

## DEATH NOTICES

## Marie D. A. Marick

Irrigon  
December 11, 1956

Marie D. A. Marick, 63, of Irrigon, died Tuesday, March 3, 2020, in Richland, Washington. She was born Dec. 11, 1956, in Hermiston. A fundraiser/memorial planned for Saturday, March 28, 2020 at the Irrigon Moose Lodge has been postponed due to precautions for the coronavirus. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Share memories with the family at [www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com).

## Chris Marston

Boardman  
Oct. 17, 1956 — March 1, 2020

Chris Marston, 63, of Boardman, died Sunday, March 1, 2020, at his home. He was born Oct. 17, 1956, in Prineville. A memorial planned for Saturday, April 4 at the Boardman Senior Center has been postponed indefinitely due to precautions for the coronavirus. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

## Dr. Kenneth Dean Peterson

Hermiston  
June 28, 1925 — March 9, 2020

Dr. Kenneth Dean Peterson, 94, of Hermiston, died Monday, March 9, 2020, in Hermiston. He was born June 28, 1925, in Denton, Montana. A graveside service is pending at the Hermiston Cemetery. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Share memories with the family at [www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com).

## UPCOMING SERVICE

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

**LIEBE, WALTER** — Graveside service with military honors at 1 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22-TUESDAY, MARCH 24

No services scheduled

## MEETINGS

*Editor's note: Due to concerns about the coronavirus, many activities have been postponed or canceled. Contact the venue before attending any public gathering to ensure the event is still scheduled.*

MONDAY, MARCH 23

**UMATILLA BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL**, 6 p.m., Pendleton City Hall community room, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (Michael T. Ward 541-276-2190)

**IRRIGON COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT**, 7 p.m., Irrigon Fire Station, 705 N. Main St., Irrigon. (541-922-3047)

**MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT**, 7 p.m., Pioneer Memorial Clinic conference room, 130 Thompson St., Heppner. (Tonia Adams 541-676-2942)

**HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL**, 7 p.m., Hermiston City Hall council chambers, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. (541-567-5521)

**MILTON-FREEWATER CITY COUNCIL**, 7 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library Albee Room, 8 S.W. Elgth Ave., Milton-Freewater. (541-938-5531)

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

**UMATILLA-MORROW COUNTY HEAD START**, 11:30 a.m., downtown venue, 372 E. Main St., Hermiston. (Monina Ward 541-564-6878)

**UMATILLA PLANNING COMMISSION**, 6:30 p.m., Umatilla City Hall, 700 Sixth St., Umatilla. (Brandon Seitz 541-922-3226 ext. 103)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

**BUTTER CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT**, 8 a.m., district office, via teleconference, 28790 Westport Lane, Hermiston. Meetings by teleconference; contact the district at 541-289-5201 prior to the meeting for login instructions. (Nathan Rau 509-820-3231)

**ECHO IRRIGATION DISTRICT**, 8:30 a.m., district office, via teleconference, 28790 Westport Lane, Hermiston. Meeting via telephone conference. Those interested in attending can contact the district at 541-289-5206 prior to the meeting for login instructions. (Nathan Rau 509-820-3231)

**MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, 9 a.m., Bartholomew Government Building upper conference room, 110 N. Court St., Heppner. (Roberta Lutcher 541-676-9061)

**HERMISTON LIBRARY BOARD**, 4 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

**SALVATION ARMY ADVISORY BOARD**, 12 p.m., Salvation Army, 150 S.E. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-3369)

**MILTON-FREEWATER LIBRARY BOARD**, 4 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. (541-938-5531)

**PENDLETON ARTS COMMISSION**, 4-5 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. (Charles Denight 541-966-0233)

**UMATILLA COUNTY SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT**, 5:15 p.m., UCCLD office and via Zoom, 425 S. Main St., Pendleton. (Erin McCusker 541-276-6449)

**UMATILLA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**, 6:30 p.m., Umatilla County Justice Center, 4700 N.W. Pioneer Place, Pendleton. (541-278-6252)

**PENDLETON PLANNING COMMISSION**, 7 p.m., Pendleton City Hall, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (Jutta Haliewicz 541-966-0240)

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

No meetings scheduled

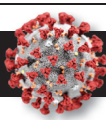
MONDAY, MARCH 30

**NIXYAII COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD**, 4:30 p.m., Nixyaaii Community School, 73300 July Grounds Lane, Mission. (Carrie Phinney 541-966-2680)

**MORROW COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**, 7 p.m., Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, 2 Marine Drive, Boardman. (Stephanie Loving 541-922-4624)

## LOTTERY

<b>Thursday, March 19, 2020</b>	4 p.m.: 7-5-7-1
<b>Lucky Lines</b>	7 p.m.: 8-7-2
01-05-10-16-FREE-20-21-27-32	10 p.m.: 6-5-7-9
Estimated jackpot: \$14,000	<b>Friday, March 20, 2020</b>
<b>Pick 4</b>	<b>Pick 4</b>
1 p.m.: 4-5-8-5	1 p.m.: 6-9-0-9



## CORONAVIRUS

## COVID-19 confirmed in Union County

## Center for Human Development says exposure risk is low

By SABRINA THOMPSON  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Union County has its first official case of COVID-19.

