

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Saturday, Feb. 20, the 51st day of 2021. There are 314 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On Feb. 20, 1905, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, upheld, 7-2, compulsory vaccination laws intended to protect the public's health.

ON THIS DATE:

In 1839, Congress prohibited dueling in the District of Columbia.

In 1942, Lt. Edward "Butch" O'Hare became the U.S. Navy's first flying ace of World War II by shooting down five Japanese bombers while defending the aircraft carrier USS *Lexington* in the South Pacific.

In 1962, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Project Mercury's Friendship 7 spacecraft, which circled the globe three times in a flight lasting 4 hours, 55 minutes and 23 seconds before splashing down safely in the Atlantic Ocean 800 miles southeast of Bermuda.

In 1965, America's Ranger 8 spacecraft crashed on the moon, as planned, after sending back thousands of pictures of the lunar surface.

In 1987, a bomb left by Unabomber Ted Kaczynski exploded behind a computer store in Salt Lake City, seriously injuring store owner Gary Wright. Soviet authorities released Jewish activist Josef Begun.

In 1998, Tara Lipinski of the U.S. won the ladies' figure skating gold medal at the Nagano Olympics. Michelle Kwan won the silver.

In 1999, movie reviewer Gene Siskel died at a hospital outside Chicago at age 53.

In 2007, in a victory for President George W. Bush, a divided federal appeals court ruled that Guantanamo Bay detainees could not use the U.S. court system to challenge their indefinite imprisonment.

La Grande police officer honored

Officer Ryan Herbel receives Above and Beyond Award

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A La Grande police officer is being saluted for going beyond the call of duty.

Officer Ryan Herbel has received the city of La Grande's Above and Beyond Award for service to his community.

Herbel received the award after using his own time and resources to drive a family to Portland to see their daughter after



Herbel

she was seriously injured in a car crash in the summer of 2020 on Highway 30 near Pierce Road.

Herbel was among the La Grande police officers who were the first to arrive at the scene of a multi-vehicle crash, which caused injuries to a number of people.

"Officer Herbel and his partner, officer Scott Norton, played a pivotal role in assisting with a patient that was in critical condition before medics arrived," said La Grande

Police Chief Gary Bell.

An ambulance took the patient, a juvenile, to Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande. Police followed so they could assist the patient's family, who were from outside the area.

The patient had a bleak prognosis, and later a helicopter ambulance flew her to a hospital in Portland.

Herbel, after learning doctors did not expect the girl to live through the night, knew the family could not wait and asked to have the rest of the night off so he could drive them to Portland.

The family did not have a vehicle available because

theirs had been totaled in the wreck, said La Grande police Lt. Jason Hays, but with Herbel's help they were able to get to Portland to be with their child.

The family's loved one not only made it through the night but recovered and was able to walk out of the hospital months later.

La Grande police Sgt. Dusty Perry nominated Herbel for the Above and Beyond Award.

"This level of devotion and humanity is exactly what we embody at the La Grande Police Department," Perry wrote in a letter with the award Herbel received.

La Grande City Manager Robert Strobe, who presented Herbel with his award, also praised the police officer.

"(Officer Herbel) went out of his way to do the right thing," Strobe said. "It was an act of selflessness."

Bell also had high words of praise for Herbel, who has been in the La Grande Police Department just over three years.

"Officer Herbel's actions in this situation exemplify our core values," Bell said, "and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the La Grande Police Department."

All alone in the snow



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

A snow-dusted and abandoned Chevrolet firetruck sits off Hays Road by Highway 82 near Imbler on Friday, Feb. 19, 2021.

Be wary of phone scammers

The Observer

LA GRANDE — A La Grande resident warned other locals to be wary of phone scammers pretending to be with the Social Security Administration.

Brenda Hamann said she started getting calls a couple of weeks ago claiming someone was using her Social Security number, but when she stayed on the line to find out more, she would remain on hold.

"Sometimes they called twice a day," she said, and the pattern repeated each time.

Hamann said she never gave out any personal information and figured if there was a real problem with her Social Security number, the administration would not call and put her on hold but instead send an official letter.

