August or early September.

OBITUARIES

Daniel B. Girdner
1969-2020 • Formerly of Cove

Daniel Bryan Girdner, 50, formerly of Cove, died May 28.

Daniel was born Dec. 17, 1969, in La Grande and grew up in Cove. He earned a degree in drafting and worked for a time for an architect. Daniel loved basketball and was a Phoenix Suns fan. One of his greatest moments was going to Russia where he taught basketball to kids attending a camp in Siberia.

When Daniel was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, he quickly learned lessons in perseverance, endurance and humility. Daniel had a sincere heart



for others. He was an inspiration to everyone he met, and everyone was his friend. Family meant everything to him.

Daniel had a quirky sense of humor and a great laugh and was spontaneous with his antics. His faith in God was what gave him the strength to face each day with his contagious smile. He leaves behind a legacy of strength and determination.

Surviving relatives include his parents, Robert and Charlotte Girdner; sisters, RuthAnn Zigler, Sharon Markum and Nancy Acord; brother, Stephen Girdner; three nieces and nine nephews; and eight great-nieces and six great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Esthermarie.

Upcoming local services

Aug. 2 — KEITH WALKER: 1 p.m. outdoor memorial service, Spring Creek.

Aug. 15 — PAUL WAGONER: 11 a.m. celebration of life, Indian Rock; casual dress preferred.

Aug. 29 — MIKE MAY: 4 p.m. memorial service, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande; please wear masks and respect social distancing.

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

— PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT —

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

8:03 a.m. — A caller reported a stoplight was malfunctioning at the intersection of Island Avenue and Walton Road, Island City. The dispatch center advised the Oregon Department of Transportation about it.

1:59 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of neglected horses on the 800 block of North Eighth Avenue, Elgin.

2:27 p.m. — A caller reported goats on the loose on the 69500 block of Heritage Lane, Cove. The animal enforcement officer contacted their owner, who agreed to retrieve them.

3:39 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of two dogs inside a hot vehicle on the 3000 block of Island Avenue. The vehicle was gone by the time the animal enforcement officer arrived.

5:11 p.m. — A caller reported dogs in a hot car on the 1900 block of Cove Avenue, La Grande. The animal enforcement officer resolved the problem.

5:33 p.m. — A caller reported

a dead cow at Union Junction Lane and Curtis Road, Union.

6 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a burglary on a non-residential structure on the 73000 block of Catherine Creek Lane, Union.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

7:50 a.m. — Cattle were loose in the area of the 62100 block of Igo Lane, La Grande. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and contacted the owner of the cattle.

1:46 p.m. — A Union resident on the 400 block of East Fulton Street reported possible mail theft.

4:23 p.m. — A caller reported loose livestock in the area of the 69500 block of Heritage Lane, Cove.

6:27 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to a report of animal abuse on the 500 block of Detroit Street, Elgin. The subjects were not abusing the dog, but the deputy warned them for trespassing.

11:48 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about a loud party on the 1200 block of V Avenue.



Photo contributed by Robin Maille
Robin Maille sews masks to help provide 1,000 masks for the La Grande School District.

Sewing up 1,000 masks for La Grande schools

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Community members and businesses have made at least 290 masks for students and staff in the La Grande School District.

Oregon State University Extension Service Family and Community Health Program is leading the effort to provide cloth masks for the upcoming school year with Robin Maille, an assistant professor of practice in the program, coordinating the project. The La Grande

School District initially asked Maille to help find 1,500 masks, but lowered the amount to 1,000.

"You can be creative with these cloth masks," Maille said. "These masks are more sustainable and a good investment."

Maille has received donations from businesses and community members and is sewing masks to help add to the collection. She also helps those making masks with getting fabric and materials. She said it is important to have masks available for those who may

not have one or for those who forget them.

"A lot of kids will come already with masks, but kids lose things all of the time," Maille said. "Having a stock of these masks will be important when people forget or lose their own."

The La Grande School District will start the year with distance learning, but Maille said she still is collecting masks for when the school district does reopen.

"We are going to reopen at some point, so this is a good way to be prepared," Maille said.

Real ID now available by appointment

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

SALEM — Oregonians can obtain Real IDs when renewing or applying for driver's licenses or identification cards.

Real IDs came out of the Real ID Act that Congress passed in 2005 to establish federal security standards for driver's licenses and other forms of identification. Starting in October 2021, anyone entering federal buildings, nuclear power plants or boarding a commercial airliner will have to show either a military ID, standard ID and passport or a Real ID.

Oregon is the last state in the union to comply with the federal law.

The Oregon Legislature objected to the federal unfunded mandate and passed a bill banning the state from spending any money to become Real ID compliant. The Legislature in 2017, however, passed a bill that Sen. Bill Hansell sponsored to allow Oregon to move toward compliance.

The Republican from Athena said Real ID is not a requirement but has benefits.

"If you don't want it, you don't have to get it," Hansell said. "I think,

though, that it is going to be a real asset to Oregonians."

Obtaining a Real ID for the first time requires an in-person appointment at an Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicles Services office and proof of identity, proof of Social Security number and proof of address.

"Appointments are how we're limiting the number of people inside DMV offices for safe social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19," DMV spokesperson David House said. "We are requiring appointments for all forms of ID issuance and a few other services that must be done in person, but all other services must be done online or by mail. We have no idea how long we'll need to limit in-person visits and by appointment only, but it's likely to be months because we have a huge backlog due to COVID-19."

The DMV issued 10,990 Real ID licenses, permits and ID cards from July 6-27. This is 35% of the 31,342 issuances of all types of cards during that time. The DMV estimates one-third of Oregonians are choosing the Real ID option.

Collaboration serves Pacific Islander community

The Observer

LA GRANDE — When the pandemic hit Union County and the sudden surge in numbers escalated, Union County became a priority for Pacific Islander leaders statewide, according to a press release from Eastern Oregon University.

Organizations such as the COFA Alliance National Network and United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance Portland worked with Oregon Health Authority and the state's Asian Pacific Islander Community Support Sub-Committee to collaborate on addressing the needs of Pacific Islanders in Union County, some of whom "were experiencing micro-aggression and stigma in addition to the lack of basic needs from COVID-19 impacted unemployment issues," the press release stated.



Photo submitted by Eastern Oregon University

Masks and food boxes were distributed to the Pacific Islander community by members of the Eastern Oregon Chapter of the COFA Alliance National Network, with help from donated food from Community Connection and Nella Mae's Farm.

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the Eastern Oregon Chapter of the COFA Alliance National Network worked with other partners and distributed more than 14,000 masks to historically marginalized community members in Eastern Oregon.

In addition, Community Connection of Northeast Oregon helped provide much-needed food boxes to families, serving more than 300 people altogether, and Nella Mae's Farm, Cove, donated fresh produce for marginalized families and Eastern Oregon University students.

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The Howard Family

would like to thank everyone for the calls, cards, flowers and moral support with the loss of our beloved son and brother. Paul will always be a part of our lives.

Nicole Cathey

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