

COMMUNITY

Briefs

RSVP for next takeout Cove senior meal

COVE — The Cove senior meal program is offering takeout lunches on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Due to restrictions in place caused by the coronavirus pandemic, meals are picked up in front of Founders Hall instead of being served inside. The lunch will be handed out from noon to 12:30 p.m. Enter the driveway in front of the Ascension Founders Hall on Church Street from the north.

The menu for the May 4 lunch is Swedish meatballs with egg noodles, green beans, green salad, rolls and sugar cookies. There is a \$5 charge per meal. If you haven't been contacted, call Imie Bristow at 541-568-4545 by Wednesday, April 28, to order your meal.

Bring a bike, take a bike at bike swap and safety rodeo

LA GRANDE — La Grande Parks and Recreation and the Safe Routes to School Program are holding a bike swap at Pioneer Park Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event gives the community the opportunity to buy, sell or trade their used bicycles. There also will be a bike safety course, known as a bike safety "rodeo," where children can learn bicycle safety. Children must have their own bicycle and helmet to participate. In addition, door prizes will be drawn every hour.

To preregister, contact Jessie Wilson, Safe Routes to School coordinator, at srts@cityoflagrande.org or 541-962-0514. Registration also will be available at the event.

Lottery

- Megabucks: \$1.6 million  
4-8-14-18-26-44
- Powerball: \$79 million  
10-21-26-41-49 — PB 25 x2
- Mega Millions: \$257 million  
6-23-43-49-52 — MB 5 x3
- Win for Life: April 19  
8-23-34-57
- Pick 4: April 18  
• 1 p.m.: 0-8-4-3  
• 4 p.m.: 7-3-4-3  
• 7 p.m.: 5-3-0-1  
• 10 p.m.: 0-3-3-1
- Pick 4: April 19  
• 1 p.m.: 5-6-5-2  
• 4 p.m.: 2-0-2-0  
• 7 p.m.: 4-7-4-8  
• 10 p.m.: 6-7-2-9

DELIVERY ISSUES?

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

OBITUARIES

Ivy J. (Stark) Read

1935-2021 • La Grande

Ivy Jean Read, 85, of La Grande, died April 15 at her home. A graveside service will be held April 24 at noon at Grandview Cemetery,



La Grande. The service will be streamed live for those who cannot attend; join via Zoom at

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8403266406?pwd=emNOK111RTFncU1OYz-BIR2ZHT09vUT09> (meeting ID is 8403266406). Arrangements are by Daniels-Knopp Funeral and Cremation Center, La Grande.

Ivy was born July 29, 1935, in La Grande, to Lee Max and Wilmerth (Weimer) Stark. She graduated from Battle Ground High School in Battle Ground, Washington, with the class of 1953. She then attended LDS Nursing College in Idaho Falls, Idaho, where she met her future husband, Alexander Clark Read.

Ivy and Alexander were married Dec. 11, 1959. They moved several times but primarily raised their family

in The Dalles, where Ivy worked for many years as a nurse. Later they moved to La Grande, where she worked and retired from Grande Ronde Hospital. She then worked as a nurse and in-home caretaker for many others.

Ivy was a devoted member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She belonged to the First Ward and served many callings, not the least of which was at the Family History Center. She was a great mom and very service oriented. She took care of anyone and everyone and gave quality medical care whenever needed.

Surviving relatives include her children, William Dale Read of La Grande, Carl Alan Read of Marshall Islands, and Kathleen Irene Grappmayer of Woodinville, Washington; siblings, John Stark, Lois Conner, Roger Stark, William Stark, Beth Spitzer and Nita Smith; and 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband of 61 years, Alexander Read.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Family History Center, 1802 Gekeler Lane, La Grande 97850, or a charity of choice.

Linda Cowan

Haines

Linda Cowan, 71, of Haines, died April 14 at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. Linda took care of many Union County residents at her Serenity Farms Adult Foster Home. Arrangements are by Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Halfway.

Lois L. Bigler

La Grande

Lois L. Bigler, 83, of La Grande, died April 19 at Grande Ronde Hospital. Arrangements are by Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory, La Grande.

