

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Thursday, Oct. 8, the 282nd day of 2020. There are 84 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Oct. 8, 1871, the Great Chicago Fire erupted; fires also broke out in Peshtigo, Wisconsin, and in several communities in Michigan.

ON THIS DATE

In 1890, American aviation hero Eddie Rickenbacker was born in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1934, Bruno Hauptmann was indicted by a grand jury in New Jersey for murder in the death of the kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman told a press conference in Tiptonville, Tennessee, that the secret scientific knowledge behind the atomic bomb would be shared only with Britain and Canada.

In 1981, at the White House, President Ronald Reagan greeted former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon, who were preparing to travel to Egypt for the funeral of Anwar Sadat.

In 1985, the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro killed American passenger Leon Klinghoffer, who was in a wheelchair, and threw his body overboard.

In 1997, Scientists reported the Mars Pathfinder had yielded what could be the strongest evidence yet that Mars might once have been hospitable to life.

In 1998, the House triggered an open-ended impeachment inquiry against President Bill Clinton in a momentous 258-176 vote; 31 Democrats joined majority Republicans in opening the way for nationally televised impeachment hearings.

In 2002, A federal judge approved President George W. Bush's request to reopen West Coast ports, ending a 10-day labor lockout that was costing the U.S. economy an estimated \$1 to \$2 billion a day.

In 2005, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake flattened villages on the Pakistan-India border, killing an estimated 86,000 people.

In 2014, Thomas Eric Duncan, a Liberian man who was the first person diagnosed with Ebola in the United States, died at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas 10 days after being admitted.

In 2017, Harvey Weinstein was fired from The Weinstein Company amid allegations that he was responsible for decades of sexual harassment. Vice President Mike Pence left the 49ers-Colts game in Indianapolis after about a dozen San Francisco players took a knee during the national anthem.

In 2018, New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees became the NFL's all-time leader in yards passing during a 43-19 win over Washington.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$2.7 million

8-12-18-23-35-43

Mega Millions: \$50 million

15-16-18-39-59—17 x3

Powerball: \$43 million

18-31-36-43-47—PB-20 x2

Win for Life: Oct. 5

8-41-71-77

Pick 4: Oct. 6

• **1 p.m.:** 2-0-8-9 • **4 p.m.:** 9-0-1-9

• **7 p.m.:** 7-3-6-6 • **10 p.m.:** 2-3-6-4

Pick 4: Oct. 5

• **1 p.m.:** 0-4-7-5 • **4 p.m.:** 9-7-9-1

• **7 p.m.:** 9-3-8-3 • **10 p.m.:** 9-9-6-8

DELIVERY ISSUES?

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

COVID-19 not stopping LG tree planters

By Dick Mason

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The COVID-19 pandemic will not prevent La Grande tree enthusiasts from reaching the century mark this year, thanks to members of the city's Community Landscape and Forestry Commission.

The city has an annual goal of planting 100 trees a year, primarily along streets. Community tree planting days in April and October helped the city reach the goal with ease in previous years. But restrictions on large group gatherings because of the pandemic have nixed the events this year, said Teresa Gustafson, the city's urban forester.

Enter members of the Community Landscape and Forestry Commission, many of who are stepping forward on weekends to plant trees in town in lieu of the usual planting events.

They were at it again on Saturday, Oct. 3, planting a total of 11 trees, including spring snow crabapple, oak, maple and amur maackia.

The crew planted spring snow crabapple trees in areas with power lines



Dick Mason/The Observer

Toni Smith and Ben Brown, members of the La Grande Community Landscape and Forestry Commission, plant a tree Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020, along Third Street near Jefferson Avenue. Commission members and community volunteers have been working week-ends to plants dozens of trees.

overhead. This is because these trees will not grow to heights where they will reach power lines.

Commission members Ben Brown, Toni Smith and Lia Spiegel were among those who planted trees Saturday. Commission members Robert Henderson and Dave Cocke assisted earlier with planting and will con-

tinue to help.

Community members Mara Kalat, Dan Felley and Ruby Hoffman came out to help as well. All are relatives or close friends of the commissioners.

Planting will continue on Saturday, Oct. 10, with 17 more trees. To date, the volunteers have set 50 trees into the ground and plans

are in place for another 100.

Stu Spence, director of the city of La Grande's Parks and Recreation department, credited the Landscape and Forestry Commission in keeping the planting program going.

"It has been a huge help," Spence said.

