

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Saturday, Oct. 3, the 277th day of 2020. There are 89 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Oct. 3, 1995, the jury in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles found the former football star not guilty of the 1994 slayings of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman (however, Simpson was later found liable for damages in a civil trial).

ON THIS DATE

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November Thanksgiving Day.

In 1961, "The Dick Van Dyke Show," also starring Mary Tyler Moore, made its debut on CBS.

In 2001, the Senate approved an agreement normalizing trade between the United States and Vietnam.

In 2003, a tiger attacked magician Roy Horn of duo "Siegfried & Roy" during a performance in Las Vegas, leaving the superstar illusionist in critical condition on his 59th birthday.

In 2008, O.J. Simpson was found guilty of robbing two sports-memorabilia dealers at gunpoint in a Las Vegas hotel room. (Simpson was later sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison; he was granted parole in July 2017 and released from prison in October of that year.)

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$2.5 million

1-26-35-38-41-44

Mega Millions: \$32 million

14-39-43-44-67-19 x3

Powerball: \$25 million

14-18-36-49-67-PB-18 x2

Win for Life: Sept. 30

23-57-67-70

Pick 4: Oct. 1

• **1 p.m.:** 1-3-1-9; • **4 p.m.:** 1-5-2-9

• **7 p.m.:** 6-4-2-9; • **10 p.m.:** 7-7-5-2

Pick 4: Sept. 30

• **1 p.m.:** 8-8-5-3; • **4 p.m.:** 3-3-6-8

• **7 p.m.:** 3-4-3-2; • **10 p.m.:** 9-2-7-0

DELIVERY ISSUES?

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

Observer honored in newspaper contest

First place for best news photo, sports story among the honors received

The Observer

LA GRANDE — A year after not submitting any entries into the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association's annual Better Newspaper Contest, The Observer claimed five awards in the 2020 edition of the event, including best news photo and best sports story.

The awards are based on work newspapers in the state did during the 2019 calendar year.

The Observer's centerpiece photo on Friday, March 22, 2019, of a Grande Ronde River rescue attempt in the story "Body sighted in river, not recovered," won for best news photo in combined circulation groups A-C, which are the three groups for daily publications in Oregon.



The Observer, File

The Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association selected this March 2019 photo by The Observer as the best news photo for daily publications in 2020.

The publication's other winner was the Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2019, EOU soccer feature "Head over heels to be healthy and on the field," by sports editor Ronald Bond, which won for combined groups B and C.

The newspaper also garnered a second-place finish for best general feature in the Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, story "La Grande struggles to help the homeless," by reporter Dick Mason and editor Phil Wright, which

chronicled the battle over the city's warming station ahead of last winter. The ONPA listed the feature second in combined groups B and C.

And The Observer took home second and third

place in group C for best special section, with the paper's annual "Kickoff" football preview magazine earning second and the publication's "Year in Review" placing third. The "Kickoff" preview was part of a region-wide collaboration that included five Northeast Oregon newspapers and profiled 21 high schools, while the "Year in Review" not only looked back at the year's top stories but also the biggest of the last decade.

The Observer was part of a sweep in that category by its parent company, EO Media Group, as the East Oregonian's annual Pendleton Round-Up magazine took the top spot.

As a company, EO Media Group had a solid showing with dozens of awards, including three papers — the EO, the Hermiston Herald and the Wallowa County Chief — all winning general excellence in their respective divisions.

Morgan Lake reopens Monday



Dick Mason/The Observer

Morgan Lake will reopen Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, due to reduced fire danger. Extreme fire danger forced the city of La Grande to shut down Morgan Lake on Sept. 11. The lake will remain open until its normal closing date of Oct. 31, according to an announcement from La Grande Parks and Recreation Department, barring any emergencies. The Oregon Department of Forestry is allowing campfires in designated fire rings. For additional information, call parks and recreation at 541-962-1352.

LG School District launches new app

By Dick Mason

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande School District is dialing it up digitally by launching a new smartphone app.

The app provides a one-stop resource for users seeking to keep up with the often nonstop world of La Grande School District activities.

App users can find a smorgasbord of information, including cafeteria menus, up-to-the-moment sports scores, contact information for staff, emergency alerts for school bus delays and more.

The app also has a calendar feature and makes it easy for users to share photos and access information with other school district platforms. Users also can place events from a school calendar in their personal smartphone calendar.

The app, now available, has been in the making since last spring, said Casey Hampton, the La Grande School District's technology manager. The app will work on any Android or iOS smartphone.

"We know families are using smartphones as a primary means to communicate. That's why we've created an app that is custom-built for mobile,"

Hampton said.

The app essentially links users to webpages for all of the district's schools plus the La Grande School District's.

"It is a very valuable tool that helps us be an information outlet," Hampton said.

An outlet that is convenient and not be unwieldy.

"It can all be put in your pocket," Hampton said.

The app also allows parents to register their children for school bus pickups and drop-offs, making it easier for the school district to determine what routes its bus service must provide.

That could come in handy when kindergarten through third grade students in La Grande begin attending schools Monday, Oct. 5, the first on-site instruction in the district since mid-March because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new app also allows educators to add to it and share what is happening in their classes, and coaches will be able to update scores.

The school district's campaign's slogan for the mobile app is "Connect with the La Grande School District, Anytime, Anywhere."

To find the app, visit app stores for Apple or Android phone and search for "La Grande School District."

CORRECTION

The Oct. 1 Observer article "Fresh faces seek to lead Island City into the future," incorrectly named the Island City mayor. The correct name is Delmer Hanson.

