

## TODAY IN HISTORY

### TODAY

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 12, the 12th day of 2021. There are 353 days left in the year.

### TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On Jan. 12, 2000, in a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Illinois v. Wardlow*, gave police broad authority to stop and question people who run at the sight of an officer.

### ON THIS DATE:

In 1773, the first public museum in America was organized in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1828, the United States and Mexico signed a Treaty of Limits defining the boundary between the two countries to be the same as the one established by an 1819 treaty between the U.S. and Spain.

In 1910, at a White House dinner hosted by President William Howard Taft, Baroness Rosen, wife of the Russian ambassador, caused a stir by requesting and smoking a cigarette — it was, apparently, the first time a woman had smoked openly during a public function in the executive mansion.

In 1915, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected, 204-174, a proposed constitutional amendment to give women nationwide the right to vote.

In 1948, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that state law schools could not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race.

In 1959, Berry Gordy Jr. founded Motown Records in Detroit.

In 1969, the New York Jets of the American Football League upset the Baltimore Colts of the National Football League 16-7 in Super Bowl III, played at the Orange Bowl in Miami.

In 1971, the groundbreaking situation comedy "All in the Family" premiered on CBS television.

In 1976, mystery writer Dame Agatha Christie died in Wallingford, England, at age 85.

In 1995, Qubilah Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X, was arrested in Minneapolis on charges she'd tried to hire a hitman to kill Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan (the charges were later dropped in a settlement with the government).

In 2006, Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman who shot Pope John Paul II in 1981, was released from an Istanbul prison after serving more than 25 years in Italy and Turkey for the plot against the pontiff and the slaying of a Turkish journalist.

In 2010, Haiti was struck by a magnitude-7 earthquake; the Haitian government said 316,000 people were killed, while a report prepared for the U.S. Agency for International Development suggested the death toll may have been between 46,000 and 85,000.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama visited Tucson, Arizona, the scene of a shooting rampage that wounded Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and killed six others; he urged Americans to refrain from partisan bickering and to embrace the idealistic vision of democracy held by 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, the youngest of the victims.

# New SRO on La Grande School District beat

Justin Hernandez takes over role

By **DICK MASON**  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A Union County sheriff's deputy who previously was a star Eastern Oregon University football player soon will be helping young people tackle life's challenges.

Justin Hernandez is the La Grande School District's new school resource officer helping to maintain school district security and mentor students.

Hernandez launched the latest chapter in his career Monday, Jan. 11, when he introduced himself to students in kindergarten through sixth grade as they returned to in-person education following the Christmas break.

"I'm very excited about being able to work with kids," said Hernandez, who has been with the Union County Sheriff's Office for five and a half years and is a 2015 Eastern Oregon University graduate who played football for the Mountaineers in 2013 and 2014.

Hernandez is succeeding Cody Bowen as the SRO. Bowen held the position for six years before stepping down in late December to serve as Union County's new sheriff. Bowen won the election Nov. 3, 2020.



Dick Mason/The Observer

Justin Hernandez, right, the La Grande School District's new school resource officer, talks with Judy Lucius on Jan. 11, 2021. Lucius is a paraprofessional at Greenwood Elementary School whose duties include working as a crossing guard.

Bowen said he was hoping Hernandez would apply for the open school resource officer job because of his ability to connect with young people. Bowen said Hernandez is an excellent example for youth.

"He is a role model. He always does what is right when no one is looking," Bowen said.

Hernandez was a star receiver at EOU with 79 receptions, 1,215 receiving yards and 12 touchdowns in two seasons, according to eousports.com.

Off the field during his senior year, Hernandez

started serving as a reserve deputy. A native of Lapwai, Idaho, Hernandez said a career in law enforcement long interested him in part because his father, a retired Marine, was a lieutenant in the Nez Perce Tribal Police Department in his hometown. Today, Hernandez is following in his father's footsteps even more closely. His dad was an SRO at his high school in Lapwai.

Hernandez, after serving as a reserve deputy, a volunteer position and receiving training at the Oregon Police Academy, worked in the Union County Jail

for six months. He then worked the Elgin patrol beat for two years and then two years as a narcotics officer. The deputy said one of his objectives as SRO is for students to see law enforcement officers as people. He will be following the lead of Bowen, well known in the local schools for his personable nature.

