

COMMUNITY

Briefs

Learn about Eastern Oregon transportation programs

LA GRANDE — Members of the North East Area Commissions on Transportation and the South East Area Commissions on Transportation will hold a virtual meeting Thursday, Jan. 7 from 10 a.m. to noon, the Oregon Department of Transportation announced. The online meeting is open to the public via teleconference and time has been set aside for comments.

Agenda items include updates regarding the Oregon Transportation Commission, ODOT status, transit and the ACT Area Strategy Pilot Project as well as project highlights regarding the Pendleton Eighth Street Bridge, Sumpter all-train vehicle access and the Enhance Funding Program.

To join the teleconference, call 1-971-277-1965 and enter ID #219 705 188#.

An area commission on transportation is an advisory body chartered by the Oregon Transportation Commission to help address all aspects of transportation. NEACT covers Morrow, Umatilla, Wallowa, Union and Baker counties as well as the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; SEACT covers Malheur, Grant and Harney counties and the Burns-Paiute Tribe. For more information, call Tom Strandberg at 541-963-1330.

Media contest highlights safety for young workers

SALEM — Oregon high school students can participate in the Oregon Young Employee Safety Coalition's annual contest. The aim of the competition is to increase awareness about workplace safety for young workers. Participants will create a brief video or develop a graphic design piece that includes the tagline: "Work. It can be more dangerous than you think."

The top three entries in each of the two media categories will take home cash prizes ranging from \$300 to \$500. In each category, the first-place winner's school, club or organization will receive a matching award.

The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, 2021. For more information about the entry form and rules, contest expectations, examples and resources, go to <http://youngemployeesafety.org>.

Judith 'Judie' L. (Clausen) Martin

1945-2020 • Union

Judith "Judie" Lynn Martin, 75, of Union, died Nov. 22 at her residence. At her request there will not be a service.



Known as Judie, she was born Jan. 22, 1945, in Chicago, Illinois, to Howard and Eunice (Peterson) Clausen. She resided in Colorado Springs, Colorado, until Jan. 12, 1964, when she married Gary R. Martin. They lived in Loleta, California, until his passing in

Upcoming local services



Please follow guidelines regarding face coverings and social distancing at all services.

2001. In 2013 she moved to Union to be closer to her daughter, Deborah Kennon.

Judie loved her job at Loleta Elementary School as a bus driver and a teacher's aide. She enjoyed

Jan. 9 — **LYLE HARMON:** 2-6 p.m. celebration of life, 1999 Alder St., Elgin.

Jan. 11 — **TERRI BARNHART:** 2 p.m. memorial service, Christ Covenant Church (old school gym in Lostine). — *Calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande*

include her children and their spouses, Dean and Tami Martin of Fortuna, California, and Deborah and Johnny Kennon of Union; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and two nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Eunice; husband, Gary Martin; and brother, Roger Clausen.

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

Jessica Winger
La Grande

Jessica Winger, 39, of

La Grande, died Jan. 3 at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Lois Ebel
La Grande

Lois Ebel, 85, of La Grande, died Jan. 2 at her home. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

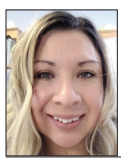
Ruthann M. Batty
La Grande

Ruthann M. Batty, 77, of La Grande, died Jan. 1 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

2020 showed that we find strength when we band together

While 2020 has brought many challenges, it has also amplified our strengths.

During a typical year, we at the



MARCE MARTIN
UCSCC COORDINATOR

Union County Safe Communities Coalition would be holding the Seventh Grade Conference, Drug-Free Relay, town halls, teen movie nights, and supporting community events. But we were stalled to ensure the health and safety of the community. Despite these halts, we got savvy with Zoom, did some giveaways and partnered with the police department for another successful Drug Take-Back Day.

Although we haven't been as

active externally working in the community, our meetings have continued to be consistent and diligent as we discuss what challenges post-COVID will bring. At the Union County Safe Communities Coalition, we care about our community's success and resilience and our youth, and truth be told, we are worried about our youth and the risks brought on as we try to cope with isolation and social changes.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to look at other major public health issues, such as suicides and increases in alcohol and substance use. At the beginning of the year, the UCSCC added a Suicide Prevention/Response Coalition branch to address mental and behavioral health gaps. Just in time, as COVID-19 is correlated with poor mental health. People cope in different ways when faced

with stress and losses, and while some prove to be resilient, others may start using drugs and alcohol, including youth.

Data show that early initiation of drug use is a strong predictor of having problems with drug use as an adult, and it can lead to adverse social, behavioral and health problems. It's this data that keep the coalition banded to work toward positive youth development. We have strong support and partnerships with the school districts and other organizations, including La Grande Parks and Recreation. Our Youth Council has expressed concerns about vaping trends, so in 2021, we will continue to inform the community of harms and offer fun alternatives that promote wellness and drug-free living.

In this time of challenges, it's important to reflect, practice grat-

itude and be thankful for the often-overlooked entities. We are so grateful for all of our community supporters. Where would we be without our media outlets updating the community daily on all the critical issues? The hospital and the Center for Human Development have worked relentlessly to keep up their services to meet the community's needs and concerns. The schools, teachers and administrators provided so much care to the children, and they also deserve a big thanks.

COVID-19 has shown that when we find strength when we band together.

Marce Martin is the coordinator for the Union County Safe Communities Coalition, which works for the prevention of youth alcohol, tobacco and marijuana use in Union County.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

FRIDAY, JAN. 1

10:37 a.m. — Local law enforcement received a report of the denial of a firearms purchase at Oregon Trail Trader, 2312 Adams Avenue, La Grande.

