

## TODAY

Today is Saturday, Aug. 14, the 226th day of 2021. There are 139 days left in the year.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY

On August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law.

## ON THIS DATE

In 1848, the Oregon Territory was created.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued the Atlantic Charter, a statement of principles that renounced aggression.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II.

In 1948, the Summer Olympics in London ended; they were the first Olympic games held since 1936.

In 1973, U.S. bombing of Cambodia came to a halt.

In 1975, the cult classic movie musical "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," starring Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon and Barry Bostwick, had its world premiere in London.

In 1980, workers went on strike at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, Poland, in a job action that resulted in creation of the Solidarity labor movement.

In 1992, the White House announced that the Pentagon would begin emergency airlifts of food to Somalia to alleviate mass deaths by starvation.

In 1995, Shannon Faulkner officially became the first female cadet in the history of The Citadel, South Carolina's state military college. (However, Faulkner quit the school less than a week later, citing the stress of her court fight, and her isolation among the male cadets.)

In 1997, Timothy McVeigh was formally sentenced to death for the Oklahoma City bombing. (McVeigh was executed by lethal injection in 2001.)

In 2009, Charles Manson follower Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, 60, convicted of trying to assassinate President Gerald Ford in 1975, was released from a Texas prison hospital after more than three decades behind bars.

In 2015, the Stars and Stripes rose over the newly reopened U.S. Embassy in Cuba after a half century of often-hostile relations; U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry celebrated the day, but also made an extraordinary, nationally broadcast call for democratic change on the island.

**Ten years ago:** Syria used gunboats for the first time to crush the uprising against Bashar Assad's regime, hammering parts of the Mediterranean coastal city of Latakia after thousands marched there to demand the president's ouster. Keegan Bradley won the PGA Championship after staging a comeback to force a three-hole playoff and beat Jason Dufner.

**Five years ago:** At the Rio Olympics, U.S. swimmer Ryan Lochte and three teammates reported being robbed at gunpoint; police later said the men were not robbed, and instead vandalized a gas station bathroom. Usain Bolt of Jamaica became the first person to win three straight Olympic 100-meter titles, blowing down the straightaway in 9.81 seconds.

**One year ago:** India's coronavirus death toll overtook Britain's to become the fourth-highest in the world after another single-day record increase in cases. New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said the state would move to a nearly all-mail election in November, following the model it used in its July primary. Former Illinois Gov. James Thompson, the state's longest-serving chief executive, died at the age of 84. The U.N. Security Council resoundingly defeated a U.S. resolution to indefinitely extend the U.N. arms embargo on Iran.

## LOTTERY

Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021

Megabucks

9-16-26-36-40-47

Jackpot: \$1.7 million

Lucky Lines

2-5-11-13-18-23-28-31

Estimated jackpot: \$55,000

Powerball

12-18-20-29-30

Powerball: 16

Power Play: 3

Jackpot: \$258 million

Win for Life

16-17-31-68

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 3-4-1-0

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

7 p.m.: 7-6-6-8

10 p.m.: 3-5-8-1

Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021

Lucky Lines

2-7-10-16-18-22-28-30

Jackpot: \$56,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 5-0-3-6

4 p.m.: 1-3-1-6

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

10 p.m.: 8-2-1-6

# Union School Board adopts plan for COVID-19 protocols

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The Observer

UNION — Union School Board members had their backs against the wall during the board's monthly meeting.

Faced with government mask mandates that yield potential fines to the district and a group of parents against the mandate, there was little room for compromise.

The board met for its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 11, to adopt its Ready Schools, Safe Learners Plan for the 2021-22 school year. Attended by parents and community members against the recent statewide mask mandates, the meeting provided a give-and-take between two groups both in support of what they believe is best for kids in the school district.

"I think this year has been a lot for all of us," Union School District Superintendent Carter Wells told the crowd.

That sentiment rang true in the Union School District athletic facility, as approximately 50 people attended the meeting in favor of making masks optional. The audience expressed a desire to return to normal, while the board weighed the repercussions and safety risks.

