

TODAY

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 10, the 222nd day of 2021. There are 143 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY

On August 10, 1993, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was sworn in as the second female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

ON THIS DATE

In 1821, Missouri became the 24th state.

In 1861, Confederate forces routed Union troops in the Battle of Wilson's Creek in Missouri, the first major engagement of the Civil War west of the Mississippi River.

In 1944, during World War II, American forces overcame remaining Japanese resistance on Guam.

In 1945, a day after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Imperial Japan conveyed its willingness to surrender provided the status of Emperor Hirohito remained unchanged.

In 1969, Leno and Rosemary LaBianca were murdered in their Los Angeles home by members of Charles Manson's cult, one day after actor Sharon Tate and four other people were slain.

In 1977, postal employee David Berkowitz was arrested in Yonkers, New York, accused of being "Son of Sam," the gunman who killed six people and wounded seven others in the New York City area. (Berkowitz is serving six consecutive 25-years-to-life sentences.)

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a measure providing \$20,000 payments to still-living Japanese-Americans who were interned by their government during World War II.

In 1991, nine Buddhists were found slain at their temple outside Phoenix, Arizona. (Two teenagers were later arrested; one was sentenced to life in prison, while the other received 281 years.)

In 1995, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were charged with 11 counts in the Oklahoma City bombing. McVeigh was convicted of murder and executed; Nichols was sentenced to life in prison.

In 2006, British authorities announced they had thwarted a terrorist plot to simultaneously blow up 10 aircraft heading to the U.S. using explosives smuggled in hand luggage.

In 2019, Jeffrey Epstein, accused of orchestrating a sex-trafficking ring and sexually abusing dozens of underage girls, was found unresponsive in his cell at a New York City jail; he was later pronounced dead at a hospital. (The city's medical examiner ruled the death a suicide by hanging.)

Ten years ago: Marine Corps Gen. John Allen, the top American commander in Afghanistan, said international forces had slain the Taliban insurgents responsible for shooting down a U.S. helicopter, killing 30 Americans and seven Afghan commandos.

Five years ago: During a raucous campaign rally outside Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Republican Donald Trump accused President Barack Obama of being the "founder" of the Islamic State group. (Trump later said he was "being sarcastic" before adding, "but not that sarcastic, to be honest with you.")

One year ago: According to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University, the confirmed number of coronavirus cases worldwide had reached 20 million; the number had doubled in a little more than six weeks.

LOTTERY

Friday, Aug. 6, 2021
MegaMillions

9-18-40-46-69

Megaball: 9

Megaplier: 2

Jackpot: \$208 million

Lucky Lines

1-7-12-14-19-23-28-32

Jackpot: \$50,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 2-0-3-5

4 p.m.: 9-3-7-4

7 p.m.: 8-2-0-2

10 p.m.: 3-1-0-0

Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021

Powerball

7-24-36-54-60

Powerball: 23

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$241 million

Megabucks

20-28-30-34-35-41

Jackpot: \$1.5 million

Lucky Lines

4-8-11-16-19-24-25-29

Jackpot: \$51,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 2-0-6-4

4 p.m.: 3-1-8-3

7 p.m.: 8-4-1-8

10 p.m.: 7-9-0-9

Win for Life

4-6-37-69

Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021

Lucky Lines

4-7-12-14-17-23-26-30

Estimated jackpot: \$52,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 5-1-8-7

4 p.m.: 1-2-8-1

7 p.m.: 9-4-3-9

10 p.m.: 2-4-8-0

Commission approves purchase of new property for Minam River Wildlife Area

The Observer

SALEM — The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved the purchase of nearly 5,000 acres of land along the Minam River on Friday, Aug. 6, according to a press release.

The purchase, the release said, is part of Phase I of a project that will eventually create an expanded 15,000-acre Minam River Wildlife Area.

ODFW, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Hancock Natural Resource Group are partnering on the a project to purchase property in Wallowa and Union counties along the Minam River. The move will permanently protect crucial big game winter range and provide habitat for salmon, bull trout and Oregon Conservation Strategy Species including white-headed woodpecker, Rocky Mountain tailed frog and several priority bat species.

Located about 30 miles northeast of La Grande, the property is currently managed by Hancock Natural Resource Group with a recent appraised value of \$18.7 million. The final purchase price will be determined by updated appraisals, the release said. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has committed



Keith Kohl/Contributed Photo

The expanded Minam River Wildlife Area will protect habitat and provide outdoor recreational opportunities along the Minam River in Northeastern Oregon.

a minimum of \$5.15 million apportioned to both phases. Phase I funding came from RMEF and the Wildlife Restoration Program, a federal excise tax on guns and ammunition.

