

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Saturday April 3, the 93rd day of 2021. There are 272 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On April 3, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. delivered what turned out to be his final speech, telling a rally of striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, that "I've been to the mountaintop" and "seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land!" (About 20 hours later, King was felled by an assassin's bullet at the Lorraine Motel.)

ON THIS DATE:

In 1860, the legendary Pony Express began carrying mail between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. (The delivery system lasted only 18 months before giving way to the transcontinental telegraph.)

In 1865, Union forces occupied the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia.

In 1882, outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Missouri, by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.

In 1936, Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, New Jersey, for the kidnap-murder of Charles Lindbergh Jr.

In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Smith v. Allwright*, struck down a Democratic Party of Texas rule that allowed only white voters to participate in Democratic primaries.

In 1946, Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, the Japanese commander held responsible for the Bataan Death March, was executed by firing squad outside Manila.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Marshall Plan, designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist communism.

In 1973, the first handheld portable telephone was demonstrated for reporters on a New York City street corner as Motorola executive Martin Cooper called Joel S. Engel of Bell Labs.

In 1996, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski was arrested at his remote Montana cabin.

In 2005, a day after the death of Pope John Paul II, the body of the pontiff lay in state. Millions prayed and wept at services across the globe, as the Vatican prepared for the ritual-filled funeral and conclave that would choose a successor.

Police chase ends with arrest of wanted man

By ALEX WITTWER

The Observer

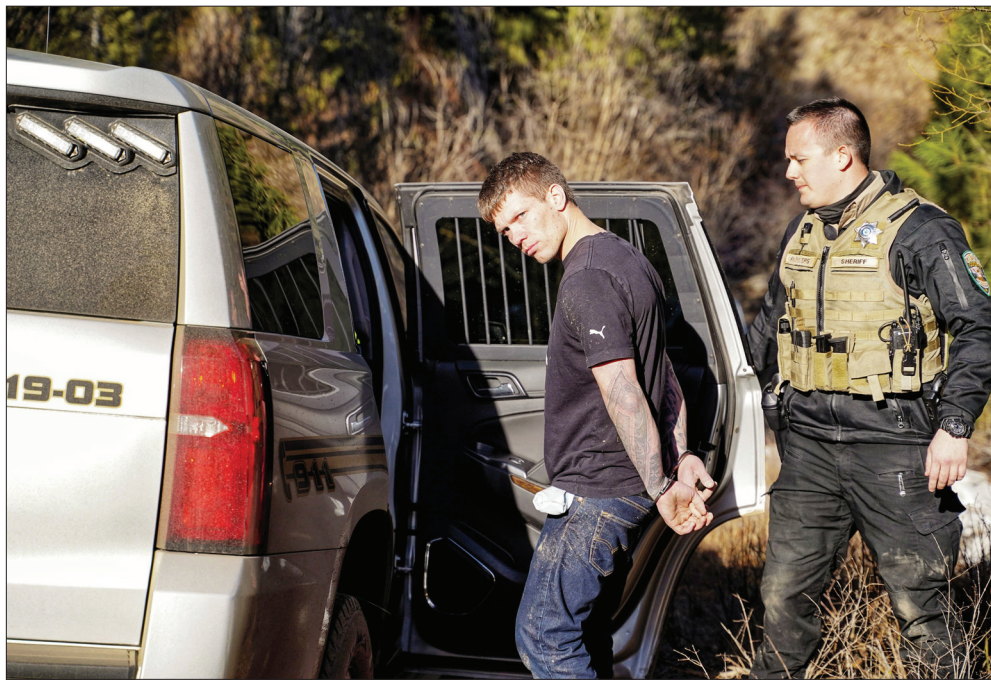
LA GRANDE — The Union County Sheriff's Office trapped a local man Wednesday afternoon, March 31, on a narrow road while he was trying to flee during a car chase.

Cody Trace Hamlin, 30, of La Grande, now is in the Union County Correctional Facility, La Grande, on multiple charges.

The pursuit began a little after 4 p.m. Wednesday, after a deputy spotted Hamlin, who had warrants for his arrest, and tried to stop the BMW he was driving for traffic violations along Adams Avenue in La Grande, according to the sheriff's office.

