

City of Union Oregon NEWSLETTER

"PROMOTE RURAL VALUES, PROTECT LOCAL ASSETS AND FOSTER COMMUNITY PRIDE"

342 South Main Street P.O. Box 529 Union, OR 97883 541-562-5197 Fax 541-562-5196 cityhall@CityOfUnion.com www.CityOfUnion.com

CITY HALL Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Open During Lunch

UNION CARNEGIE LIBRARY Monday 10am-6pm
Tues ~ Thurs 10am-5pm
Friday 10:00am - 4:00pm

May 2025



From The Desk Of.....

Celeste Tate
City Administrator

April was full of all things spring including rain, sunshine, and a bit of cold weather that wants to rear its head as its headed out the door! Spring is full of outdoor activities beginning including ball games and spring planting. A part of springtime events is also the annual

community Clean-Up Day that is happening so don't forget on May 3rd, 2025 from 9am-1pm. The city will be accepting from its residents the following types of waste; Yard Debris; Household items such as Appliances, Lawnmowers, Furniture, etc; Electronics; Tires without rims (limit 4 per household) FCFS until bin is full; Bikes; Outdoor kids toys. The following will not be accepted; Household garbage; Roofing shingles; Ashes; Batteries; Hazardous waste such as paint and chemicals. The location for this year will be at the public works shop at 61323 Hwy 203.

The city held its annual Budget Committee meetings last week with the committee voting to approve the budget to go forward to council for deliberations in June. The budget hearing for the 2025-2026 budget will be held on June 9th at 7PM. I want to thank all the budget committee members for giving of their time last week and providing valuable input on the proposed budget. Thank You!

The City of Union is again looking for members for the Historic Preservation Commission. Due to Donna Beverage's and Gary Graham's inability to continue their service, the city is looking for two residents who have an interest in our historic city to fill the two open positions. There are only three of the positions filled at this time, so it is important that the city is able to fill the two remaining positions as soon as possible. Please fill out a volunteer application and drop it off by May 7th for council to appoint folks at their next council meeting on May 12th. Thank you to Donna Beverage and Gary Graham for their many years of service to the city.

Coming up on May 12th, there will also be a work session at 6pm to discuss deer in city limits. Please come to voice your thoughts on this topic and let the city council know how you feel.

As part of the charter review, there are some suggested changes that I will be sharing with you each month and may be discussed at a future council meeting. If council would agree with the suggested changes, it would be referred to voters in a future election for consideration. I started sharing some of the suggested changes in last month's newsletter. This next section to share comes from the Charter Chapter III. It has been suggested to re-number each section to correspond with the Chapter that it is located. For example, Sections 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 could be re-numbered 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 that would correspond to Chapter 3 where they are located. The wording changes suggested are as follows with the strikethroughs, the suggested deletions and the words in parenthesis the suggested additions. ~~Section 10.~~ (3.3) Mayor. At each regular city election, a mayor shall be elected. ~~He~~ (The elected mayor) shall serve a term of two years and until ~~his~~ (a) successor is elected and qualified. ~~Section 11~~ (3.4) Other Officers and Employees. Additional officers of the city shall be a municipal judge, a recorder, a treasurer and any other officer whom the council deems necessary. These officers shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council. By resolution the council may combine any of these offices, and may provide that any person whom it designates ~~may~~ supervise any appointive officer except the municipal judge in the exercise of the officer's functions. ~~Section 12~~ (3.5) Qualifications of Officers. No person shall be eligible to an elective office in the city who at the time of ~~his~~ (their) election is not a ~~qualified~~ (registered) voter of the state or has not resided within the city for one year immediately preceding ~~his~~ (their) election.

Last month's trivia question was: "What is a quorum?" The answer is: A quorum is the minimum number of members of an assembly or society that must be present at any of its meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid. In the case of the City of Union city council, a quorum is a simple majority which is 1 more than 50% or 4 of the 7 members including the mayor. Congratulations to Becky Platz who submitted a correct answer and whose entry was drawn. May's winner will receive a gift certificate for Catherine Creek Gardens & Gifts. Check them out at 265 S Main St. for wonderful gifts, home décor and luxury garden style bouquets! They also offer a limited number of bouquet subscriptions so get your name on the list! Look for this month's question in this newsletter and good luck!