The Center for Human Development in La Grande confirmed on Thursday afternoon a local resident has the new coronavirus. The nonprofit center oversees public health in the county and in a written statement reported the exposure risk to Union County residents is low.

“This individual had a recent history of international travel and is not considered to have acquired it from community spread,” the CHD statement said.

Outside of that, however, the center reported it is protecting the identity of the infected person and would not release any additional information about their location or who they may have come in contact with.

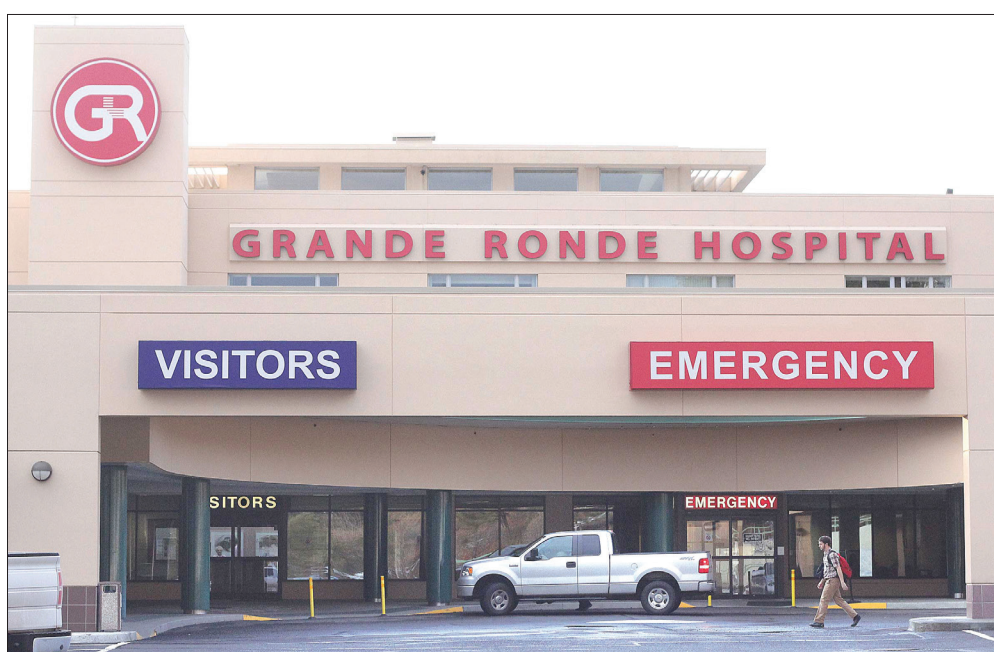
Carrie Brogoitti, the center’s public health administrator, said the organization knows people are concerned about their risk and want specific information, but the local public health authorities can’t share more information.

“I know in the past during other disease outbreaks public health has made announcements about locations where people could have been exposed,” Brogoitti said, “but how we respond and investigate each disease is different based on how it is spread. In this case we focus on high-risk close contacts to a confirmed case.”

## Next steps

The center in a news release stated the Oregon Health Authority and Union County Public Health are working to identify and isolate any individuals who may have been in close contact with the person while they were contagious.

“Now that we have identified an individual with the COVID-19 virus, we will conduct a contact investiga-



EO Media Group file photo

**Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande, and its clinics remain open for non-coronavirus medical issues but the staff are taking medical precautions. The hospital encouraged anyone who may feel ill with symptoms of the novel coronavirus to call their primary care provider for a preliminary screening before coming in.**

tion,” Brogoitti said. “That involves us speaking with the person who has the disease, identifying any people that they have come in close contact with that could be at risk, and notifying those people that they have been in contact and what they should be looking out for.”

Anyone who was in close contact with the person can expect a visit from public health investigators, she said. But anyone else needs to continue following the daily precautions of frequent hand washing, social distancing and staying home.

The Oregon Health Authority’s testing lab is the primary facility testing for the novel coronavirus, however, private labs have begun testing as well. Brogoitti said the state agency works directly with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which confirms each case of the virus.

Brogoitti also said there is local testing for COVID-19 in the county, but that is only for those who meet certain criteria and don’t have other respiratory infections or the flu. She said this is due to the limited number of testing kits available.

“We know that people want to be tested, and not being able to get an answer when they are concerned about their health can be really frustrating,” Brogoitti said. “Because there is no

specific treatment for this virus, in most cases having a test to confirm you have it won’t change what happens and what the doctor tells you to do.”

