

Today in History

TODAY
Today is Thursday, Jan. 7, the seventh day of 2021. There are 358 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On Jan. 7, 1789, America held its first presidential election as voters chose electors who, a month later, selected George Washington to be the nation's first chief executive.

ON THIS DATE:

In 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.

In 1942, Japanese forces began besieging American and Filipino troops in Bataan during World War II. (The fall of Bataan three months later was followed by the notorious Death March.)

In 1953, President Truman announced in his State of the Union message to Congress that the United States had developed a hydrogen bomb.

In 1959, the United States recognized the new government of Cuba, six days after Fidel Castro led the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1972, Lewis F. Powell, Jr. and William H. Rehnquist were sworn in as the 99th and 100th members of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1979, Vietnamese forces captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

In 1989, Emperor Hirohito of Japan died in Tokyo at age 87; he was succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Akihito.

In 1999, for the second time in history, an impeached American president went on trial before the Senate. President Bill Clinton faced charges of perjury and obstruction of justice; he was acquitted.

In 2004, President George W. Bush proposed legal status, at least temporarily, for millions of immigrants improperly working in the U.S.

In 2006, U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, facing corruption charges, stepped down as House majority leader. (DeLay was found guilty in Nov. 2010 of illegally funneling corporate money to Texas candidates; his conviction was eventually overturned.)

In 2015, masked gunmen stormed the Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo, a French newspaper that had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad, methodically killing 12 people, including the editor, before escaping in a car. (Two suspects were killed two days later.)

In 2019, Amazon eclipsed Microsoft as the most valuable publicly-traded company in the U.S. For the first time in more than 25 years, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was absent from oral arguments as she recuperated from cancer surgery.

Ten years ago: A package addressed to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano ignited at a Washington postal facility, a day after fiery packages sent to Maryland's governor and state transportation secretary burned the fingers of workers who opened them.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama tore into the National Rifle Association during a televised town hall meeting in Fairfax, Virginia, as he dismissed what he called a "conspiracy"

Idaho group recommends ways to bolster fish

By KEITH RIDLER

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — A group brought together by Idaho Gov. Brad Little to find ways to bolster faltering salmon and steelhead populations has agreed to encourage habitat restoration but avoided making a decision about breaching dams.

The report released over the weekend by the Republican governor's workgroup flatly states it's not a recovery plan. Rather, it's a list of recommendations approved by a group that includes conservationists, power companies, farmers, tribes, irrigators and ranchers.

At the group's first meeting in June 2019, Little tasked members with finding achievable goals to improve struggling salmon and steelhead populations. They met an additional 15 times through December to hash out recommendations, including creating a state-wide inventory of habitat in all river basins and collaborating with property owners and water users to improve habitat.

"I am proud of what the workgroup has accom-



Pete Zimowsky/Idaho Statesman, File

A working group of diverse interests convened by Idaho Gov. Brad Little to find consensus ways to bolster faltering salmon and steelhead populations has released a report encouraging habitat restoration and collaboration but steering clear of dam breaching.

plished over the last eighteen months," Little said in a statement to The Associated Press. "This is the first time a broad group of stakeholders has worked collaboratively to help shape Idaho's policy on salmon and steelhead. Over the next few weeks, I will review the recommendations provided by the workgroup. While a lot remains to be done, I am confident we are moving in the right direction."

Thirteen species of Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead are

listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act, including all salmon and steelhead that return to Idaho.

The Idaho populations once numbered more than 2.3 million fish combined, the report said. Now, they number about 45,000.

The group adopted Columbia Basin Partnership goals for Idaho runs that call for a low goal of 75,000 fish and a high goal of 385,000. The partnership is a task force that NOAA Fisheries' Marine Fisheries Advisory

Committee put together in 2017.

The Idaho Conservation League, which took part in Little's panel, "believes the workgroup's recommendations, if adopted and implemented, will be useful ways for the state of Idaho and all Idahoans to help our fish," executive director Justin Hayes said in a statement. "This is a meaningful accomplishment, one that likely would not have happened without this workgroup."