Celeste Tate



CLEAN-UP DAY!! SATURDAY, MAY 3rd 9am - 1pm

Location: Public Works Shops

61323 Hwy 203 (next to gun club)

There will be someone in attendance to direct you once you get to the entrance gate

Accepted Items:

- * Yard Debris * Household Items** (appliances, lawn mowers, furniture, mattresses, etc)
- * Electronics *Outdoor Kids Toys and Bikes**
- * Tires** (without rims) only 4 per household!

Limited space (when box is full no more will be accepted)

ABSOLUTELY NOT ACCEPTED:

- * NO Household garbage * NO Hazardous waste** (paint, chemicals, etc)
- * NO Roofing shingles * NO Ashes * NO Batteries**

It is appreciated, and easier for staff to unload your items if they are kept separated as much as possible as you load them in your truck or trailer, such as yard debris separate from metals etc.

UNION RESIDENTS ONLY

Noxious Weeds!!

We all look forward to spring! Sunshine and warmer weather! But with the sunshine and warmer weather....and spring showers.....come the growth of noxious weeds and grass.

The city ordinance officer will begin watching for noxious weeds, and reminding homeowners and tenants that it is their responsibility to kill and remove these detrimental weeds. Noxious weeds must be eradicated prior to them going to seed. For a list of the most common noxious weeds in our area you can contact city hall or Tri-county Weed Management at 541-523-2740

As well as weeds....the grass is growing at a fast rate! Just a reminder: Grasses and weeds (other than noxious weeds) must not be over 10" tall, not including ornamental grasses. Any weeds and grass must be cut down and not exceed the 10" tall, this will prevent future fire hazards as well.

Citations can be issued for noncompliance.



PART-TIME SEASONAL POSITION

The City of Union is accepting applications for a part-time seasonal worker. This position will be for a general laborer working with the Water/Sewer

Departments and the Parks Department. Hours for this position will be no more than 30 hours per week. Wage will range between minimum wage to \$20/hour, depending on experience. Applicant must be 18 years or older and posses a valid drivers license.

Applications are available at city hall, call 541-562-5197 or email lauradodds@cityofunion.com for more information or if you would like to receive an application by email.

Deadline for applications is May 15th by 5:00pm



Main Street Musings for May 2025

Mayor Susan Hawkins at the April 14, 2025, City Council Meeting read and signed a proclamation designating Union's Main Street to be on "the Original Old Oregon Trail Highway". This proclamation was the culmination of Steven Wadner's (Union County Museum) research and MSU's effort to recognize an important piece of our local history. The next step will be to take the information to the City of Union Historic Commission and have it recognized as a Local Landmark.

Why did members of the Museum, MSU, and the Mayor feel it was important to recognize our Main Street? Here is a bit of its history:

Historical accounts indicate the route was used by the Astor party on its return trip in 1812 to exit the Grande Ronde Valley by way of Pyle's Canyon.

In 1911 the Union Improvement Club (which became the Union Commercial Club and is now the City of Union Chamber of Commerce) organized with a goal to improve the Pyle's Canyon Road for vehicular travels.

Work began in 1919 on the Pyle's Canyon portion (North Powder through Union to LaGrande) of U.S. Highway 30 (also known as The Old Oregon Trail Highway) to become the only paved section between Portland and Boise.

Park update- MSU has contacted an architect about designing a new turn-around memorial on 1st Street. MSU would like to be able to use the memorial as a possible fund-raising tool for the park. Also, the 1st Street parking and street improvement may be a project that could get underway with the memorial improvement. Park Project volunteers hope to get into the classrooms in May and have the children assist in selecting equipment for new playgrounds.