Gustafson, who directs the plantings, also

applauded the commissioner members and community volunteers who are helping.

"They are doing a wonderful job," she said.

Still, Gustafson said she looks forward to getting the regular annual planting day going again because she likes having as many people involved as possible.

"Hopefully we will be able to get our community-wide planting started again after the pandemic is over," she said.

The commissioners and volunteers assisting them wear striking green vests displaying the words "Grow La Grande" on the back.

The city purchased 60 of the vests earlier this year with a grant from Oregon Community Trees, which the city was eligible to apply for because it has Tree City USA status. Volunteers working on urban forestry projects in La Grande wear the vests.

"They make us look official," Gustafson said. "It is a nice way for volunteers to get recognition."

La Grande has been awarded Tree City USA status in each of the past 30 years.

Imbler, Cove voters face choices in mayoral election

Two candidates face off in each city for the Nov. 3 election

Sabrina Thompson

The Observer

UNION COUNTY — Residents of Imbler and Cove will have two mayoral candidates to choose from on their ballot for the Nov. 3 general election. Imbler voters can choose incumbent Rick Vicek or Jason Berglund Sr., a former council member, while Cove residents can vote for either Councilor Nathiel Conrad or newcomer Sherry L. Haeger.

Rick Vicek

Vicek has served as mayor of Imbler for a few months, since the previous mayor, Mike McLean, moved away. As a city councilor, Vicek stepped into the role for the remainder of the term and is now looking to keep the position.

"I am really interested in the small-town atmosphere. I have a love for the smaller communities," Vicek said. "I want to be involved in this community and be a solution to what the town's needs are."

He said he sees water sewage as one of the town's biggest issues. He said he would continue addressing that topic as mayor.

"We are a quiet town with not a lot of growth, but (have) basic infra-

structural needs," Vicek said. "I have no big agenda to change anything."

Jason Berglund Sr.

Berglund served on the Imbler City Council for eight years after moving to the town in 2011.

"It is such a great community," Berglund said. "I know most of the people around here, and we are a community who takes care of each other. The whole atmosphere is pretty fantastic."

Similar to Vicek, Berglund doesn't think the city requires much change.

"We have some updating to do, but as a community, Imbler needs to stay the way it is," he said. "We are not a big city. We don't need to be run like one."

Berglund works as a ranch hand in Imbler but has experience working the Oregon Youth Authority, which operates juvenile corrections.

"OYA is a state job, with plenty of politics around it, and working as a ranch hand is doing what almost everyone does around here," Berglund said. "That and my previous time on the council has prepared me for this."

Sherry Haeger

Haeger said her work experience makes her fit for the role of mayor of Cove.

She said she is a retired executive manager in supply chain engineering and logistics for Apple and Google, with an emphasis

on mediation and negotiation. After working for two of the largest technology companies in the world, Haeger moved to Cove in 2017 following cancer, which she beat. She has since served as treasurer for the reelection campaign of Union County Commissioner Donna Beverage, for the Union County Chamber of Commerce and for the Cove Community Association.

"I have the potential to make a difference in Cove's economic performance and offer enhanced visibility, opportunity to exercise leadership, make strategic choices and drive action through local authorities and their partners," Haeger said. "I am extremely familiar with ordinances, rules and regulations of running government entities as this was a core requirement in my previous career."

She also promised to make certain there is clarity about issues concerning daily life in Cove and ensuring "all voices concerned with those issues have a platform for discussion.... I want to hear the concerns and understand the 'why' of any given situation."

Nathiel Conrad

When contacted by The Observer, Conrad was unavailable to answer questions. As a day care owner, she said she was too busy to respond to a final request for answers Wednesday morning, Oct. 7.

NEWS BRIEFS

Wallowa County voters have plenty of choices

ENTERPRISE — Joseph and Enterprise have contested races for seats on their city councils.

Joseph Mayor Teresa Sajonia is facing a challenge in Belinda Miller Buswell. Also in Joseph, three council seats are up for election.

Councilors Kirsten Rohla and Matt Soots see reelection, and Stephen Bartlow is running for a vacant seat. The council plans to appoint a replacement for Richard Pointer, who died this past summer, according to City Administrator Larry Braden.

In Enterprise, Ashley R. Sullivan is running for mayor. Stacey Karvoski vacated the post in May when she moved outside the city limits. Councilor Jenni Word, who has been serving as mayor pro-tem since Karvoski's resignation, will return to her position No. 1 council seat.

