

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Thursday, March 5, the 65th day of 2020. There are 301 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On March 5, 1963, country music performers Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas and Hawkshaw Hawkins died in the crash of their plane, a Piper Comanche, near Camden, Tennessee, along with pilot Randy Hughes (Cline's manager).

ON THIS DATE

In 1766, Antonio de Ulloa arrived in New Orleans to assume his duties as the first Spanish governor of the Louisiana Territory, where he encountered resistance from the French residents.

In 1770, the Boston Massacre took place as British soldiers who'd been taunted by a crowd of colonists opened fire, killing five people.

In 1868, the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson began in the U.S. Senate, with Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase presiding. Johnson, the first U.S. president to be impeached, was accused of "high crimes and misdemeanors" stemming from his attempt to fire Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; the trial ended on May 26 with Johnson's acquittal.

In 1933, in German parliamentary elections, the Nazi Party won 44% of the vote; the Nazis joined with a conservative nationalist party to gain a slender majority in the Reichstag.

In 1946, Winston Churchill delivered his "Iron Curtain" speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, in which he said: "From Stettin in the Baltic, to Trieste in the Adriatic, an 'iron curtain' has descended across the continent, allowing police governments to rule Eastern Europe."

In 1982, comedian John Belushi was found dead of a drug overdose in a rented bungalow in Hollywood; he was 33.

In 1998, NASA scientists said enough water was frozen in the loose soil of the moon to support a lunar base and perhaps, one day, a human colony.

In 2003, in a blunt warning to the United States and Britain, the foreign ministers of France, Germany and Russia said they would block any attempt to get U.N. approval for war against Iraq.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$5.5 million
4-23-26-45-46-47

Mega Millions: \$70 million
8-12-33-56-64-2 x2

Powerball: \$90 million
24-44-46-50-51-13 x3

Win for Life: March 2
2-23-38-46

Pick 4:

March 3
• 1 p.m.: 3-5-5-0
• 4 p.m.: 2-2-2-5
• 7 p.m.: 2-6-9-0
• 10 p.m.: 3-9-1-5
Pick 4: March 2
• 1 p.m.: 0-5-0-2
• 4 p.m.: 8-8-8-5
• 7 p.m.: 0-3-7-7
• 10 p.m.: 1-9-6-8

DELIVERY ISSUES?

If you have any problems receiving your Observer, please call the office at 541-963-3161.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Tomorrow is a thief of pleasure."

— Sir Rex Harrison,
British actor

La Grande School District

Short-term repairs
set for annex gym

By Dick Mason
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande School District's annex gym building is showing its age as it nears its 100th birthday, but it still has a touch of elegance and a future, one more promising than it was six months ago.

The La Grande School Board Feb. 26 endorsed via consensus a short-term plan to improve the basic condition of the building and allow it to continue to be used for at least the next seven years. The improvements, to be done this summer, will consist of roof repair plus other exterior and interior work. It will cost \$66,750, said Joseph Waite, the La Grande School District's bond and facilities manager.

The bulk of the short-term plans

will involve roof repair. A polyurea-silicon material will be sprayed onto the roof as part of this process. This will address its leak issues. The need for roof repair was made clear again three weeks ago when a major snowstorm hit Northeast Oregon and was followed by relatively warm conditions causing quick melting and runoff. Waite said the annex gym building's roof started leaking in multiple places at this point. Buckets were placed under each leak.

The roof repair work will cost \$40,750. The polyurea-silicon material will have a seven-year warranty. The short-term plan also calls for \$20,000 worth of exterior and interior work to be done.

The annex gym building, constructed in 1924, is about 20 feet north of La Grande Middle School.

Its north exterior wall still has circular ornate designs. They are far less decorative but similar to those on Eastern Oregon University's Inlow Hall, built in 1929.

The annex gym is used extensively by the school district, including La Grande Middle School. The gym is one of two LMS uses. The other is on the west side of the middle school.

The La Grande School Board discussed the future of the annex gym at an August 2019 meeting. Board members at the time said they wanted to know if the building could be renovated or was beyond the point where this would be feasible financially.

"We wanted to know if it was worth fixing," said Merle Comfort, chair of the La Grande School Board.

The board requested a structural analysis and one was conducted by ZCS Engineering and Architecture. The firm, which has offices in Oregon City, Medford, Grants Pass and Klamath Falls, determined that the building needed extensive work but still was relatively sound structurally. The positive report inspired the board to move forward in an effort

to renovate the building, and both short-term and long-term options were discussed.

One long-term option calls for the school district to apply for a seismic grant from the state. Such a grant would fund work to boost the structural integrity of the building, making it less vulnerable in the event of an earthquake. Seismic grants of up to \$2.5 million are available from the state.

Waite said applications for 2021 seismic grants from the state are due in November and the recipients will be announced in March 2021. Should the La Grande School District then be awarded a grant, the seismic improvements would likely begin in the summer of 2021.

The building would still need significant renovation once the seismic upgrade was done. A new gym floor, new windows and an improved heating system are needed. Options for obtaining funding for such renovations would include applying for state grants.

The school board took no action regarding this long-term plan but comments on it were positive and nobody voiced opposition to it.

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Week of March 1 - 7

Mark your Calendar

Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra
March 4th - Eastern Oregon University

Northeast Oregon Preservation Workshop
March 6th - Materials, Methods, and Marketing Workshop for Historic Downtowns

Annual Soup for Supper March 7th
- Dinner fundraiser, all proceeds go towards Shelter from the Storm

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HEALTH NOTIFICATION!

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