She said she stopped answering calls that looked suspicious, but the scammers were tricky. She answered some calls from Portland-area numbers because she has friends there. And the most recent call appeared local.

"It was a La Grande number, so I answered it," she said.

This time there was another Social Security scammer on the other end, this time telling her to call the La Grande Police Department and talk with "Officer Davis."

She said she indeed called La Grande police and found there was no officer Davis, but the officer she spoke with assured her this was a scam, even if it seemed to come from a local number.

Hamann said she wanted other locals to be aware of these kinds of calls and not fall for the deception. For more information about fraudulent Social Security calls, visit www.ssa.gov/antifraudfacts or www.ssa.gov/scam. For more information about phone scams in general and what you can do, visit www.usa.gov/stop-scams-frauds.

Snow scarcely stops at Anthony Lakes ski area

By **JAYSON JACOBY**
Baker City Herald

ANTHONY LAKES — Peter Johnson is not the sort who begrudges a blizzard.

But even as someone who depends on snow, Johnson concedes it's possible for a little too much to fall a little too rapidly.

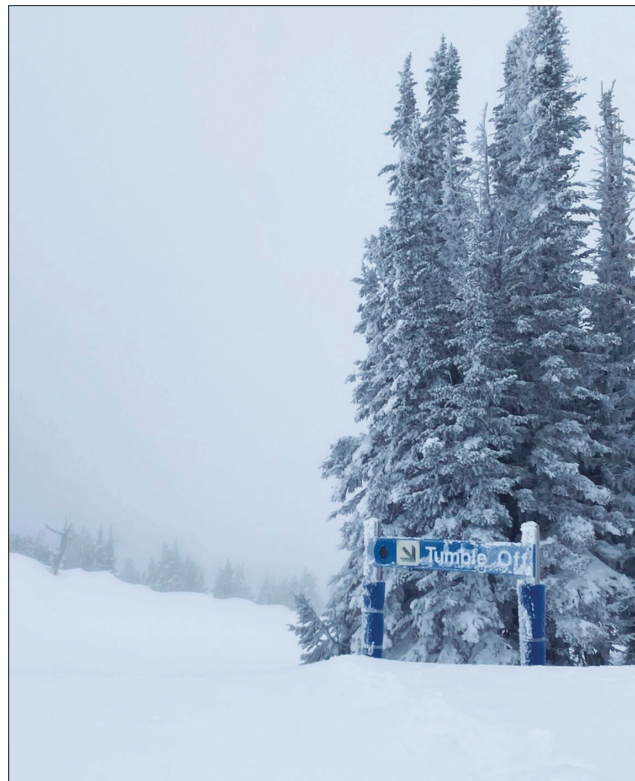
As much as 4 feet of powder in less than a week, for instance.

The positive part of this frozen onslaught is that it accumulated on the ski runs at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort, where Johnson is the general manager.

In the midst of a rather lackluster winter, the series of potent Pacific storms that plowed through Oregon the past several days were welcome.

But because skiers and snowboarders have to drive to the resort, and because they like to park when they get there, this wintry barrage was causing a nightmare for Anthony Lakes' maintenance crew.

"Our crew's been at it since 6 a.m. Wednesday (Feb. 17)," Johnson said on Thursday morning. "And they're still going."



Chelsea Judy/Contributed Photo

Tumble Off, along with the other ski runs at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort, have plenty of fresh powder snow after a week in which up to four feet of snow fell at the ski area in the Elkhorn Mountains.

The weather offered only a brief respite for the beleaguered plow drivers as they prepared the ski area for its opening Thursday

morning, Feb. 18. Snow tapered off late Wednesday, but the latest storm arrived Thursday and added another half a foot or so to

the ski area's base.

Anthony Lakes is open Thursday through Sunday.

On Wednesday afternoon the ski area, via its website, asked visitors who were planning to drive up the mountain that day and stay overnight in their RVs to wait until Thursday morning to give workers time to push the snow out of parking areas.

Johnson said he's never seen so much snow fall in one week during his decade as general manager.