Completing Phase II is contingent on securing additional funding through a USDA Forest Legacy program grant, which will be matched with RMEF funds to purchase the remaining 10,964 acres.

Oregon Hunters Association, the Oregon chapter of Four North American Wild Sheep and other organizations are also contributing funds toward the purchase.

The properties will be added to ODFW's current 440-acre Minam River Wildlife Area, turning it into one of the state's major wildlife areas providing wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities. Future management will be determined through the adoption of a Wildlife Area Management Plan.

Managers envision the property as a "working landscape" where livestock grazing and active forest management assist with habitat management goals. ODFW will continue to pay fire protection and in-lieu of property taxes

for parcels in each respective county.

Recreation opportunities on the new property could include hunting, fishing, hiking, bird-watching, horseback riding, kayaking and other activities. A footbridge over the Minam River is being considered to facilitate improved public access to the historic Minam River Trail, which travels for 6 miles through the property. The trail connects recreationists to the Wallowa Mountains and Eagle Cap Wilderness in the neighboring National Forest.

Hotter weather predicted for region

Air quality also expected to decline in coming days

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — A high pressure system is set to move over the Northwest, one that will bring higher temperatures with it.

This has prompted the National Weather Service to issue an excessive heat watch for Northeastern Oregon that will be in effect from Wednesday, Aug. 11, through Saturday, Aug. 14. Predicted high temperatures of the heat event will be 95 degrees on Aug. 11 and 97 degrees Aug. 12 in La Grande, and 91 degrees on Aug. 11 and 94 degrees on Aug. 12 in

Enterprise, according to the National Weather Service's forecast.

The heat wave may hit its peak on Aug. 13 when the high temperature is projected to be close to 100 degrees in La Grande and 96 degrees in Enterprise. Temperatures will trail off only slightly on Aug. 14 when La Grande's high will be near 99 degrees and the top mark in Enterprise will be 96, according to the National Western Service.

The high pressure system that will be responsible for the elevated temperatures is now moving into the Northwest from the Pacific Ocean. It will replace a low pressure system expected to soon move into the Midwest, according to Ann Adams, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service

in Pendleton.

"The high pressure system will be like a dome that will keep all of the heat and particulate matter in," Adams said.

The "dome's" anticipated containment of particulate matter is why the National Weather Service is also forecasting widespread haze in the Grande Ronde and Wallowa valleys in the upcoming four days.

"It will be very hot and smoky," Adams said.

Much of the smoke that will be trapped here by the high pressure system will be from wildfires in Central Oregon, Northern California, Southeastern Washington and Idaho.

"We are surrounded," said Matt Callihan, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Pendleton.

The smoke will have

a negative impact on air quality. +IQAIR, an air quality monitoring website, is forecasting the air quality in La Grande will be in the moderate category with a rating of 57 on Aug. 10 but on Aug. 11 it will rise to 103, putting it at a level that is unsafe for sensitive groups, including those who have respiratory problems.

The +IQAIR forecast for Enterprise is similar to La Grande's. It is predicted to be moderate on Aug. 10 at 69 and rise to 106 on Aug. 11.

Callihan said that air quality in Northeastern Oregon had improved recently because westerly winds were blowing smoke out of the region to the east. The incoming high pressure system, he said, will block such winds and cause smoky air to sink into the region.

NEWS BRIEFS

Local Oregon Trail segment honored

LA GRANDE — The National Park Service recently inducted the La Grande to Hilgard segment of the Oregon Trail into the National Register of Historic Places.

The trail segment was one of two local nominations submitted in late June by the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation. The other nomination was a document detailing the history of the Oregon Trail and instructions for future national historic nominations along the Oregon Trail.

The committee had been working on the nomination for the trail segment since 2018, according to Robert Olguin, National Register program coordinator for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

However, the segment nomination could not be submitted until the document was also completed, which had been in the works since 2012.

"There's a few reasons it took so long," Olguin said. "There has been staffing issues, with turnover, and there's no specific timeline for submitting these. And also, several times, the National Park Service would get a draft and send it back for revisions."

