

COMMUNITY

Meetings

- ISLAND CITY — The Island City Area Sanitation District will share information on proposals to improve the district's wastewater collection system during a virtual public meeting 7 p.m. Thursday, March 4, starting at 7 p.m. The meeting will be live-streamed at www.EOAlive.com. TV and www.facebook.com/EOAliveTV. Viewing links also are accessible at www.islandcityhall.com. A flyer has been sent out to all residents within the Island City Area Sanitation District. Questions and comments emailed to karen@islandcityhall.com received prior to the meeting will be addressed.
- ISLAND CITY — The Island City City Council will have a regular meeting Monday, March 8, at 7 p.m. at Island City City Hall. Those who attend the meeting will observe social distancing and wear a mask. Written public comments on topics to be discussed may be dropped off at the city hall or emailed to karen@islandcityhall.com.
- LA GRANDE — The La Grande Rural Fire Protection District board will meet Tuesday, March 9, at 6 p.m. at the fire hall in Island City. Call 541-910-3114 for more information.
- LA GRANDE — The La Grande School District Board of Directors will hold its regular meeting Wednesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. in the Central Elementary School's library. Due to physical distancing requirements, the public may attend the meeting online, by phone and via the Blue Mountain Translator District. For access information, go to www.lagrandesd.org.
- LA GRANDE — La Grande's Parks & Recreation commissions will meet via video conference next week. Each meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. The Community Landscape and Forestry Commission meets Tuesday, March 9; the Arts Commission's meeting is Wednesday, March 10; and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission meets Thursday, March 11. Video conference links may be obtained from the department director at 541-962-1348 or sspence@cityoflagrande.org.

Briefs

Rimfire silhouette shoot open to all

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Rifle and Pistol Club is hosting a .22 rimfire silhouette shoot the first Sunday of the month through April at the club's river range on Highway 244 (I-84 exit 252, then 3 miles west on the Ukiah-Hilgard Highway). The next will take place Sunday, March 7. The monthly events are open to the public and begin at 9 a.m. Entry fee is \$5. Eye and ear protection is required. Rifles or pistols, with no restrictions on sights. For more information and updates on possible weather or COVID-19 disruptions, call Gary at 541-786-0809, go to www.lgrpc.com or visit the club's Facebook page.

Lottery

Megabucks: \$2.5 million
1-6-12-41-43-47
Powerball: \$106 million
2-28-31-44-52 — PB 18 x3
Mega Millions: \$43 million
4-8-13-34-64 — MB 18 x2
Win for Life: March 1
23-28-49-68
Pick 4: March 2
• 1 p.m.: 5-5-7-4
• 4 p.m.: 1-6-4-1
• 7 p.m.: 5-3-7-5
• 10 p.m.: 7-9-2-5
Pick 4: March 1
• 1 p.m.: 7-9-0-4
• 4 p.m.: 4-6-8-8
• 7 p.m.: 0-1-7-1
• 10 p.m.: 3-8-1-9

Delivery issues?

If you have any problems receiving your Observer, call 541-963-3161.

Elgin Lions Club resumes regular meetings

ELGIN — Energetic and masked, the Elgin Lions voted to begin meeting on a regular basis for the year. According to a press release, a total of 25 Lions in late February met and determined with COVID-19 cases decreasing in Union County and Oregon, they would like to continue with projects for the community.

Club President Kathy Oliver led a discussion on the group's involvement in the annual Riverfest. The club decided to go ahead with its traditional activities, including the car show and duck race. The Lions decided to support community yard sales during the festival as a means of involving residents by putting together a map for the sales. The release also stated a quilt show is in the works for Riverfest.

The club also reported member Dennis Cross donated \$15,000 to work on an RV dump improvement. The club will support the city in completing the needed water and sewer lines for this project.

Members also discussed other community service activities, including focusing on the Lions' vision assistance program; donating \$50



George Hopkins/Contributed Photo

The Elgin Lions, with 25 in attendance, in late February agreed to commence meeting on a regular basis and to continue the club's community service projects.

to the Women's Service Club's Easter Egg Hunt to help with their expenses; and contributing to the Northeast Oregon Regional Food Bank as it moves into a larger facility in La Grande.