The weather pattern during that period illustrated the sometimes dramatic differences between what happens in the mountains and in the valleys.

Although several inches of snow also fell in Baker City on Monday, Feb.

15, the snow there all but stopped by late that day.

But snow continued to fall, heavily at times, at Anthony Lakes on Tuesday and Wednesday. And on the road and parking lots, of course.

The same pattern pummeled other mountain areas, including the northern Blues around

Tollgate, with lots of snow over the same period.

The official snow-measuring station nearest Anthony Lakes is an automated device in a meadow about half a mile east of the ski area itself. That station, which reports snow depth at midnight each day, recorded 43 inches of snow at the start of Thursday, Feb. 11.

During the next seven days, concluding at the start of Feb. 18, the snow depth increased to 79 inches — a total of 36 inches.

Another station, in the northern Blues near Tollgate, recorded similar totals for the week. There the snow depth rose from 47 inches early on Feb. 11 to 90 inches the morning of Feb. 17 — 43 total inches in six days. At Schneider Meadows, in the southern Wallowa Mountains north of Halfway, the snow depth increased from 68 to 88 inches. Two sites at the southwest corner of the Wallows both measured about 30 inches of new snow over the past week.

New breast cancer support group provides resources, information

By **RONALD BOND**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — A new local breast cancer support group had its first meeting Tuesday, Feb. 16, with a goal of providing resources, information and backing for those in Wallowa County and the surrounding area who have dealt with breast cancer or had a mastectomy.

The group was put into place after two local health care providers — Wallowa Memorial Hospital Occupational Therapist Angela Mart, and Dawn Haskett, CNA2 and referral coordinator for Wallowa Memorial Medical Clinic and Dr. Kenneth Rose — responded to a need.

"It became pretty clear pretty quickly (with) the

number of folks we see, there were questions being asked that could have been directed to other specialties and specialists," Haskett said. "I felt like there was a need for some support for this population of folks, whether it be breast cancer, mastectomy patients (or) male breast-issue patients."

Haskett approached Rose about the idea, then spoke to Mart, who said similar information was being sought by her patients.

"In working with women, I feel like I saw a need, women asking questions and asking (for) information, and a support group bringing them all together seemed like an appropriate idea," said Mart, who in her role as an

occupational therapist provides education for women following a mastectomy and exercises to strengthen them following the surgery.

"We took this to the hospital and asked the clinical and hospital leadership to move forward, and that is the root for the support group," Haskett said.

The meetings, which will take place every third Tuesday of the month at Wallowa Memorial Hospital, will include a guest speaker, but the hope is that the roughly 90-minute sessions are organic in nature.

"We want to provide resources, mostly, right off the top," Haskett said. "These ladies need a lot of resources. Transportation, medication management, the ability to reach out to

occupational therapy, the ability to coordinate care in other states and counties. . . . The rest of the meeting should be spent independently for those people to share, talk about milestones, challenges, how to resolve those, sharing resources, all those things."

"We are the initial facilitator and we want them to run with it," Mart added.

Resources and information about prosthetics, counseling, compression garments, and even wigs and other personal aesthetic items also are included.

Haskett said she has sent information to about a dozen women for the start of the group. What those people share, though, will be more impactful than the number of people who take

part — and will help further shape what the group becomes.

"I think we're going to see various different stories that are going to occur as these ladies and some men at some point become part of the group," she said. "I think their stories are going to vary and we are going to identify different things we don't know about."

Mart added they don't want to limit the group members to just the extreme northeast corner of the state.

"We want to make this group available to women inside and outside of Wallowa County," she said.

She also said work is being done by her, Haskett and WMH Communications Director Brooke Pace

on an informative booklet "that will be available to men and women going through the breast cancer experience. It'll be kind of a guide and give them information about the process, questions they might ask a doctor, exercises, (and) it'll have a resource section about compression garments, prosthetics (and) wigs."

The group meets at 6 p.m. every third Tuesday. For more information, or to register for a meeting, contact Haskett at 541-426-7919. Due to social distancing guidelines, the meetings will be limited to about eight people in-person. Those who register beyond that number will be added to the meeting virtually.