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend social distancing and proper hygiene as the most effective ways to keep the virus from spreading. Brogoitti said social distancing isn’t possible for everyone, but the goal is to slow the spread so hospitals can handle an influx of ill people and to protect health care providers and other essential services, such as police and medics.

“Families can protect people in high-risk groups (people over 60 or those with underlying medical conditions) by limiting contact with them,” she explained. “Use the phone, letters and video chat rather than in-person visits to keep them safe. Employers can look at telecommute options to help reduce the spread among their workforce and help reduce community transmission by allowing people to stay at home as much as possible.”

## Virus puts hospital workers at risk

Grande Ronde Hospital is collecting specimens of people who meet the criteria for having the virus and sending those to labs for testing, hos-

pital spokesperson Mardi Ford said.

Health care workers are another group at risk of catching the virus. Ford explained doctors, nurses and staff at the hospital are taking precautions to protect themselves in addition to advising people on how to do the same.

“We understand how to use our personal protective equipment, which includes goggles, gloves, gowns, masks of various types,” Ford said. “Right now, we are doing OK with our supplies, but we are all concerned the suppliers and stockpiles we draw from could dwindle if the virus spreads. That being said, in order to best protect the community we need our health care workforce to stay healthy and strong for as long as this takes.”

According to Dr. Inski Yu, an Infectious Disease doctor at Grande Ronde Hospital, home management through isolation is the best course of treatment at this time. The focus should be on preventing transmission to others and monitoring for symptoms, which could lead to a need for hospitalization. Yu said it is best to try and resolve fever symptoms without medication to prevent masking the true status of the fever and improvements in respiratory function.

## Are state agencies following their own advice?

## The state wants workers to telecommute and people to keep their distance

By JAKE THOMAS  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Across Oregon, schools and restaurants are shuttered, employers are encouraged to allow telecommuting and people are being told they should just stay home as the state tries to slow down a deadly surge of the novel coronavirus.

But getting state government, which employs about 40,483 people with nearly half of the jobs located in Salem, to follow Gov. Kate Brown’s lead hasn’t been as straightforward.

State agencies have taken steps to allow employees to work remotely or to stay home to prevent spreading the virus. But such arrangements encountered technological constraints and a public that is increasingly calling on state government for help with health care or economic insecurity.

In response to the outbreak, the state Department of Administrative Services signed agreements last week with the two large state employee unions. The agreements, which last through June, expand leave options and specify that employee requests to telecommute “will be presumed to be acceptable.” But the work-at-home requests can



AP Photo/Gillian Flaccus

**A Peet’s Coffee and Tea store, with most of the furniture removed to prevent lingering, is nearly empty in Lake Oswego on Tuesday.**

be denied if there is a lack of laptops, cellphone or network availability.

David Kreisman, communications director for Oregon AFSCME Council 75, said while the agreement has helped, issues remain.

“The biggest issue with the (agreement) and telecommuting is there is not enough technology and laptops to do this work,” he said.

He said the union, which represents about 4,000 employees, has heard of state workers being denied telecommuting requests because of a lack of laptops.

Kreisman pointed out the state has a shortage of masks and other protective equipment to keep workers from contracting the virus. He said he heard a report of behavioral health workers using bandanas instead of medical masks when work-

ing with clients who tested positive for the coronavirus.

Kreisman said to keep workers and the public safe, it’s time for the governor to mandate shelter-in-place, a drastic measure that would shutter nonessential businesses and government services. He said demand for some government services is already diminishing.

“Nobody is going to get a building permit. Nobody needs to take a driving test,” he said.

Liz Merah, a spokeswoman for both the governor’s office and the Department of Administrative Services, said in an email there were no plans to lay off any state employees because of the outbreak. So far, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Lottery and Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services have curtailed operations and services in

response to the outbreak.

Melissa Unger, executive director for SEIU 503, said her union isn’t calling for a shelter-in-place order and is working with each agency to balance protections for state workers while also making sure that government agencies are carrying out services at a time when they’re especially needed.

She said that her union represents the largest share of government workers, about 23,000. Those include employees who have regular contact with other people at the Employment Department, the Department of Human Services, the Oregon State Hospital and the Oregon Youth Authority.

“It’s challenging because of all the needs,” she said. “And, to be honest, we are on the front line of those needs.”

Unger said other state functions that may not seem obviously essential need to continue amid the outbreak. She said one example is the workforce needed for state tax services to send rebates to a cash-strapped public.

She said a barrier to telecommuting is that the aging technology used by state government can’t be easily transferred to a laptop. She also said the shortage of masks and protective equipment is an issue for her union.

Calls for comment Friday to the representatives of Human Services and Transportation departments weren’t returned.