According to the release, the regional food bank has requested funds for additional coolers and freezers for the expanded warehouse. The

Elgin Lions Board of Directors will take the issue under consideration and possibly create a challenge to all Lions clubs in the four counties the food bank serves.

Local veterans invited to COVID-19 vaccination clinic

RICHLAND, Wash. — A COVID-19 vaccination clinic is open to enrolled veterans age 65 and older Saturday, March 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Richland, Washington.

The clinic is organized by the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center, Walla Walla, which serves veterans in Union and Wallowa counties, and will be held in the parking lot of the Richland Federal Building, 825 Jadwin Ave.

To receive a vaccination, veterans must schedule an appointment by calling 509-525-5200 (then dial "2" and "2" or ask for the Call Center). The clinic will accept appointment requests Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Due to high call volumes, callers may experience delays, but you must remain on the line to be scheduled. Walk-ins will not be allowed.

For more information on the vaccine, go to www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine.

OBITUARY

Donald L. Clark

Formerly of La Grande

Donald L. Clark, 99, formerly of La Grande, died Feb. 20 in Jacksonville, Alabama. A private graveside service with interment at the Hepner Masonic Cemetery will be held after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and it is safer to travel.

Known as Don, he was born in Ukiah to Lynn and Lydia (Ochs) Clark. He graduated from high school in Ukiah in 1939.



Don worked for the U.S. Forest Service until he was drafted in September 1942. He was a medic in the Philippines and Japan during the war and was discharged in January 1946. When he returned home he worked for the Forest Service and attended college. After finishing college he began a 22-year teaching career in Pilot Rock in 1950. He later taught in Pendleton, Hepner, Ione and La Grande.

Upon retiring from teaching Don worked for

the Oregon State Employment Office as a counselor for 11 years. Beginning in 1988 he worked for the Forest Service Wildlife Habitat Lab for eight years.

Don was a member of the Elks Lodge for 30 years and a member of the Island City Lions Club.

Surviving relatives include his children and their spouses, Donald Jr. and Barbara Clark of Maryville, Tennessee, Richard and Shirley Clark of Jacksonville, Alabama, and Linda Kay and Bill Reinmiller of Portland; foster son, John

Upcoming local services

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

March 20 — CHARITY HENRY: 11 a.m. memorial service, La Grande Church of Christ.

April 24 — BECKY ROBERSON: 2 p.m. celebration of life, Elgin Community Center.

— calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

Cole and his wife, Susan, of St. George, Utah; and 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Loray, and son, David L. Clark, who was killed in Vietnam in 1967.

VACCINE

Continued from Page 1A

About 4,800 doses will go to local public health authorities to vaccinate Oregonians living in adult foster homes and other in-home senior populations.

Walmart and Bi-Mart, two new partners in the state's pharmacy vaccinations program, will receive the Johnson & Johnson doses. Additional doses will go to some unspecified health systems in the state.

The new vaccine has pros and cons compared to the two-shot vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine has shown an efficacy of about 80% in tests. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have an efficacy of more than 95%.

CDC officials have said even if there is a slightly higher chance of getting infected with COVID-19 with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, it is strong enough to prevent severe illness and death.

But the Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires only one shot. Also, because it requires only standard

commercial-level refrigeration, it can be transported to areas farther away in rural or mountainous areas. The Pfizer and Moderna doses have to be kept in ultra-cold freezers, then thawed before use.

The White House on March 2 told states to plan on administering 16 million to 17 million total weekly doses of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines by the end of March, climbing to 17 million to 18 million weekly by early April.

States receiving 14.5 million doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine will receive 15.2 million doses next week.

Johnson & Johnson reported it can ship 2.8 million doses to states this week in anticipation of federal approval. But it won't be able to sustain that number immediately. The company produced 3.9 million doses total prior to federal approval on Feb. 27.

The company said it will meet its commitment to deliver 100 million doses by June 30. The deal with Merck could double production within two months.

The Biden administration estimates after a short dip, the

increased production aided by Merck will rise to 4 million to 6 million doses per week by March 31 and 5 million to 6 million doses per week by April 30.

When the first two vaccines were approved in December, U.S. officials were optimistic that some of the more than 20 additional vaccines in various stages of development soon would flood the country with enough doses to quickly inoculate all Americans.

But vaccines developed by Merck, GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi failed and research was discontinued.