The La Grande to Hilgard trail segment, which extends for 3.6 miles, is one section of the Oregon Trail that still has physical evidence of the original trail. The trail follows a stream before reaching a steep incline, one of the steepest sections of the trail in Oregon, according to a

statement from the Oregon Parks and Rec department. The trail was originally used by passenger stagecoaches and freighters carrying mining equipment, food and agricultural materials and other commodities, the statement said.

Highway construction to continue this week

LA GRANDE — Construction on Interstate 84 outside of La Grande continued on Monday, Aug. 9. Crews will be grinding and excavating the right lane westbound between mileposts 237.5 and 241.5 to repave the section.

This work is part of the Oregon Department of Transportation's larger project to completely reconstruct the 4-mile section. The eastbound portion was completed three weeks ago and the westbound will be finished by the end of October, according to Mike Remily, ODOT's resident engineer in La Grande.

Crews will also be working to install a drain system and bridge work at Exit 238.

The speed limit through the work zone remains at 50 mph. There are no anticipated delays, Remily said.

On several sections of I-84, other workers will be repairing and installing linings in culverts underneath the interstate.

These lining repairs should be finished by Aug. 12, and will take place near mileposts 207.76 westbound and 228.29 westbound, according to an ODOT statement.

During construction near these

mileposts, there will be intermittent shoulder closures.

Construction work on Highway 244 will continue through the week of Aug. 9, mainly on the new retaining wall 12 miles west of I-84 between mileposts 35.5 and 36.2.

The 300-foot-long wall should be finished by Aug. 13, according to Remily. After completing the wall, crews will install guardrails, repave and stripe the road, which has an expected completion date of Sept. 6.

Flaggers and temporary traffic signals will be controlling traffic, which can expect delays up to 15 minutes.

OTEC invites residents to celebrate 811 day

BAKER CITY — The Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, which supplies electricity to 60,000 residents across Eastern Oregon, is inviting residents to celebrate 811 Day on Wednesday, Aug. 11, according to a press release.

811 Day is a yearly event to remind residents to call 811 before starting any digging, construction or excavation projects.

"Many OTEC member-owners have taken advantage of their free time the last year by focusing on home improvement projects like installing a new mailbox, planting a tree, or building the patio deck of their dreams. However, the simplest of at-home projects can take a turn for the worst if homeowners forget one very important step — to call 811 before they dig," the release said.

— The Observer

WALLOWA COUNTY

Shooting range expands its buildings

Eagle Cap Shooters breaks ground on new facility

By BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The Eagle Cap Shooters are making progress on a new multipurpose education center at their shooting range north of Enterprise, thanks to a \$50,000 grant last month from the National Rifle Association Foundation.

The group broke ground shortly after receiving the grant, according to Bill Oliver, president of the Eagle Cap Shooters Association, which owns the property and buildings at the range. He said they hoped to have the building completed by Sept. 11, when a precision rifle event called Border Wars will be held at the range to commemorate 9/11.

Oliver emphasized that virtually all the construction work was done with donated labor, although the shooters covered the cost of materials.

"We've had tremendous community support," he said.

Educational mission

Two similarly named groups are involved with the range — the association, and the Eagle Cap Shooters Educational Alliance. The latter was created as a nonprofit organization to receive donations for the range.

"The alliance has an educational mission," said Stephen Wolfe, president of the alliance. "We are a 501(c)(3) so we can get the grants and fund these projects for the association."

A new education center is planned that will be 40 feet by 60 feet with 20-by-40-foot porches on each end, Oliver said. He said the county — in the building permit application — valued the building at about \$350,000, but with the donations of both money and the work of local contractors, the cost won't be near that amount.

Uses of the building

The new, fully-enclosed building is expected to be a place for firearms-related classes, as well as the possibility of air-rifle shooting, archery and possibly trap shooting off one of the porches, Wolfe said. They also hope to have catering so those participating in activities at the new building can eat, said John Straughan, secretary of the association's board of directors.

Mike Teece, the group's Hunter Education instructor with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, is looking forward to having a single place to hold classes.

"I've been teaching out of the American Legion in Joseph, out of the Baptist Church in Joseph and out of the VFW (in Enterprise)," he said. "I've been teaching out of all these different places. It's nice to finally have a place here and have all the materials right here."

He also looks forward to having the range right outside the classroom. Once the students get through the coursework, they can hit the range.

"They'll see how proficient they are and how well they handle the firearm," said Teece, who also is a certified instructor with rifle, pistol and shotgun, and a range safety officer.

He noted that state law requires everyone younger than 18 to complete Hunter Safety before getting a hunting license.