Nancy Biechler

La Grande

Nancy Biechler, 88, of La Grande, died April 20 at a local care facility. Arrangements are by Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, La Grande.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

MONDAY, APRIL 19

6:59 a.m. — A caller reported a large branch was about to fall on a power line on the 58600 block of Pierce Road, La Grande. Dispatch advised a Union County sheriff's deputy and Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative about the situation.

9:06 a.m. — A caller reported dogs on the loose at the Island City Cemetery, 10605 Island Ave., Island City. An animal enforcement officer returned the dogs to their owner.

12:05 p.m. — A caller reported a burglary on the

2600 block of Cove Avenue, La Grande. Officers took information.

2:01 p.m. — La Grande police responded to the 1500 block of Portland Street for a harassment call. Officers took a report at the scene.

2:08 p.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to the 100 block of West Arch Street, Union, on a call about an assault. The deputy took a report.

5:08 p.m. — La Grande police received a report of a possible sex crime.

10:38 p.m. — Local law enforcement arrested

Michael Patrick Piggott, 23, for charges of fraudulent use of a credit card and first-degree theft.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

8:47 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of a transient camp on the 2100 block of Island Avenue. An officer made contact and explained options.

10:29 a.m. — A Union County sheriff's deputy responded to the 700 block of K Avenue, La Grande, on a complaint about telephonic harassment between

two individuals. The deputy warned one subject not to contact the other.

11:18 a.m. — The La Grande Police Department arrested Mung Trong Bui, 38, of La Grande, for violation of a stalking order and unlawful use of a GPS tracking device. Bui was the man police arrested Nov. 8, 2020, following a shooting in La Grande that left another man injured.

3:32 p.m. — La Grande police received a complaint about fraud. An officer made contact and took a report.

5:28 p.m. — A caller

Upcoming local services



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

April 24 — IVY READ: noon graveside service, Grandview Cemetery, La Grande (join livestream via Zoom at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8403266406?pwd=emNOK111RTFncU1OYz-BIR2ZHT09vUT09>; meeting ID is 8403266406); reception follows at 1:30 p.m., Birnie Park, La Grande.

April 24 — RICHARD BIDWELL: 2 p.m. graveside service, Elgin Cemetery.

April 24 — LARRY KEFFER: 2 p.m. graveside service, Grandview Cemetery, La Grande; casual dress preferred.

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

Community Center.

April 29-30 — ROBERT STALEY: 10 a.m. April 29 Recitation of the Rosary and 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial, Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, La Grande; 2 p.m. April 30 graveside service, Juniper Haven Cemetery, Prineville.

May 1 — MICHELLE SANDOVAL: 10 a.m. celebration of life, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

May 17 — JERRY BROOKSHIRE: 2 p.m. graveside service, Union Historic Cemetery; reception follows at Catherine Creek Community Center, Union.

June 26 — DAVID COUNCIL: 1 p.m. celebration of life, North Powder City Park.

June 27 — MERI OLMSTEAD: 1 p.m. memorial service, Riverside Park Pavilion, La Grande.

— calendar courtesy of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande

BRADEN

Continued from Page 1A

"It's very frustrating for me to do my job," Braden said in that meeting. "We currently are not compliant with the city charter. We are not compliant with the council rules and almost every single aspect of my employment contract has been violated. Doing my job in a functional, efficient manner is almost impossible right now."

Braden's departure leaves a critical hole in the staffing of the city. He served the city of Joseph for just more than two years.

"Now, we are right in the middle of budget season and we need to get something in place to assist you (Administrative Assistant Jamie Collier) at city hall until we can get this job posted and filled," Buswell said after reading the letter.

But the major issue may be the harassment Braden alleged. Buswell initially suggested she could be of help to Collier, having worked as city recorder until July and being familiar with many of the workings of city hall. However, others were uncomfortable with that.