The car failed to yield to the deputy's lights and sirens, and the chase was on, reaching more than 50 mph down Second Street.

Upon reaching the fairgrounds, Hamlin drove up



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Union County sheriff's deputy Dale Flowers guides Cody Hamlin into the back of a police vehicle following his arrest Wednesday, March 31, 2021, on Robbs Hill Road near La Grande. Hamlin led deputies on a car chase through a residential neighborhood in La Grande before his capture.

Fox Hill Road and ran out of escape routes, as much of the area remained cov-

ered in snow, leaving the only option to continue on Robbs Hill Road.

The sheriff's office reported that deputies continued the pursuit down

New assistant principals coming to LMS, Central

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande School District is set to add a pair of new assistant principals.

The school district has announced Chelsea Hurliman, now vice principal at Baker High School, will become the next assistant principal at La Grande Middle School and Jennifer Melendez, dean of students at Elmhurst Elementary School in Tacoma, Washington, will be the next assistant principal at Central Elementary School.

Hurliman will succeed Chris Wagner at the middle school. Wagner will become the school's new principal July 1 after Kyle McKinney, who has worked

there as principal the past 14 years, retires.

Melendez will succeed Monica West at Central. West was earlier named Central's next principal. West will succeed Suzy Mayes who is retiring. Mayes has been Central's principal since the fall of 2014.

Melendez was a elementary instructional coach, an English language development teacher and coach and a summer program administrator before taking her current position.

La Grande School District Superintendent George Mendoza in a press release welcomed both Hurliman and Melendez to the district.



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Stacy Green, director of the Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation, talks with a donor while members of the foundation board wait with gifts of flowers and cupcakes Thursday, March 18, 2021, during the foundation's Circle 100 fundraiser.

Umatilla National Forest plans projects through Great American Outdoors Act

The Observer

PENDLETON — The Umatilla National Forest is implementing two projects this year thanks to funding from the Great American Outdoors Act.

The USDA Forest Service recently announced the investment of up to \$40 million for 29 projects on national forests in Oregon and Washington to fund Great American Outdoors Act projects that will address critical deferred maintenance and improve transportation and recreation infrastructure. The two projects on the Umatilla National Forest will enhance safety and visitor access.

The Burnt Cabin Trail Bridge Replacement on the Walla Walla Ranger District is 6 miles up the South Fork Walla Walla trail at the junction of the Burnt Cabin

Trail No. 3226. The bridge was built 25 years ago with native log stringers that have deteriorated.

Due to safety concerns with the structure's stability, the Forest Service closed access across the bridge in 2017. The flooding in 2020 also damaged the bridge and led to its removal. The Great American Outdoors Act funding will provide for the replacement of the bridge, restoring access to this popular trail.

The second project is the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway Chip Seal on the North Fork John Day Ranger District. This is to repair 33.6 miles of existing road on a popular 145-mile route that travels from near Arlington to Granite. This road also is a major portal to both the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National

Forests, offering numerous opportunities for scenic views and recreation. The deferred maintenance on this portion of the road will reduce risk to public safety and extend the life of this scenic route for 10-20 years.

This funding is part of a \$285 million investment on national forests through the newly created National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, which the Great American Outdoors Act established in 2020. The funds will allow the Forest Service to implement more than 500 infrastructure improvement projects nationwide.

For more information on these projects in the Pacific Northwest region, visit the regional GAOA website.

Additional information about the Umatilla National Forest is available at www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla.

Group seeks to raise money for cardiovascular monitors

By BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation's Circle 100 fundraiser on Thursday, March 18, brought in nearly \$10,000. The money will go toward new wireless cardiovascular monitors for Wallowa Memorial Hospital, foundation Director Stacy Green said the following day.

She said the new monitors are a marked improvement over the current models.

"In the old days, you had to be hooked up to heavy equipment in a hospital bed," Green said. "Now you're not glued to a bed and you're free to roam. There are more bells and whistles to look at heart and respiratory functions."