"I want to continue Cody's mission of humanizing the badge," Hernandez said.

He said he hopes to make connections with students and build relationships based on trust.

"I don't want them to run from me," Hernandez said. "I want them to run to me."

A sense of humility likely will help him in this regard.

"Just because I have a badge and a gun does not make me superior to anyone," said Hernandez, who also wants to establish community partnerships.

Bowen said Hernandez has a head start on establishing connections with students in the La Grande School District because he attended school district activities before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, including sporting events.

"He is invested in the community," Bowen said.

Hernandez said people such as Tim Camp, EOU's football coach since 2008, instilled this attitude in him. Camp requires his players to be involved in public service projects. Hernandez credits Camp with teaching him that "community is everything."

Bowen said the ties he made as a school resource officer made it difficult to step away from the job.

"It was very hard. For the last six years I have poured my heart and soul into it," Bowen said.

But he said he takes solace knowing Hernandez is at the helm.

"I know that the schools are going to be in good hands," Bowen said.

## BRIEFS

### Morrow County homicide suspect found dead in jail

PENDLETON — Staff at the Umatilla County Jail in Pendleton on Saturday, Jan. 9, found homicide suspect David Lee Bowles dead in his cell.

Bowles, 43, was in the jail on charges of first-degree manslaughter and felon in possession of a weapon. Oregon State Police previously reported he turned himself in to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 7, after the office named him as a "person of interest" in the shooting death of his wife, Marlen Bowles, in Hepner on Dec. 15.

According to a press release from the sheriff's office, in the early morning hours of Saturday, jail staff were making rounds when they discovered Bowles dead in his bed.

"At this time, there is no apparent evidence of foul play," the release stated. The sheriff's office is investigating the cause of death.

### Hansell to serve on five committees for 2021 legislative session

SALEM — Veteran Eastern Oregon Republican legislator Bill Hansell received five committee assignments for the Oregon Senate for the upcoming 2021 Legislature, according to a Thursday, Jan. 7, press release.

Hansell, entering his ninth year as a state senator, will serve as vice-chair of labor and business, as well as on the redistricting committee, the joint committee on ways and means, the public safety subcommittee and the transportation and economic development subcommittee.

"I'm excited about my committee assignments and honored to get to work on behalf of the voters of Northeast Oregon," Hansell. "With COVID-19 recovery and budget cuts there are a lot of challenges ahead of Oregon, but I look forward to meeting those challenges head-on."

Hansell represents Senate District 29, which comprises all of Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties, as well as parts of Wasco County. The 2021 Oregon Legislature begins its session on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

—EO Media Group

## Historic cabin open for rental

Anthony Lake Guard Station usually serves as Nordic ski center

By **JAYSON JACOBY**  
Baker City Herald

ANTHONY LAKE — The COVID-19 pandemic has made it possible for some people to spend a couple of nights this winter in a snowbound log cabin high in the Elkhorn Mountains.

But if you wait long you might miss your chance.

Reservations for the historic Anthony Lake Guard Station, built in the 1930s by a Civilian Conservation Corps on the north shore of Anthony Lake, became available Jan. 1 on the website for Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort.

Within a couple of days, the two-story cabin had been reserved for almost every weekend through the ski season, which ends in early April. The guard station opens for renting on Wednesday, Jan. 13, (that night and the next were both available for reservations as of Thursday, Jan. 7).

The guard station rents for \$350 per night, with a two-night minimum.



Chelsea Judy/Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort

The historic Anthony Lake Guard Station is open for overnight rentals this winter.

"People are always looking for a place to stay up here," said Chelsea Judy, marketing director for the ski area about 35 miles northwest of Baker City.

The resort doesn't have overnight lodging except for a pair of yurts.

And reservations for those structures are quickly snapped up, Judy said.

As of Thursday, one of the yurts had been reserved for all but two days — Jan. 26 and 27 — and the other was claimed on every day but the final day of the season, April 4.

The guard station normally is open for overnight stays only during the spring, summer and fall.