"I actually feel that given the nature of the letter, it sounds like there's some harassment from city council members, I'm not sure that I'm comfortable with giving access," Councilor Lisa Collier said. "I don't feel like giving anybody that power right now. I feel like the council, we need to sit down with Wyatt Baum (city attorney) and say, 'OK, what do we do?' Because we could play a whole bunch of different scenarios. What



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph Mayor Belinda Buswell, right, reads City Administrator/Recorder Larry Braden's resignation letter during an emergency city council meeting Friday, April 16, 2021, at the city library. Braden cited unspecified "harassment" as his reason for resigning. City Administrative Assistant Jamie Collier takes notes at left.

if we get the harasser actually in there, and then what? What kind of stuff would Larry have in his office?"

The council member emphasized she wasn't pointing any fingers.

"I'm not blaming anybody," she said. "I feel that we have to move forward, but there's somebody or an individual on the city council who is the reason why we don't have our city administrator. I think we need to look at that. Maybe not tonight, but I feel uncomfortable appointing people when we don't even know who we're dealing with obviously."

The council agreed to have Baum begin an investigation into the alleged harassment. Baum was not available for comment Monday, April 19.

Although she'd initially offered to help at city hall, Buswell withdrew her offer, understanding the discomfort council members expressed.

Councilors suggested reaching out to various com-

munity members, including those throughout the county, who might be able to assist both in the day-to-day operations at city hall and in the budgeting process.

"My priority is we get the budget done," Buswell said. "I don't care who is doing it, as long as we get somebody in there."

The council approved motions to fill the gap left with Braden's departure.

One such action will be a workshop on council rules scheduled for Monday, April 26, which will instead focus on reviewing the job description for city administrator/recorder.

"That way we can get it posted as soon as possible," Councilor Kathy Bingham said.

The motions largely involved delegating to various members to reach out for information, such as posting the job vacancy with the League of Oregon Cities, learning if the city can get an extension on submitting its budget and finding someone who could help

with the budget process.

Officials with Wallowa County and the city of Enterprise are being asked if they know of someone to help Jamie Collier with day-to-day operations at city hall. The council also agreed — on Baum's advice — to stay out of city hall.

Public Works Director Levi Tickner reminded the council that city hall once had fewer business hours. The council agreed to ease Collier's workload and to have city hall open only from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday until sufficient staffing can be found.

The council also is seeking help at city hall from someone who knows the ins and outs of zoning and land-use laws.

"There's a lot of traffic right now with zoning, and all I've really started tackling is running the water and sewer billing," the administrative assistant said. "People come in the door with zoning questions. I really haven't had time to study zoning or to be able to go out and check out their markings to see if they're in the right place. I don't know anything about that. It's a really hot item right now. We have a lot of people building RV pads, rebuilding fences."

Although councilors recognized they needed to keep their distance from day-to-day operations at city hall, they were highly supportive of the city's administrative assistant. Several asked if there is anything they can do to help.

"Even if it's mowing your lawn," Councilor Stephen Bartlow said, "we'll help."

Wallowa County Farmers Market holds vendor symposium Saturday

The Observer

WALLOWA COUNTY — The Wallowa County Farmers Market is holding its 2021 vendor symposium virtually on Saturday, April 24, from 10-11-30 a.m. The free event is open to the public.

According to the event information, market manager Kimi Starner will provide the latest updates on vending this season, including COVID-19 regulations, market protocols and safety procedures.

A group of panelists — Theresa Stangel of Stangel Bison Ranch, Lauren McBurney and Annie Rose Miller of Lo and Ro and Brittany Lee of Earth and Ether — will describe their experiences and reasons for vending at the Wallowa County Farmers Market and offer tips and information on marketing,

booth display and customer service. There also will be a Q&A with the board.

The event will include a door prize that will be awarded at the conclusion of the symposium.

There are several ways to register. Visit [tinyurl.com/vendwallowacounty](http://tinyurl.com/vendwallowacounty), the Wallowa County Farmers Market website at [www.wallowacounty-farmersmarket.com](http://www.wallowacounty-farmersmarket.com), or on Facebook or Instagram.

Following registration, and prior to the symposium, registrants will receive a Zoom link to virtually attend the symposium. Eventbrite, which is coordinating registration, will send registrants a reminder and the Zoom link before the symposium begins. Registration is required to be part of the door prize drawing.

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