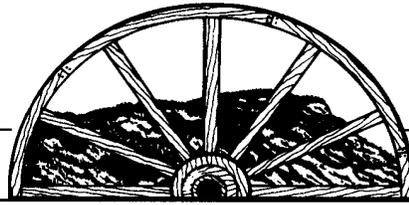

CITY OF



LA GRANDE

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**CITY of LA GRANDE
MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
COVID-19 Mayor Clements Message
City of La Grande
March 31, 2020**

**Contact: Robert Strope
City Manager
541-962-1309**

These are unusual times. Not in 100 years has the world experienced anything like the COVID-19 pandemic. With the situation changing daily, we, the City Council of La Grande, want to assure you the City is doing everything it can to maintain public safety and provide essential services. Here are some things the City is working on and some ideas of how you can help.

City departments and services have implemented practices to limit social interactions and facilitate reaction to emergency events. City offices are closed to the public, but City employees are on the job. While playground equipment is off-limits, public space within parks is open as long as a 6' social distance is maintained between non-family individuals. The Library is closed, but online services, including e-books, movies and music, are available with the use of your library card. The Police and Fire departments, in coordination with other agencies throughout the county, have established an Incident Command Structure to better serve the community in the during this emergency. And the City Council is working on economic policy actions to help local businesses make it through the crisis.

Now, how can you help? Here are some personal practices that will reduce the chance of infection and spread of COVID-19 and help reduce stress. The first is maintaining social distance of 6' from individuals who are not part of your household. Does that mean you can't go out shopping? Not at all, in fact, businesses in town are open and welcome your patronage. These business owners understand the new reality, and many have put in place practices to ensure social distancing for their customers. Social distancing does not mean you cannot go outside for a walk or hike or take in the sun at a park; just do so with respect for other people.

The second personal practice is maintaining a sense of calm and composure. Yes, these are uncertain and scary times. Yes, people will get sick, and unfortunately, some of them will not live. Things to remember are: we are in this situation together, and working together, we will get through it; there are reliable, national and local

sources of information, so don't give in to rumors; and there are no food or paper good shortages, just an unprecedented demand taxing the distribution system. So, staying informed through authoritative sources, not social media, is important. Using social media and technology to stay connected family and friends can help you keep calm.

The last things to practice are respect and civility. COVID-19 is not discriminatory; anyone can be infected. Now is the time to be respectful to everyone, to help out in any way you can, to realize we are experiencing an event like nothing any of us has experienced before. Taking responsibility for your actions and engaging positively with others in the community will go a long way to reducing overall stress and make the difficulties of the current situation easier to bear.

Social and personal lives have certainly changed because of the corona virus. Be certain that the City of La Grande is doing all it can to make sure City services continue uninterrupted and to keep you informed. Together will we make it through to the other side.

*****END*****