During the work session prior to the regular meeting, board member Dennis Falk announced his resignation amid the mask controversy and exited the building. He encouraged a strike against the government



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

**Demonstrators display signs before the Union School Board's meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021. Approximately 50 people gathered to attend the meeting, with some objecting to the statewide mask requirement in schools.**

mandates as he walked out.

Demonstrators met outside before the meeting and raised their concerns during the public comment portion of the meeting.

"We're hurting our kids in a way that will be hard to recover from," said one concerned citizen.

Just when the pandemic seemed to be going away, a spike in COVID-19 cases has brought back mask mandates and protocols across the state. In accordance with Gov. Kate Brown's directive mandating mask usage for students this fall, the Union School Board adopted its safety plan and will require masks in indoor settings.

The board members attempted to level with the audience, noting the

potential fines and loss of teaching licenses are avoided. Failure to implement the mask mandate can result in a \$500 fine per student and teachers can lose their license for lack of enforcing the rule. School board member Jocelyn Jones stated that students in classrooms with masks on is a better alternative to online schooling.

"I truly believe that in the best place for kids is in the classroom," she said.

About 10 people in attendance spoke during the meeting, explaining various reasons they were opposed to the mask mandates. Blake Bars, a member of the Union County Freedom Alliance who organized the demonstration, questioned the governor's authority to pass down these man-

dates and voiced what he viewed as constitutional violations.

Another parent in attendance stated that parents know what is best for their children, not the government.

A brief back-and-forth between school board officials and audience members outside of the public comment period created a tense moment in the meeting. Several in the audience walked out as board member Macey Clark attempted to calm the situation.

Despite the opposition from those in attendance, the Union School Board voted unanimously to adopt the plan.

School board meetings in La Grande on Aug. 4 and in Imbler Aug. 12 also drew protests against the mask mandate.

# Heat wave to end after weekend

Slightly cooler weather in forecast for first of the week

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The heat wave Northeastern Oregon is experiencing is projected to peak Saturday, Aug. 14, and end almost abruptly Aug. 16.

The National Weather Service's forecast is based upon the projected movement of a high pressure system responsible for the current heat wave, one expected to remain in

place through Aug. 15.

"A new weather system should be moving in," said Vincent Papol, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's office in Pendleton.

The National Weather Service's forecast calls for high temperatures of 99 degrees on Aug. 14, 98 degrees Aug. 15 and 88 degrees Aug. 16 in La Grande. The highs for Enterprise are forecast to be 94 degrees Aug. 14 and Aug. 15 and 85 on Aug. 16.

La Grande and Enterprise are expected to continue to have cooler temperatures in the coming

week. La Grande should have a high on Aug. 17 of 80, followed by highs of 82 on Aug. 18 and 86 on Aug. 19, according to the National Weather Service.

Enterprise's high on Aug. 17 is projected to be 77 and should be followed by highs of 78 on Aug. 18 and 81 on Aug. 19.

The heat wave Northeastern Oregon is now experiencing started on Aug. 11 after the present high pressure system moved in from the Pacific Ocean. The high pressure system has been keeping warm air in the region.

The high pressure system has also been trap-

ping smoke from wildfires from throughout the Northwest and Northern California, creating hazy conditions in the Grande Ronde and Wallowa valleys. This smoke should be leaving the region as the new weather system comes in.

"It will scour it out," Papol said.

Clearing out smoke will have a positive impact on local air quality. The website +iQAir, an air quality monitoring website, is projecting that La Grande and Enterprise will have moderate air quality levels on Aug. 14 and Aug. 15 and good levels on Aug. 16.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Lost hiker rescued near Moss Springs

COVE — A lost hiker in the Moss Springs area was rescued by Union County Search and Rescue this past Sunday, Aug. 8.

Union County Search and Rescue partnered with the Oregon Department of Forestry to use a fire recon aircraft in the search for the missing person.