There are two openings on the City of Union Historic Commission, anyone interested should fill out a volunteer application and turn in to City Hall. This Commission only has five(5) members so being short two (2) may greatly affect the commission's ability to do important work towards our community's historic preservation. The Historic Commission meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month generally in the evening.

Main Street Union meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the old Knitkabob building at 6pm, anyone interested in helping Union Build on Community Assets and make Union the Quality Community we all wish to live, work, and invest in, will be welcomed. You DO NOT have to own property on Main Street, or own a Historic home, or even be a resident of Union, you only have to want to help make positive changes.



Mark Your Calendar!

- ♦ Museum Opening
May 11th
- ♦ Eastern Oregon Livestock Show
June 1st ~ 8th
4H ~ FFA horse and stock shows
Cowboy Breakfast ~ Rodeo
Parimutuel Horse Racing
- ♦ Thunder at The Peak
Fireworks ~ Music ~ Vendors
- ♦ MainStreet Blues & Brews
June 20th
Beer Garden ~ Artisans ~ Music
- ♦ MainStreet Blues & Brews
July 18th
Beer Garden ~ Artisans ~ Music
- ♦ Grassroots Festival
August 9th
Car Show ~ Music ~ Vendors
Duck Race ~ Family Street Dance
Fun for the whole family!
- ♦ MainStreet Blues & Brews
August 15th
Beer Garden ~ Artisans ~ Music

Do you have an upcoming event that you would like the citizens of Union to know about? Let us know and we can add it to our newsletter!!

Email your information to lauradodds@cityofunion.com and request your event to be added.





Union Carnegie Public Library



~May Activities~

STORYTIME EVERY TUESDAY 10:00AM ~ 11:00AM

WE WILL READ TOGETHER FOR HALF AN HOUR AND THEN DO A CRAFT/ACTIVITY:

- 5/6 MOTHER'S DAY BATH SALTS
- 5/13 YAYOI KUSAMA MUSHROOMS
- 5/20 CRAZY CHICKEN ART
- 5/27 NAZCA LINES



Happy Mother's Day

AFTER SCHOOL CRAFTS: FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH ~ MAY 6TH AND MAY 20TH 4:00PM ~ 5:00PM

ADULT EVENTS, SELECTED MONDAYS 5:00PM ~ 6:00PM

- 5/5 MORSE CODE BRACELETS
- TBA BOOK NOOK

STOP BY THE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT LITERACY NIGHT ~ MAY 7TH 5:30PM ~ 7:30PM AND VISIT OUR BOOTH!!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM SIGN UPS BEGIN ON MAY 20TH! OUR FIRST SUMMER READING PROGRAM ACTIVITY IS JUNE 9TH @ 10:00AM

JUNE ACTIVITIES:

AGES 0-5

- 6/10 KEEP BALLOONS IN AIR @ LIBRARY 10AM
- 6/17 PVC FORT @ LIBRARY 10AM
- 6/24 RING TOSS @ LIBRARY 10AM

SCHOOL AGE

- 6/11 WOLF TAILS @ LIBRARY 10AM
- 6/16 GO-STEM SLIME @ CITY PARK 10AM
- 6/18 DRAGON EGGS * @ LIBRARY 10AM
- 6/19 FANTASY CARTOGRAPHY @ LIBRARY 10AM
- 6/24-26 GO-STEM CAMP * @ CITY PARK 9AM~12PM (3 DAYS)
- 6/30 PIXEL LOOM BEADING 1 @ LIBRARY 10AM

TEEN/ADULT

- 6/9 FANTASY CARTOGRAPHY @ LIBRARY 5PM
- 6/16 SCAR WAX @ LIBRARY 5PM
- 6/23 LEFT RIGHT CENTER @ LIBRARY 5PM
- 6/30 FESTIVAL HAIR @ LIBRARY 5PM