Rob Taylor and Rick Freeman are vying to replace Chris Pritchard for council seat No. 6. Pritchard chose to not run for reelection. Jeff Yanke is running for council seat No. 5 to replace Larry Christman, who also chose not to run. Brandon S. Miller, who was appointed in August to replace the departing Micah Agnew, will run for the No. 4 council seat.

Lostine Mayor Dusty Tippet also seeks reelection, as does Spencer Shelton, who is running for council seat No. 4. Mitchell Shelton earlier this vacated the seat. No candidate filed for council seat No. 3, held by Hubbell April. However, April was working out of town when the deadline passed and plans to seek appointment to the position, according to county Clerk Sandy Lathrop.

In Wallowa, Mayor Gary Hulse and councilors Scott McCrae and Christian Niece all running for reelection.

Perhaps the most high-profile race took place in May, when Enterprise Police Chief Joel Fish won a three-way race for Wallowa County sheriff. The deadline to file as a write-in to oppose him is later in October. If no one files, he will appear on the November ballot unopposed. As a result, the Enterprise City Council has put off the hiring process to replace Fish.

County Commissioners Todd Nash and Susan Roberts won reelection unopposed in May.

Ballot measures around the county include a \$4 million school bond levy to obtain a matching grant from the state for the Enterprise School District to improve the Enterprise School. Joseph is asking city residents to approve a 3% tax on marijuana sold in the city. No other citywide measures are on the ballot.

The only countywide ballot measure is to require the county commissioners to discuss the interests in relocating the Oregon/Idaho border to make Wallowa County a part of Idaho. Similar measures are on countywide ballots in several other counties, though the grassroots effort promoting them failed to get the measures on ballots in most counties.

Baker City Council talking with manager hopefuls

BAKER CITY — The Baker City Council interviewed two candidates for the city manager's job Monday evening, Oct. 5, and councilors will interview three others Tuesday.

Both evenings of Zoom interviews were slated to happen during executive sessions, which are closed to the public.

Oregon's public meetings law allows city councils and other elected boards to consider certain topics during executive sessions, including, as in this case, the employment of a public officer.

Councilors can't make any decisions during executive sessions, however.

Fred Warner Jr., who has been city manager since May 2016, plans to retire at the end of the year.

A total of 14 people applied for the job. On Sept. 17 a selection committee consisting of Mayor Loran Joseph and councilors Lynette Perry and Jason Spriet trimmed the list of candidates to six.

One of those candidates withdrew Monday morning, leaving five, said Robin Nudd, the city's human resource manager.

In an email to the Baker City Herald, Nudd wrote that councilors plan to announce the names of the finalists during the Council's regular meeting Tuesday, Oct. 13.

"My hope is that we will have three candidates to invite to our community and we will hold meet and greets with the press, community leaders, current council and the newly elected council members," Nudd wrote.

— EO Media Group

Pendleton School District reports COVID-19 case

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A staff member at Sunridge Middle School, Pendleton, has tested positive for COVID-19, Pendleton School District Superintendent Chris Fritsch said in a Tuesday, Oct. 6, interview.

The day before, Fritsch emailed employees to inform them of the development, adding that Umatilla County Public Health contact tracing determined six Sunridge employees had extended exposure to the staff member.

As a result, the exposed staff members will quarantine at

home for the 14 days following exposure. Fritsch said none of the exposed employees are displaying symptoms or will be required to take COVID-19 tests.

Fritsch said no students at the district's day care program were exposed to the staff member and the program will continue to operate as usual.

The district had intended to begin limited, small-group education in-person starting on Oct. 7, but that is now delayed indefinitely while the district consults with the public health department.

Along with most other schools in Oregon,

Pendleton School District has started out the year with distance learning. Although teachers are doing their lessons online, the district requires most staff to perform their duties in the empty school while still observing social distancing guidelines amongst each other.

"This is a good time to remember that you should have a face covering on when entering and exiting the building as well as when you are moving within the building or in a room when others are present, maintain at least a 6 (feet) distance from others and wash your

hands frequently," Fritsch wrote to staff in the Oct. 6 email.

The positive case in Pendleton schools comes as the state is mulling relaxing its standards to resume in-person teaching this school year.

Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen told media on Oct. 6 that the state may do away with the requirement that Oregon needs test positivity rate below 5% statewide before allowing more full reopenings. But OHA would likely keep the countywide requirements in place, a bar Umatilla County hasn't met yet.