11:21 a.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office received a report of a firearm theft in the area of Alder Street and 14th Avenue, Elgin. A deputy took a report. At the same time, La Grande police received a report of a burglary at a residence on the 300 block of 18th Street. An officer took a report.

5:54 p.m. — La Grande

police received a report of the theft of a vehicle from the 1600 block of Fifth Street. An officer made contact, but no one wanted to pursue a case.

8:58 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1500 block of Fifth Street for a domestic disturbance.

SATURDAY, JAN. 2

8:23 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1600 block of Spruce Street on a report of a transient camp. Officers trespassed one person.

1:46 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office

responded to the 1300 block of Alder Street, Elgin, on a report of an attempted hit-and-run. Deputies arrested a 44-year-old man for disorderly conduct and reckless driving.

3:21 p.m. — A caller reported indecent exposure on the 11600 block of Island Avenue, Island City. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded but did not spot anyone suspicious.

6:14 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to a report of a burglary at a residence on the 65100 block of Dark Canyon Road, La

Grande. The deputy took information.

6:36 p.m. — A caller in La Grande reported the theft of his vehicle. An officer responded but the caller reported finding his car.

SUNDAY, JAN. 3

7:48 a.m. — A caller reported a power line was down on the 1500 block of N Avenue, La Grande. An officer responded, and a crew from the Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative arrived and took control of the situation.

12:24 p.m. — A caller on the 58700 block of Pierce

Road, La Grande, reported a dog was in with livestock. A Union County sheriff's deputy made contact.

5:01 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about a careless driver at Willow Street and Adams Avenue. An officer counseled the driver.

9:26 p.m. — A caller on Foxhill Road, La Grande, reported wildlife stuck in a trap. A Union County deputy explained options.

11:21 p.m. — La Grande police responded to a noise complaint on the 900 block of Lane Avenue. Police told the subject to keep it down.

La Grande library has craft kits available for all age ranges

The Cook Memorial Library building in La Grande remains closed for the foreseeable future.

Please call us at 541-962-1339



ROSE PEACOCK
COOK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

or visit our website, cookmemoriallibrary.org. The Fourth Street door and phone are answered Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To use our takeout service, place items on hold in the catalog or call us.

Once we confirm your order is ready, come to the building, ring the doorbell and we'll bring your items out to you. We will

not have takeout service on Monday, January 18, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

Craft kits for children, teens and adults are available starting Monday, Jan. 4.

The children's kits are "Animal Adventures," teen and adult kits are fridge magnets. Supplies are limited.

Virtual Teen Book Clubs have started; call the library for details.

SageCat is the official app for the Sage Library System and provides access to library materials from more than 70 Oregon libraries. SageCat lets you search the catalog, place holds and make renewals. SageCat is available in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

Online card application is available on our website under

the "How Do I," tab. Online resources include free music, movies, ebooks and audiobooks.

Visit the Riverside Park Greenway Storywalk. Walk the path and read the winter-themed "Stranger in the Woods" by Carl Sams. The book is sponsored by Glenda O'Connor. Virtual Storytime is on our website and YouTube channel, Cook Memorial Library.

Dial-A-Story for all ages continues with new selections. Dial-A-Story can be accessed 24 hours a day, free of charge, by calling 541-624-6339.

Genre Book Club for Adults meets online on Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. We'll be reading "In the Heart of the Sea," the Fishtrap/National Endowment for the Arts Big Read for 2021. Email rpeacock@cookmemoriallibrary.org

for the meeting login.

Unable to pick up items at the library? Use Library @ Your Door, in partnership with Rob's Speedy Delivery. This free service is for residents within La Grande city limits who cannot physically come to the library due to long- or short-term health concerns. Deliveries are Friday afternoons; orders must be placed prior to 6 p.m. on the preceding Wednesday. Fill out our online registration form or call the library for more information.

Mobile and remote printing is now available. To print from home, go to <https://tbs.eprintit.com/portal/#/ppl/upload/CML>. To print from a mobile device, download the Public Print Locations app.

Wi-Fi hotspots and Chrome-Kits are available for check

out. A ChromeKit features a Chromebook laptop and a WiFi hotspot. Patrons must be 18 or older, read and sign a borrowing policy and have had a library account in good standing for at least the past six months. Kits will checkout for one week and are not renewable.

The library's Wi-Fi (LGPLWiFi) is on from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. The signal reaches to the building's entrances and the parking lot and does not require a password.

Call us at 541-962-1339, ext. 0, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Find out more on our website at cookmemoriallibrary.org.

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

Wallowa County food delivery service donates locally

The Observer

ENTERPRISE — Genuine Wallowa County Provisions, a local food delivery service, pledged when it launched in June to donate \$1 of every sale to the food pantries in Wallowa and Enterprise.

Founder Kristy Athens reported last week she sent Community Connection a total of \$211 for 2020.

GWC Provisions works with local producers, including Backyard Gardens, Stangel Bison Ranch and Hawkins Sisters Ranch, as well as sourcing food that isn't available in the county, such as cheese from Umapine Creamery in Milton-Freewater and seafood from Tre-Fin Day Boat Tuna in Ilwaco, Washington.

It also is expanding to

support local restaurants by offering signature items, such as baked goods from Vali's Alpine Restaurant and Terminal Gravity's bottled dressings.

GWC Provisions delivers to all residences and lodging within a 5-mile range of Highway 82, from the head of the lake to Wallowa.

Membership is available, which entitles one to early

access to the weekly offerings, free delivery and other perks.

Genuine Wallowa County showcases handmade items from Wallowa County artisans via curated gift and subscription boxes. GWC Provisions delivers local food within Wallowa County.

Learn more at genuinewallowacounty.com and www.gwcprovisions.com.

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