ALL AGES

- 6/9 HORSEBACK RIDING ** @ CITY PARK 10AM~12PM
- 6/12 THRILLER @ GRANDE RONDE FITNESS CENTER 10AM
- 6/21 SWORD FIGHTING DEMO @ CITY PARK 10AM~12PM
- 6/23 WATERSHED INVESTIGATIONS @ CATHERINE CREEK 10AM
- 6/26 POWER PLAY FOR THE PLANET @ CATHERINE CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER 2:30 PM

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE. SUMMER READING PROGRAM SIGN-UP IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND ANY EVENT. SIGN UPS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY ON MAY 20TH. * EVENTS WITH AN ASTERISK WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SIGN UP THROUGH LIBRARY DUE TO LIMITED SUPPLIES. ** TO PRE-REGISTER FOR HORSEBACK RIDING SELECT THE BOX ON THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM SIGN UP SHEET. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

A FULL LIST OF JUNE & JULY SUMMER READING ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY OR AT CITY HALL.



THANK YOU TO UNITED FOR LIBRARIES & PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE FOR GRANTING US \$500.00 IN BOOKS.

THANK YOU TO THE OREGON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR GRANTING US \$11,000.00 TOWARD OPERATING EXPENSES.

UNION CARNEGIE LIBRARY

182 S MAIN, UNION OR

541~562~5811

TIFFANY DERICHWEILER ~ LIBRARIAN



What's Happening at the Museum....

The arrival of May brings the traditional Mother's Day opening of the Museum. Please plan to stop by from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday May 11. Winter was harsh on the curator's office and serious repairs to the wall, ceiling and floor are in progress so one part of the facility will be closed.

Even with ongoing maintenance we are eager to open and are ready to share historic displays, enjoy refreshments and have visitors participate in creating a community family tree. We would like everyone to share a bit of their history. We will have paper leaves to be placed on a tree where a brief history can be written or you may bring a previously written history to be placed on the tree.

An album of postcards from the Levy's Store (currently The Union Merc) dated 1900 inspired me to focus on postcards. Apparently there was a Golden Age of Postcards from 1898 to 1918. U. S. Postal records show that in 1908 a population of 88,700,000 Americans mailed 677,797,798 postcards. These postcards were not only incredibly ornate but many were created and signed by famous artists. Also very popular were elaborately embossed cards, die cut cards, leather cards and hand embroidered cards

Embroidered postcards provided in home jobs for housewives. These embroiderers were issued long strips of silk or organdy about 75 inches long and 4 1/2 inches wide along with a packet of brightly colored silk thread. The ladies would work the same design on the strip of fabric 25 times. The completed strips were then sent to a factory where they were starched, cut into postcard sized rectangles, glued on a cardboard backing and framed with an embossed border. Some of these cards even had a small pocket that a tiny card with printed messages such as "Forget Me Not" or "To My Dear Mother" could be tucked into.

I have never seen a hand embroidered postcard but I have seen leather postcards. The leather isn't really rigid and I'm sure if such a card were to be mailed today postal machinery would definitely suffer.

Postcard collecting was quite popular in the past as evidenced by the postcard albums which had special pages with slots to insert the cards. Today deltiologists (postcard collectors), libraries and museums cherish these pieces of history because of the wide variety of topics, scenery and sentiments expressed in a 3 1/2 x 5 1/2 inch space.

We are looking forward to the Museum opening on May 11. Please drop by and share some of your history, enjoy refreshments and see what's happening at the Museum in May.

Happy spring.
More next month.



Snippet of Union's History.....

There will be 11 in the graduating class of the Union High School this Spring and school will close May 19. The members of the graduating class are as follows:

Cedric Gale, Henry Hess, Clarence Miller, Paul Crouter, George Goodbrod, Herbert Hall, Edgar Lewin, Fern McIntosh, Mae Butterfield, Coretta Skiff and Hazeleine Wilson.

~Union Republican May 1, 1911

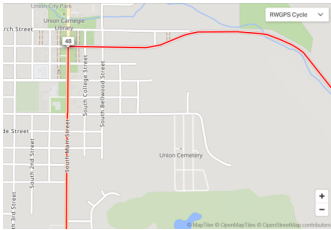


Baker City Cycling Classic 2025

June 20th ~ 22nd

Please be aware and cautious during these dates as the street could be occupied by cyclist during the day.