The league was among

the members that support breaching four dams on the lower Snake River in eastern Washington state that are blamed for killing many salmon and steelhead. Others oppose that move.

"Limiting our recommendations to only those that would enjoy consensus support meant that there were many policy ideas discussed but not advanced," the report said. "Consensus on dam breach/retirement could not be reached."

But the group did support operating dams to maximize benefits to fish and minimize effects on power generation.

Idaho Power, a public utility with about 570,000 customers in Idaho and eastern Oregon, took part in the workgroup. The company has 17 dams to generate electricity and operates four hatcheries to produce salmon and steelhead.

"Given the objective of creating consensus-based recommendations, the scope and depth of the measures are quite impressive, especially given the large size and diverse nature of the group," said Brett Dumas, the company's environmental affairs director.

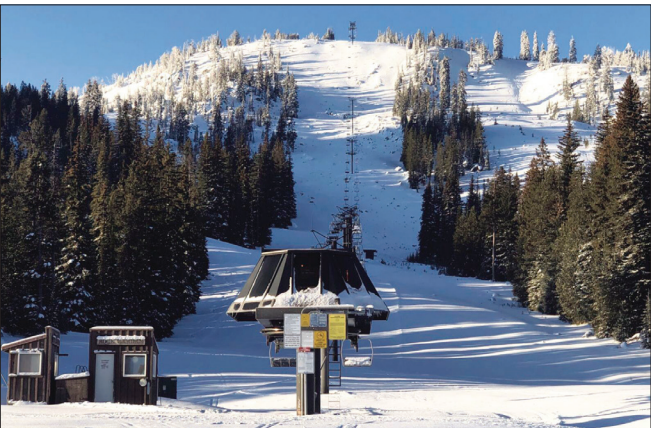
Anthony Lakes offers free ski lessons for fifth and sixth graders

By DICK MASON

The Observer

NORTH POWDER — Learn to ski or snowboard for free. This opportunity for fifth and sixth graders will be available at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort starting Sunday, Jan. 10.

Free ski and snowboard lessons are offered to all youth in fifth and sixth grade every Sunday from Jan. 10 through Feb. 28. Students also will be given free ski and snowboard rentals throughout the day, and after receiving the free lesson, they will be given a free ski lift pass for the



Chelsea Judy/Anthony Lakes Ski Area

Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort's slopes are white and ready for skiers and snowboarders in November 2020. The resort is offering free lessons, rentals and lift tickets on Sundays in January and February 2021 to students in fifth and sixth grades.

rest of that day.

Students must register each Sunday at the Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort's ticket booth between 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. before receiving their free lesson. Children should bring identification from their school or their report card, according to an Anthony Lakes press release.

Later in the year there is a possibility that students will be able to register online rather than at the ticket booth.

Adults who want to accompany the students on the ski slope after their

lessons may purchase lift tickets for \$25.

The families of the children who attend at least seven of the eight free instructional sessions will have a chance to purchase a ski lift pass for their children for the remainder of the ski season for \$150. The Anthony Lakes ski season normally runs well into March.

For additional information call Chelsea at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort, 541-856-3277, Ext. 12, or send an email to her at chelsea@anthonylakes.com.

New Union County sheriff swears his oath



Tish Bowen/Contributed Photo

Union County has a new sheriff. Union County Clerk Rob-in Church, right, swears in Cody Bowen on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, as the county's new sheriff. Bowen on Facebook thanked his family and friends for their support and Union County voters for believing in him. "I won't let you down," he promised.

Former LG medical practice employee gets federal prison time

The Observer

PORTLAND — A La Grande woman is going to federal prison for defrauding two separate employers and filing false tax returns, according to a press release from U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams.

Anndrea D. Jacobs, 49, a former office manager and bookkeeper for a La Grande medical practice, will serve four years in federal prison and five years of supervised release for one count of bank fraud. Federal court records show Jacobs pleaded guilty on Sept. 1, 2020, to filing a false personal income tax return, falsely impersonating an IRS employee, aggravated identity theft and bank fraud.