Search and Rescue volunteer Willy Crippen began the pursuit and aided the search teams in locating the hiker. Butler Aircraft, a company that contracts with ODF and other government agencies, operated the flight.

According to Union County Search and Rescue member Fred Hawkins, the lost hiker was able to hike high enough to get cell service and alert friends that she needed assistance. The two friends were unable to find the hiker, so Search and Rescue teams were contacted.

The woman was found in the Moss Springs area, a campground and set of trails within the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest just above Cove. Hawkins reported that the woman got lost on Saturday afternoon around 1:30 p.m. and was eventually found at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday. The hiker had camping gear with her, which she used for shelter through the night.

ODF heard the information regarding the missing person and

## Multiple-vehicle crash in La Grande



Andrew Cutler/The Observer

Police and medical personnel responded to the scene of a DUII-related crash Friday, Aug. 13, 2021, in La Grande. The crash occurred shortly before noon at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Cherry Street, temporarily closing that portion of Washington Avenue. A Ford-350 pickup was westbound on Washington Avenue when it careened off of three parked, unoccupied vehicles before colliding with a Subaru Outback stopped at the intersection on Cherry Street. The collision knocked the Subaru Outback and its two occupants up over the curb onto the street easement and a portion of the sidewalk. The driver of the Ford-350, Michael Warner of North Powder, was arrested and lodged in the Union County Jail for DUII. Warner and two occupants of the Subaru sustained minor injuries, but no one was transported by ambulance. La Grande Police, Oregon State Police and La Grande Fire responded to the incident. According to La Grande Police, the investigation remains ongoing and additional charges may be filed.

offered their assistance before heading back to work on fire recon. Seven crew members and two civilians combined efforts to find the hiker.

According to Union County Search and Rescue, the hiker was able to make her way to the rescue teams before any harm occurred.

— The Observer

# Imbler board approves guidelines for 2021-22

Community voices opposition to mask mandates

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The Observer

IMBLER — It was a familiar refrain Thursday, Aug. 12, during the Imbler School Board meeting.

"I hear what you're saying," Imbler's interim superintendent Doug Hislop routinely and calmly told a gymnasium full of parents and community members voicing opposition to the recent school mask mandate handed down by Gov. Kate Brown.

While board members attempted to level with a frustrated crowd, little ground was made as they faced a decision on the mandate. The school board ultimately passed its Opening of School Guidelines for the 2021-22 school year, requiring students to wear masks in indoor settings.

"I don't want to throw our teachers under the bus," board member Ken Patterson said. "We're in a really tough spot."

The "tough spot" is the potential fines and loss of licenses handed down from the state for violating the mandate. Schools can be fined \$500 for each student not wearing a mask, while teachers who do not enforce the mandate can potentially lose their teaching license.

The school board's special meeting opened with public comments, with approximately 10 individuals approaching the microphone to speak. Several had recently spoken out during school board meetings in La Grande and Union. Some Imbler parents also voiced concerns and some even announced they would not be sending their kids to school next year if masks were required.

Union School District Superintendent Carter Wells took the microphone, just one day after fielding public comments at the Union School Board meeting. Wells voiced his personal dislike of wearing masks, but emphasized that the community should support and trust Hislop and the board in doing what they can to protect teachers and students.

Following the open comment section, several board members expressed their concerns and oppositions to the mandate rule. Board member Jason Beck encouraged the community to oppose the mandate and suggested that lawyers could get involved to get around the ruling.

This section of the meeting started a lengthy public discussion in which members of the crowd spoke their opinions, with some walking out in apparent disgust after saying their part. Hislop and other board members answered questions and concerns, but little progress was made.

"We have to take a stand," one parent said during the discussion. "If we don't now, who will?"

The major concern of the board members was the loss of license for teachers and fines that could be imposed on the school. An Imbler teacher in the audience stood and said she feared losing her job and facing the repercussions that could come if the district did not follow the mask mandate.

Board members tried to appease individuals in the crowd, but common ground was not to be found. Ultimately, the Imbler School Board passed the mask guidelines, drawing a large walkout from most in attendance.