Cyclist route is on Main Street going South from Beakman Street on Highway 237 towards Baker City and from Beakman Street, off of Main, going East up Highway 203 towards Catherine Creek State Park and Baker City.



Time To Start Planning Those Events At The Park!!

BBQ's ~ Birthday Parties ~ Weddings ~ Reunions

Although we are not able to 'reserve' the park for your activity, we can inform and discourage others from using your requested area. To schedule your activity please come in, call, or email us for a Park Use Form. This gives us all the information we need to work to save your requested area for your event. It also let's us know if you need access to the park restrooms and for you to get the keys to the restrooms.

There is no cost to use the park.

Be a respectful park user ~

- ♦ Park hours are dawn to dusk (unless otherwise arranged)
- ♦ Fires in BB's are allowed only in picnic areas
- ♦ Drugs and Alcohol are not allowed
- ♦ If you notice an area is set up for an event, please respect that area
- ♦ Pick Up After Your Dog!! Dog Poo must be picked up and disposed! There are poo bag dispensers location at the front and back of the park.....Use Them!
- ♦ Keep your dog on a leash! Not everyone is a dog lover. We all feel we have the best dog, but there are children and adults who fear dogs, please respect others. And it is a city ordinance that dogs are not to be loose, but on a leash.

Contest Entry Coupon



This month's contest question is: Who is the executive officer of the City of Union?

A). The City Administrator B). The Mayor C). The Council President

Name: _____ Address: _____

Answer: _____

Phone#: _____

Must be a Union resident to enter. Drop your entry by City Hall in person, payment drop box, mail, or you can email your entry to lauradodds@cityofunion.com City employees, and immediate family are not eligible to play. Deadline for entries is May 22, 2025

There will be a prize for the winner!!

CITY OF UNION SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S SCHEDULE

Committee	Meetings Held	Time	Location
Water/Sewer Committee	Every 2nd Tuesday of the month	6:00 pm	City Hall
Charter Committee	Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month	10:00 am	City Hall
Zoning Committee	Every 4th Saturday of the month	9:00 am	City Hall
Streets Committee	Every 4th Saturday of the month	10:00 am	City Hall
Buffalo Flats Committee	Every 3rd Saturday of the month	10:00 am	City Hall
Ordinances Committee	To Be Determined		City Hall

Meetings will be held at City Hall, 342 S. Main, unless otherwise announced.

We encourage you to attend these meetings, ask questions, be involved and gain knowledge of the workings of your community. If you have questions regarding these committee's please feel free to call us.

City of Union

342 South Main Street***PO Box 529***Union, OR 97883

Drinking Water Report 2024 Sampling Results

This is our **annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)** on your drinking water system. The most recently required sampling results have been gathered to inform customers about their tap water. With this information, we hope you will learn more about your water and will help protect the water for future use.

We provide quality drinking water that meets all federal and state requirements.

During recent years we have sampled for many different chemicals. Contamination is anything other than pure water. We sample total coliform bacteria as an indicator of microorganisms (bacteria, viruses and other small creatures) that should not be present. **The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the past calendar year or in our most recent tests as noted.** Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling **541-562-5197** or **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

EPA's website is www.epa.gov/safewater

Terms and Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. **IDEAL GOAL**

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. **HIGHEST LEVEL ALLOWED**

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. **na:** not applicable **nd:** not detectable at testing limit **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter (1 drop in 1 million gallons) **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter (1 drop in 1 billion gallons) **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation).

Regulated Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Our Water	Sample Date	Exceedance /Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	0	15 AL	2.1	7-10-22	No	Corrosive water & home plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3 AL	0.032	7-10-22	No	Corrosive water & home plumbing
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.296	1-3-22	No	Naturally occurring
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Na	80	0.99	9-13-21	No	Disinfection byproduct
Combined Radium (226/228)	0	30	0.8	6-7-21	No	Naturally occurring
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	3.62	6-3-24	No	Natural deposits

Fluoride, Barium, Sodium, Nickel, are all natural occurring.