La Grande lifts ban on recreational fires

By Dick Mason

The Observer

LA GRANDE — La Grande residents can once again have recreational fires.

The La Grande Fire Department announced it lifted the ban Wednesday, Sept. 30. The ban was in place since Sept. 16 because of extreme fire conditions.

The city's move is due to cooling temperatures and rising humidity and

follows the Union Board of Commissioners ending its ban on recreational fires on Tuesday.

"We want to make our rules more consistent," said La Grande Fire Chief Emmitt Cornford, who made the decision to lift the city ban on recreational fires, which include backyard fires for family activities or social events.

The fire department asks residents to call the department at 541-963-

3123 to advise on-duty crews of their intention to have a recreational fire.

Capt. Robert Tibbetts of the La Grande Fire Department said fire dangers remain high and people still need to exercise caution with recreational fires.

"It is vital that residents follow the guidelines and restrictions that are in place for these types of fires," he said.

The city also announced it will not issue permits

for yard debris burning until Oct. 15. Cornford told The Observer fire danger is expected to drop in two weeks and yard debris fires tend to be a little larger and are easier for people to lose control of.

A copy of the ordinance for yard debris burning, which includes the applicable rules, is available on the city's website, cityoflagrande.org. The fall burning season will end on Nov. 30.

Cove charter vote won't impact municipal court plan

By Ronald Bond

The Observer

COVE — Cove residents in November's general election will vote on an update to the city charter.

And although a proposed language change in the charter, which last was updated in 2000, includes the mention of a "municipal court," voters won't be voting on whether or not the city can add a court, both Mayor Del Little and City Recorder Donna Lewis explained.

"It was mainly updating, and the legal update was done by the League of Oregon cities," Lewis said of the changes to the charter, which largely are minor.

The proposed charter is available on the city's website, and the change to the language about the court is in section 5 of the document. That portion reads:

"The charter shall be liberally construed to the end that the City may have all powers necessary or convenient for the conduct of its municipal affairs, including all powers that cities may assume pursuant to state laws and to the municipal home-rule provisions of the constitution of the State of Oregon."

The updated charter would insert the words "and its municipal court" after municipal affairs.

The city is looking into the prospect of adding a court regardless of if the language is changed in the charter, but having a draft before the city council likely isn't a feat that will be accom-

plished before the end of the year, Little said.

"We have possibly months before anybody (on the city council) sees or the public sees a proposal for a municipal court," Little said, noting a committee currently is working on a draft to give to the council. "The state statute already allows us to create a municipal court. They (the statute and the charter language) are totally separate."

The purpose for the municipal court, both noted, is to deal with ordinance violation complaints that arise and go unsolved. An example that Lewis gave would be if a neighbor had trash piling up at their home and it began impacting a neighbor who then reached out to the city.

The city to asks for compliance when a violation comes up, and Lewis said that largely has been a success. Increased instances of a lack of compliance lately, though, has moved the city to a position of seeing the court as necessary.

"We've really had good compliance over the years," Lewis said. "There have been a few things over the last couple of years that have made us look to this avenue."

The preferred method moving forward, though, would be for citizens to be compliant if a violation is brought to their attention.

"What we really want to get to the public is the city really likes to have the citizens cooperate," Little said.

Sheriff's office reports catching trio after deputy dodges fleeing vehicle

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Union County Sheriff's Office reported it arrested three men after a deputy dove out of the way of their fleeing vehicle.

Law enforcement on Wednesday, Sept. 30, at 11:02 p.m. responded to the 69500 block of Ruckle Road, Summerville, on a report of a possible burglary in progress. According to the press release from the sheriff's office, deputies on the scene identified themselves and commanded people in a vehicle to get out.

Deputies were on foot in the driveway to prevent the suspects from leaving the scene, according to the press release, but "the vehicle took off and accelerated toward the deputies, swerving into one deputy who dove out of the way and who was subsequently struck in the foot by the vehicle's tire."

The deputy was in pain but the injury to his foot was minor, according to the sheriff's office, and he

got back in his vehicle with the second deputy and pursued the suspects.

Their vehicle lost control and crashed approximately 4 miles from the burglary scene, and they took off on foot. K-9 unit Molly and her handler, deputy Dane Jensen, tracked down and caught 34-year-old Troy Eldon Baker. And early on Thursday, the sheriff's office caught a second suspect, Justin Allen Farmer, 37, of La Grande, on a road near the scene.

The sheriff's office at 8:43 a.m. received a report from employees of Grant Custom Homes, La Grande, of a suspicious person on a bicycle in the area of Hunter and End roads, La Grande, near the Blue Mountain 4-H Center.

Deputies responded, knowing there was possibly a third suspect involved in the Ruckle Road burglary, according to the sheriff's office, and found and arrested Thomas Edward Sampson Jr., 38. Deputies also told the

owner of the bicycle about the theft.

The sheriff's office arrested Farmer for second-degree trespass and on a parole and probation detainer and Baker for third-degree theft, felon in possession of a weapon, first-degree trespass, possession of burglary tools and first-degree burglary, which is a Class A felony in Oregon.

The sheriff's office arrested Sampson for second-degree trespass, felony eluding in a vehicle and attempted second-degree assault, indicating he was who the sheriff's office pegged as the driver that tried to run over the deputy.

The sheriff's office also reported Oregon State Police troopers assisted throughout the night Wednesday and Thursday, and La Grande police in the morning tried to find the third suspect at a residence in La Grande. The Imbler Rural Fire Department also responded to treat minor injuries.