During the ski season, the structure usually serves as the Nordic center for Anthony Lakes, with cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals, trail passes to groomed routes, lesson registrations, coffee and a warm fireplace to sit beside.

But not during the pandemic. The issue, Judy said, is size.

The guard station, though it can accommodate eight people for overnight stays, has the typical tidy dimensions of a log cabin. That, combined with its single entrance, makes the cabin unsuitable as a Nordic center while the ski area follows social distancing guidelines, she said.

## More COVID-19 vaccine arriving in Wallowa County, but availability limited

County hits 92 COVID-19 cases after highest one-day total in two months

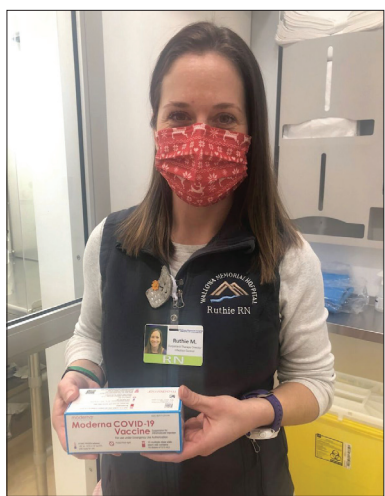
By **RONALD BOND**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — More and more doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are arriving in Wallowa County. But the opportunity to get inoculated is not available to the general public yet.

That was a point of emphasis for Wallowa Memorial Hospital Communications Director Brooke Pace in an interview with the Chieftain Friday, Jan. 8, noting she received numerous calls from residents on when they will be able to get vaccinated.

"We just want to stress that this isn't open to the general public yet," Pace said.

The Oregon Health Authority dictates the rollout of the vaccine — in particular, who is eligible to get it. The state is in the first part of Phase 1A of vaccina-



tion, meaning health care workers, residents and staff at long-term care facilities and first responders receive the vaccine first.

"This is a state rule. This is not a county rule," Pace said. "We are

just following the rules. We have a lot of people who are upset they don't qualify yet. We're not just cherry picking, we're following the state guidelines. We'll continue to do so as we receive more doses."

The simple answer for why the general public cannot yet get the vaccine is supply and demand.

"The No. 1 reason for that is because demand far outweighs supply at this point in time," Pace said. "Every state has a vaccine sequencing plan in effect to address those who are the highest risk and the most vulnerable to make sure those people are the first to receive the supply. Not everyone agrees with that assessment, but that is what has been put forth by the Oregon Health Authority."

Health care workers are at the top of the list because of their likelihood to be in proximity to someone with COVID-19, followed then by those living and working in a long-term care facility.

As of Friday morning, Pace said there have been 160 doses of

the vaccine administered in Wallowa County to those in Phase 1A. The county just received another shipment of 100 doses, raising the total dose count distributed to the county to 500.

Until this week, part of what Wallowa County had was to be held to use as second doses — given 28 days later — to complete the inoculation process. Pace said, though, the county has received guidance it could now use those as first doses, opening the door for further movement through Phase 1A.

"That number (of vaccinations given) will go up significantly beginning next week now that we have clearance to be able to vaccinate people who fall into group 3 and 4 in the Phase 1A," Pace said.

That, Pace said, led to rush to schedule shots for those on the lower tier of Phase 1A. She added the hope is for all Phase 1A initial vaccinations to be given within the next two weeks.

Second-dose administration is set to begin Jan. 19. The county does have some autonomy on when it can move from one phase

to the next, but who is in the next phase is not yet set by the state. OHA in a press release Thursday said the state's Vaccine Advisory Committee will "co-create a vaccine sequencing plan focused on health equity to ensure the state's vaccine distribution plan meets the needs of populations who are most at-risk and hardest hit by the pandemic."

OHA said the next group to be made eligible for vaccination will be educators in pre-K through 12th grade.

How many doses are on-hand also plays a role in how the county moves through phases. As for when vaccines possibly could be available to the general public?

"We have absolutely no idea or indication at this time, because it relies on a multitude of factors," Pace said. "It relies on the federal supply that is allocated to the state and then the supply that is allocated to Wallowa County. We haven't seen manufacturing projections to even forecast what might be coming down the pipeline and in what time frame."