A vaccine by AstraZeneca did not meet federal standards for test reliability. It is in use in Britain and other parts of the world. Vaccines by Russia and China are considered unreliable by U.S. standards.

Vaccination rates have picked up in recent weeks. The CDC said just less than 51 million Americans have received at least one shot of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. Of those, about 25.5 million have received both shots to become fully vaccinated.

That still accounts for just more

than 15% of the adult population since the first vaccines were introduced at the end of last year.

Oregon is nearing 1 million total shots. Mass vaccination centers have been joined recently by a pharmacy program that allows residents to be inoculated closer to home.

In Oregon and other states, demand for vaccine has far outstripped supply. With additional groups being made eligible, the competition for appointments to get inoculated has been intense.

Vaccination appointments filled rapidly and breakdowns in websites and communication have plagued getting doses into people's arms.

Recent severe winter weather across the United States, including ice storms in Portland and Salem, hampered distribution and forced cancellation of thousands of appointments.

CDC officials have said that when 70-80% of the population is vaccinated, the country will reach "herd immunity" that will even protect the unvaccinated because the virus will not find enough hosts to infect.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Monday, March 1

8:20 a.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1900 block of Cove Avenue on a report of a domestic disturbance. Police arrested Alex Joseph Smith, 29, of La Grande, on a Union County warrant for unlawful manufacture/delivery of a schedule III controlled substance. Police also arrested Smith for felony fourth-degree assault and strangulation.

11:10 a.m. — A caller reported animal abuse on the 500 block of M Avenue, La Grande. The animal enforcement officer responded and took information.

2:45 p.m. — A La Grande woman suffered non-life threatening injuries when a crash ejected her from the vehicle and closed the east-bound side of Interstate 84 near milepost 283 for a short period.

Oregon State Police reported the driver, William

Dayton, 28, of Union, lost control at 60 mph when the blue Ford Escort "seized" and he overcorrected, rolling the car at least once and coming to a rest in the median. Dayton suffered minor injuries. State police cited him for driving while suspended.

Darlene M. Ferguson, 49, was not wearing a seatbelt, according to OSP, and the crash threw her from the vehicle. While her injuries were not life threatening, state police reported, an emergency helicopter flew her from the scene.

3:38 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of harassment from Greenwood Elementary School, 2300 N. Spruce St., La Grande. An officer made contact. Police will provide extra patrol, and there is a safety plan in place.

4:46 p.m. — A caller reported indecent exposure on the 200 block of

North Main Street, Union. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and counseled the subject.

9:16 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1900 block of Second Street on a report of a suspicious person who yelled at someone. An officer counseled the subject for disorderly conduct.

Tuesday, March 2

8:59 a.m. — A caller reported a person sleeping in the doorway of Umpqua Bank, 1215 Adams Ave., La

Grande. Police responded, but the person was gone before the officer arrived.

12:53 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a dog running into traffic at Island Avenue and Walton Road. An animal enforcement officer responded but did not find the dog.

3:08 p.m. — A resident on the 1900 block of H Avenue, La Grande, reported theft of services. An officer made contact and took a report.

6:33 p.m. — A caller

reported a domestic disturbance at a residence on the 1500 block of Adams Avenue, La Grande. Officers responded but the situation was fine upon arrival.

11:11 p.m. — La Grande police responded to The La Grande Inn, 2612 Island Ave., on a report of trespassing. Police arrested Nicholas Geatano Olivera, 49, for felon in possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of methamphetamine and unlawful transfer of a firearm.

March into Spring!!!

Throughout the entire month of March shopping, supporting and saving local can EARN YOU BIG PRIZES

- Shoppers collect punches by making purchases at participating locations (EACH DOLLAR spent earns a punch). Fill as many cards as you wish.
- Up to 50 punches per purchase!
- Turn in punch cards by 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 for weekly drawings
- All punch cards must be turned in by 4:00 p.m. on March 31st for a chance to win the Grand Prize Drawing!

Turn cards in at Chamber (207 Depot), La Grande Main Street (102 Depot St.) or any participating location.

The Union County Chamber and La Grande Main Street have teamed up with local businesses to encourage you to safely shop and support local businesses as we March into Spring!!!

UNION COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Nicole Cathey

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