

TODAY

On Sept. 18, 1975, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was captured by the FBI in San Francisco, 19 months after being kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

In A.D. 14, the Roman Senate officially confirmed Tiberius as the second emperor of the Roman Empire, succeeding the late Augustus.

In 1850, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act, which created a force of federal commissioners charged with returning escaped slaves to their owners.

In 1851, the first edition of The New York Times was published.

In 1927, the Columbia Phonograph Broadcasting System (later CBS) made its on-air debut with a basic network of 16 radio stations.

In 1947, the National Security Act, which created a National Military Establishment and the position of Secretary of Defense, went into effect.

In 1961, United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld was killed in a plane crash in northern Rhodesia.

In 1965, the situation comedies "I Dream of Jeannie" and "Get Smart" premiered on NBC.

In 1970, rock star Jimi Hendrix died in London at age 27.

In 1990, the organized crime drama "GoodFellas," directed by Martin Scorsese, had its U.S. premiere in New York.

In 2001, a week after the Sept. 11 attack, President George W. Bush said he hoped to "rally the world" in the battle against terrorism and predicted that all "people who love freedom" would join. Letters postmarked Trenton, N.J., that later tested positive for anthrax were sent to the New York Post and NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw.

In 2010, despite Taliban rocket strikes and bombings, Afghans voted for a new parliament in the first election since a fraud-marred ballot cast doubt on the legitimacy of the embattled government.

In 2014, voters in Scotland rejected independence, opting to remain part of the United Kingdom in a historic referendum. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews, Scotland, ended years of male-only exclusivity as its members voted overwhelmingly in favor of inviting women to join.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Robert Blake is 88. Gospel singer Bobby Jones is 83. Singer Frankie Avalon is 81. Actor Beth Grant is 72. Rock musician Kerry Livgren is 72. Actor Anna Deavere Smith is 71. Former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, is 70. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Rick Pitino is 69. Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., is 67.

LOTTERY

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021
Megabucks
6-11-15-16-24-46
Jackpot: \$3.2 million

Lucky Lines
3-5-9-13-18-21-25-30
Estimated jackpot: \$21,000

Powerball
1-4-18-46-62
Powerball: 25
Power Play: 3
Jackpot: \$457 million

Win for Life
4-10-34-73

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 0-0-3-2
4 p.m.: 0-4-5-5
7 p.m.: 5-0-8-1
10 p.m.: 8-5-1-3

Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021
Lucky Lines
2-8-11-14-19-21-27-29
Jackpot: \$22,000

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 2-6-4-3
4 p.m.: 6-7-9-1
7 p.m.: 6-3-2-6
10 p.m.: 5-6-6-9

Brickyard Lanes set to open doors

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Bowling is officially back in La Grande. Brickyard Lanes, 1212 Jefferson Ave., will host its opening-day celebration on Saturday, Sept. 18, from 1-9 p.m. The seven-year project transformed the well-worn historic building into a family entertainment center in the heart of downtown La Grande.

"It's been challenge after challenge, but it's going to all be worthwhile," co-owner Michelle Kiesecker said.

The 14,000-square foot building was constructed in 1908 and served many roles over the years: It's been a hotel, mercantile, farm equipment store and, most recently, an Eagles Lodge. Co-owner Darrin Kiesecker, an avid bowler, bought the building with his dad on a whim for \$80,000 in 2013.

After years of repair work and hurdles along the way, the bowling alley is set to open for public use. Brickyard Lanes will eventually contain a full restaurant and bar section, but for now only the bowling alleys are accessible. The crew will be selling snacks and bottled drinks, while Benchwarmers and Local Harvest will be providing alcoholic beverages and pizza. Side A Brewing will be at the bowling alley next weekend, alternating with Benchwarmers until the bar at Brickyard Lanes is fully operational.

The bowling alley has 12 lanes in addition to the upcoming dining area and full bar, plus an arcade area and lottery section.



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Brickyard Lanes' 12 lanes on Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021, await opening day in the newly renovated bowling alley in downtown La Grande.

Brickyard Lanes is currently taking reservations based on half-hour and full-hour time slots, with walk-ins being taken on a first-come, first-served basis. The owners are requesting mask usage indoors when not eating or drinking.

Paying homage to the building's history, the bowling alley is designed with an early 1900s theme. Employee uniforms fit the theme and guests at the opening-day celebration are encouraged to dress accordingly.

"It's about bringing back the past," Michelle Kiesecker said. "Why make it different from what once was?"

Renovations to the

space included repairing the roof, gutting the inside of the building, preserving some of the original brickwork, installing bowling equipment and woodwork throughout the building, and completing exterior work on the windows. The overall project cost has come to roughly \$1.5 million over the seven-year process. Darrin Kiesecker invested years of his own time working on the building himself, with the help of friends when needed.

"You just figure it out with friends you know and use their expertise," Michelle Kiesecker said. "I think it's a true community thing coming together here."