We had no drinking water violations!

The City is committed to supplying their water consumers with a safe and sufficient supply. The City's ground water derived from two deep wells that are trapped into a basalt aquifer. The two wells have the potential to produce four million gallons per day.

The City presents this report to inform their water consumers of the quality of the drinking water supply.

COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:

- ⇒ Ranger Station project, 3rd house
- ⇒ Buffalo Flats
- ⇒ College Street Bridge
- ⇒ Committees working on the City Charter, Water/Sewer, Zoning, Trails, and Ordinances



~City Council Members~

Trisha Seale	Dick Middleton
Kori Cox	John Black
Don George	Anita Davis
Mayor Susan Hawkins	

May 2025 Council Meetings

May 12th

Council Work Session @ 6:00pm

Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

May 26th

Council Work Session @ 6:00pm

All meetings are held in the Leonard Almquist Chambers at City Hall.

Meetings are live streamed and can be viewed on our Facebook page. Or you can view them any time later on our website

www.cityofunion.com



Did you know you can receive a city newsletter by email? If you would like to receive your newsletter this way just email lauradodds@cityofunion.com and request your name be added to the list.

ORGANIZATION	MEETING DATE	LOCATION	TIME	PHONE
Awana	Every Thurs/during school year	Baptist Church	6:30pm	541-562-5870
Catherine Creek Community Center	4th Thursday of month	Community Center	6:00pm	541-562-2038
City of Union Chamber	2nd Thurs of the month		6:00 pm	unionchamber@conj.com
City Council	2nd Mon of the month	City Hall	7:00 pm	541-562-5197
Council Work Sessions	2 nd & 4 th Mon of month	City Hall	6.00 pm	541-562-5197
CUP Medical Association	2 nd Tues of the month	251 S Main	6:00 pm	541-910-6268
Order of Eastern Star	2nd Wed of the month	Masonic Hall	7:00 pm	541-805-0779
EMS Department	1st Mon of the month	Rural Fire Hall	7:00 pm	
EOLS Board	2nd Tues of the month	EOLS Club House	7:00 pm	541-562-5631
Food Bank	3 rd Friday of the month	Catherine Creek CommCtr	10-11:00am	541-562-2038
Friends of the Library	2 nd Tues January, April, July & November	Union Library	5:30 pm	541-562-5807
Grande Ronde Valley Masonic	3 rd Wed of the month	Masonic Hall	7:30pm	
Historic Preservation	3 rd Wed of the month	City Hall	6:00pm	541-562-5197
Library Board	Feb 27th, May 22nd, Aug 21st	Library	9:00am	541-562-5811
Lions Club	3 rd Tues of the month	Sports Complex	5:30 pm	PO Box 337
Mainstreet Union & Economic Development	2nd Thursday of the month	Call contact # for location	7:00 pm	541-910-7048
Planning Commission work session	3rd Wed of the month	City Hall	6:00 pm	541-562-5197
Planning Commission business meeting			7:00 pm	
Senior / Community Meals	2nd Friday of the month	Catherine Creek Community Center	12:00 pm	541-562-2038
School Board	2nd Wed of the month	Athletic Complex	6:00 pm	541-562-5166
South County Health Dist	Last Friday of month / Oct, Jan, April, and July	Health Clinic	1:30 pm	541-562-2222
Union Cemetery Board	2 nd Tues of the month	Union Cemetery Office	9:00 am	541-562-5212
Union FFA Alumni & Supporters	3rd Wednesday	UHS Ag Science Classroom at the back of the gym	6:30pm	541-975-9495
VFW Bingo	Every Wednesdaynight	VFW Hall	6 pm	541-562-6035
VFW Formal meeting	1st Thursday of month	VFW Hall	6 pm	541-562-6035

Community Calendar