Assistant U.S. Attorney

Ryan Bounds, formerly of Hermiston, wrote the government's sentencing recommendation for Jacobs.

"Defendant Anndrea D. Jacobs is a persistent swindler," according to Bounds' six-page memo. "Over the course of a decade — and perhaps longer — she stole business receipts, loan proceeds, and tax payments from the medical and dental practices at which she worked, diverting more than \$1.1 million dollars from them to sustain a lavish personal lifestyle and her own failing businesses."

According to court documents, beginning on or about January 2011 and continuing until her termination in December 2015, Jacobs used her position

and access to a medical practice's finances to steal money from the practice by, among other means, writing business checks to herself or for her own benefit. Jacobs used the stolen funds to make payments on personal credit cards and pay other personal expenses unrelated to the medical practice.

To hide her actions, Jacobs prepared and maintained false business financial records, overstating expenses and estimated tax payments. She also opened a business bank account without the knowledge or consent of the medical practice owner and deposited a business check payable to the Oregon Department of Revenue into her own personal account.

Baker City native studying plant-based treatment for Parkinson's disease

Tanya Denne is analyzing healing properties of the plant Mucuna

By LISA BRITTON

For the Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Tanya Denne, a Baker City native who has been studying a plant that could help combat Parkinson's disease, will graduate in 2021 from Bastyr University with a degree in naturopathic medicine.

While working on her doctorate, she's continued to analyze the use of Mucuna pruriens and its potential in treating Parkinson's disease, a disorder of the central nervous system that affects movement.

According to Oregon Health & Science Univer-



Contributed Photo

Tanya Denne graduated from the University of Portland and will graduate this year from Bastyr University in Kenmore, Washington, with a degree in naturopathic medicine.

sity, for unknown reasons Parkinson's causes brain cells that make a chemical called dopamine to die. This leaves the brain without enough dopamine — a "neurotransmitter," or chemical messenger — to signal nerves to trigger movement.

Parkinson's worsens over

time. There is no cure.

Drug treatments of levodopa/cabidopa focus on the dopamine system in the brain. According to Denne, research has determined Mucuna seeds contain 3% to 7% levodopa.

Denne's interest in Mucuna stems from a per-

sonal story — her grandmother died of Alzheimer's disease, and that inspired her to study neuroscience.

After graduating from the University of Portland, she volunteered at OHSU in Portland to study Mucuna and Parkinson's.

In early 2016, she traveled to India for three months to study Mucuna in its native environment, and to collect seeds to study.

That same year she started at Bastyr University in Kenmore, Washington, to pursue a doctorate in naturopathic medicine.

Now, Denne credits fundraising events in Baker City for supporting her project.

"It's taken a whole community and over a decade, and a huge majority of the original funding and support started in Baker City," she said.

Mucuna progress

During her studies at Bastyr, Denne has worked on the Mucuna project by finding a farmer in Hawaii who could grow the seeds she brought from India. She's also experimented with seed extracts and worked with colleagues from Bastyr and OHSU who have used the extracts in animal model studies.

"It's this really cool, multi-faceted project," Denne said.

She said results from the mice model showed increased tyrosine hydroxylase (TH), which suggests a neurorestorative property of the Mucuna extract.

Further studies are planned, with a larger sample size.

And their research is fueling other projects.

"Our research team is now collaborating with a

field research project in Africa, where it is estimated that only 9% of the population has access to conventional Parkinson's medication," she said. "We're working with The Parkinson's Institute in Italy, drafting and implementing sites to grow Mucuna as a source of levodopa for Parkinson's treatment as a public health effort."

After graduating with her doctorate this year, Denne plans to complete a residency and wants to specialize in neuro-focused care, such as Parkinson's disease. She'd like to return to practice in Baker City.

"It really does take a village, and I am grateful to be from one that embodies core values of generosity, positive change, and compassion," she said.