After a lengthy renovation process, the Kieseckers are looking forward to creating a gathering place for the community in the downtown area. The goal for Brickyard Lanes is to create a space that can be enjoyed by all ages, from college students looking for a fun spot downtown to families wanting to bowl together, and the owners are planning to host league competitions down the road, once they establish operations.

"We hope that this just continues to be a beautiful place," Michelle Kiesecker said. "Everyone seems to love the building, so we want to make sure we maintain it for years to come."

NEWS BRIEFS

OHA reports five new COVID-19 deaths in Wallowa County, four during most recent spike

SALEM — The Oregon Health Authority on Thursday, Sept. 16, reported five new COVID-19 deaths in Wallowa County, bringing the total during the pandemic to 11. Four of the deaths were from cases during the most recent surge of the virus, which started in July, and a fifth was from earlier in the year.

The earliest of the five was of a 79-year-old woman who tested positive on April 28 and died May 11. The woman, who had underlying conditions, died at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Lewiston, Idaho, the OHA update said.

The other three deaths came within a week of each other. First was a 69-year-old man who died on Aug. 20, six days after testing positive for COVID-19. It's not yet known if he had underlying conditions.

A day later, on Aug. 21, an 84-year-old man died, also six days after testing positive for the virus. The man had underlying conditions.

Four days later, on Aug. 25, a 56-year-old woman tested positive and died the same day. It's unknown

yet if she had underlying conditions.

Also on Aug. 25, an 86-year-old woman from Wallowa County tested positive and died on Aug. 27. Location of death and presence of underlying conditions are being confirmed by OHA.

The four August deaths are the first reported by OHA in Wallowa County during a spike in cases that has seen roughly 290 people in the county contract the virus in the past two months. On Sept. 16, the OHA reported four new cases of COVID-19, which brings the Wallowa County total to 493.

In Union County, the report showed 31 new confirmed and presumptive cases, bringing the county's total to 310 in September and 2,652 throughout the pandemic.

OHA also reported that 81.3% of the 14,046 reported COVID-19 cases in the last two weeks occurred among people who are unvaccinated. There were 2,632 breakthrough cases from Sept. 1-15.

Five Points Pack injures calf

LA GRANDE — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is confirming wolves from the Five Points Pack is responsible for a recent attack.

A ODFW report says that on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 15, a range manager found an injured, but alive, 7-month-old, 450-pound calf in a large public grazing allotment in the Five Points Creek area of Union County. The calf was trailered to an ODFW office for examination. The calf was estimated to have been injured approximately one week prior to the investigation.

The report said that part of the left hind quarter was shaved and doing the examination more than 40 parallel tooth scrapes up to a quarter inch wide and up to 3 inches long were found on the hindquarters above the hocks. There were also several tooth scrapes up to a quarter inch wide and 2 inches long on the left side of the neck. The location, size, number and direction of tooth scrapes is consistent with wolf attack injuries on calves, according to the report.

The Five Points Pack was designated in 2019 after the previously named OR52 Wolves produced three pups that survived to the end of the year and was counted as a breeding pair. In 2020, the Five Points Pack produced at least four pups that survived to the end of the year and was counted as a breeding pair.

— The Observer

County approves legislative project list

Five projects are on county commissioners' nonprioritized list

By DICK MASON
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Union County Board of Commissioners approved a list Wednesday, Sept. 15, which may go a long way toward shaping the county's future.

The board OK'd a legislative priority project list for state Rep. Bobby Levy, R-Echo, who requested the recommendations. Levy will pick at least one of the five proposed projects to seek funding for during the 2022 legislative session, which starts in February.

The projects the commissioners agreed to place on the list are not prioritized and Levy is being encouraged by the commissioners to select the project she believes has the best chance of getting funded. Her decision will be influenced by what the Legislature will be focusing on at its session, said Union County Commissioner Donna Beverage.

The five projects on the list includes a child care center that would be designed to help working parents in Union County; the building of a new justice center; renovation and expansion of the La Grande/Union County Airport; upgrade work at the Union County Fairgrounds; and the creation of a truck route that would allow truck drivers to circumvent the portion of McAlister Road that runs through a residential and school zone in Island City.

The justice center was added after the commissioners were encouraged to do so by Union County Sheriff Cody Bowen. The sheriff at earlier board meetings told the commissioners that the justice center is needed for several reasons, including a shortage of jail space. Bowen said he would like such a center to have room for a mental health facility. He said this would allow law enforcement officers in some instances to take people who are experiencing a mental health crisis to a place they could receive help rather than to jail.

Union County Commissioner Matt Scarfo said on Sept. 15 he is a strong justice center supporter and would prefer to get state funding for it. He said that without state funding, a bond likely would have to be passed by local voters. Scarfo would prefer to have a justice center built without bond funding since passage of a bond would raise local taxes.

CELEBRATE

La Grande XXVI

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