She said the goal of

this year's fundraiser is \$20,000, which would enable the foundation to purchase two monitors. Although only halfway there, she said she expected more donations to come during the next three to four weeks.

"We're closing in on \$10,000," Green said. "People are continuing to give, so \$20,000 is not out of reach."

Donors are asked to give checks of \$100 and receive a membership in the foundation. The Wallowa Memorial Hospital Auxiliary was the largest single donor, giving \$2,000 as the group has done the past several years.

The youngest donor was 9-year-old Kallie Michaelson, who collected cans to recycle and made and sold "friendship bracelets" to raise \$50. Her mother, Jessie Michaelson,

matched Kallie's donation with another \$50, Green said.

She said the foundation received 60 checks in the mail and another 35 individuals came to the drive-thru fundraiser held in downtown Enterprise. The drive-thru fundraiser was a departure from the foundation's usual in-person, annual meeting at the hospital given the restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decade-old foundation has raised money each year for the hospital to purchase a wide variety of equipment. Last year, the foundation raised \$17,500 for a new and improved baby incubator.

"We appreciate all the women who came by and the couple of men whose wives could not make it and dropped off checks," Green said.

Survey shows rural-urban divide in Oregon over remote working

49 questions asked how COVID-19 could permanently change workplaces in Oregon

By SUZANNE ROIG

The Bulletin

BEND — Residents of rural areas think working from home is temporary and as soon as the threat of the pandemic ends, everyone will return to the office.

What's more likely to occur is increased flex time, where work is split between the office and home, said Dan McCarthy, High Lakes Health Care regional administrator. Post-pandemic, McCarthy said, the company that employs about 350 people throughout Central Oregon will still have remote workers.

"We found that a hybrid approach that balances work from home with office hours is something that will

be here to stay," McCarthy said. "I believe there is something lost when working virtually 100% of the time."

Working from home misses checking in with each other, developing a sense of community and the dynamic interaction of problem-solving, he said. Virtual platforms just don't cut it.

McCarthy's views mirror about 601 people who were surveyed March 5-10 as part of the Oregon Values and Voices project, a non-partisan charitable organization that partnered with Pamplin Media Group, EO Media Group, which owns The Bulletin and The Observer, and the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

The survey con-

sisted of 49 questions sent to a random sample about changes caused by COVID-19 that will become permanent in Oregon. This is the second such survey orchestrated by the group on the effects of COVID-19.

In one question, 47% of the people who live in rural Oregon say they felt working from home was only temporary, compared to 37% in the Willamette Valley and tri-county area around Portland who said it's temporary. Since workers in urban and suburban communities are more likely affected by congestion, their commute

times are longer, making working from home more attractive, said Adam Davis, Oregon Values and Beliefs Center co-founder.

"As a result of the coronavirus and how it has affected life at home and employment, a strong majority of Oregonians feel more of us in the future will work from home," Davis said. "This feeling is shared across all population subgroups with many feeling the change will be permanent."

Cheri Rosenberg, Pendleton Chamber of Commerce CEO, said the small-town feel has created a tight

bond between employee and employer. The population of Pendleton, according to U.S. Census Bureau's most current estimates, is 16,733.

"Because we tend to have a more personal relationship between our employers and employees, it's a conversation we are able to have," Rosenberg said in an email. "For those who are able and prefer to work from home, those steps are being taken. For those who are ready to get back into the office, those steps are being taken there as well."

"We're able to have the best of both worlds due to the ability to be very open and candid with one another."

In the survey, 33% of those ages 45-64 said the ability to work from home was temporary, compared to 53% in the same age

group that thought working from home was permanent. And 64% of those who earned more than \$100,000 a year said they believed working from home would become permanent, compared to 28%, earning the same amount, who said it would be temporary.

The survey's margin of error, for the full sample, ranges from 2.4% to 4% depending on how the response category percentages are split for any given question, according to the survey authors.

Katy Brooks, Bend Chamber of Commerce CEO, said she's seen the data play out during this past year.

But Bend is a city with a high percentage of remote workers given that Bend has a low inventory of office space and employees appear to like the flexibility of working from home.