

TODAY

On Sept. 28, 1920, eight members of the Chicago White Sox were indicted for allegedly throwing the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds. (All were acquitted at trial, but all eight were banned from the game for life.)

In 1066, William the Conqueror invaded England to claim the English throne.

In 1781, American forces in the Revolutionary War, backed by a French fleet, began their successful siege of Yorktown, Va.

In 1787, the Congress of the Confederation voted to send the just-completed Constitution of the United States to state legislatures for their approval.

In 1850, flogging was abolished as a form of punishment in the U.S. Navy.

In 1924, three U.S. Army planes landed in Seattle, having completed the first round-the-world trip by air in 175 days.

In 1928, Scottish medical researcher Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, the first effective antibiotic.

In 1939, during World War II, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed a treaty calling for the partitioning of Poland, which the two countries had invaded.

In 1962, a federal appeals court found Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett in civil contempt for blocking the admission of James Meredith, a Black student, to the University of Mississippi. (Federal marshals escorted Meredith onto the campus two days later.)

In 1991, jazz great Miles Davis died in Santa Monica, Calif., at age 65.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House ending Israel’s military occupation of West Bank cities and laying the foundation for a Palestinian state.

In 2000, capping a 12-year battle, the government approved use of the abortion pill RU-486.

In 2019, voters in Afghanistan went to the polls to elect a president for the fourth time since a U.S.-led coalition ousted the Taliban regime in 2001; the vote was marred by violence, Taliban threats and widespread allegations of mismanagement. (After a series of delays, the country’s independent election commission announced months later that Ashraf Ghani had won a second term as president.)

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Brigitte Bardot is 87. Actor Joel Higgins is 78. Singer Helen Shapiro is 75. Actor Vernee Watson is 72. Movie writer-director-actor John Sayles is 71. Rock musician George Lynch is 67. Zydeco singer-musician C.J. Chenier is 64. Actor Steve Hytner is 62. Actor-comedian Janeane Garofalo is 57. Country singer Matt King is 55. Actor Mira Sorvino is 54. TV personality/singer Moon Zappa is 54. Actor-model Carre Otis is 53. Actor Naomi Watts is 53. Country singer Karen Fairchild (Little Big Town) is 52. Singer/songwriter A.J. Croce is 50. Country singer Mandy Barnett is 46. Rapper Young Jeezy is 44. World Golf Hall of Famer Se Ri Pak is 44. Actor Peter Cambor is 43. Writer-producer-director-actor Bam Margera is 42. Actor Melissa Claire Egan is 40. Actor Jerrika Hinton is 40. Neo-soul musician Luke Mossman (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 40. Pop-rock singer St. Vincent is 39. Comedian/actor Phoebe Robinson is 37. Rock musician Daniel Platzman (Imagine Dragons) is 35.

LOTTERY

Friday, Sept. 24, 2021
Megamillions
17-21-27-43-56
Megaball: 15
Megaplier: 3
Jackpot: \$22 million
Lucky Lines
3-5-11-16-20-21-25-29
Jackpot: \$30,000
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 8-7-4-9
4 p.m.: 8-3-6-4
7 p.m.: 9-3-3-3
10 p.m.: 9-8-3-0
Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021
Powerball
22-23-37-62-63
Powerball: x19
Power Play: 3
Jackpot: \$545 million
Megabucks
14-15-29-39-43-48
Jackpot: \$3.6 million
Lucky Lines
2-5-10-16-19-23-28-32
Jackpot: \$31,000
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 5-3-6-5
4 p.m.: 8-0-5-7
7 p.m.: 5-6-5-1
10 p.m.: 5-1-4-9
Win for Life
21-22-48-72
Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021
Lucky Lines
3-8-10-14-18-22-25-31
Estimated jackpot: \$10,000
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 9-1-7-0
4 p.m.: 1-3-3-6
7 p.m.: 0-0-2-4
10 p.m.: 5-3-1-1

‘It has been overwhelming but exciting’

North Powder women turning pillowcases into dresses for girls in need

By DICK MASON
The Observer

NORTH POWDER — Linda Dixon received some unexpected news early this month when she rode her bike to the North Powder post office to pick up her mail. Dixon was told she had received five packages that were so big she would have to come back with her car to get them. Dixon did not know that this was the start of something big — very big.

The five packages were filled with pillowcases. They had been mailed to Dixon in response to a small ad that appeared in the September issue of Ruralite magazine, published by Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative. The four sentence ad, submitted by Dixon, asked people to send donated pillowcases to her so that they could be made into dresses for girls in Africa who are in need. Dixon did not anticipate a big response to the ad.

“I thought we would get 30 or 40 pillowcases,” she said.

Since the Ruralite ad appeared, people have sent 451 pillowcases to Dixon.

“It has been overwhelming but exciting,” she said.

The biggest single contributor was the Target Cooperation, which sent 37 pillowcases. Target, which is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, operates about 1,800 retail stores in the United States.

Personal donations of pillowcases have arrived from throughout the Northwest plus Arizona and California. Many



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Barbara Campbell stitches a pillowcase into a dress at the Wolf Creek Grange Hall in North Powder on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021. Eight volunteers worked to create dozens of dresses over the course of the day from donated pillowcases, with the goal of sending the dresses to girls in Africa.



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Volunteers at the Wolf Creek Grange Hall in North Powder on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021, work to make donated pillowcases into dresses to be sent to girls in Africa.

of the donations have striking artistic features and are hand embroidered.

“They make beautiful dresses,” Dixon said.

Thirty-five of the pillowcases were made into dresses on Wednesday, Sept. 22, by Dixon and seven volunteers at a sewing bee, the first of many to be conducted for the project. The women who are sewing the dresses, in addition to Dixon, include Wynn Nielsen, Carol Bouchard, Cecilia Lovely, Kay Patterson, Barbara Campbell, Sherry Hart and Dottie Miles. Dixon said

the group will continue sewing pillowcases until all of them are made into dresses. Each pillowcase provides enough material for a single dress.

Hart said the pillow project work is enjoyable and fulfilling.

“We start with nothing and turn out something very pretty,” she said.

The members of the sewing group are good friends who enjoy doing community service work. Patterson said they are a joy to work with.

“You just can’t find any better people,” she said.

The members of the

sewing group all know each other, Dixon said, because they also work as volunteers at North Powder’s food bank, which she manages with her husband, Floyd. The dresses the eight women are sewing will be given to Samaritan’s Purse, a humanitarian aid organization that sends dresses to Africa as part of its Operation Christmas Child program.

Dixon anticipates that North Powder’s sewing group will be working though November until all of the pillowcases are made into dresses.

NEWS BRIEFS

Early morning fire destroys shop near Alicel

ALICEL — Nobody was injured in a morning shop fire on Market Lane on Monday, Sept. 27, about 5 miles southeast of Alicel.

The fire, which destroyed the shop, broke out at about 7 a.m. Nobody was in the shop when the fire started, according to the La Grande Fire Department. The fire was about 50 feet east of a one-story home but never threatened it. Between four and five people were in the home when the fire started.

Those responding to the fire included La Grande, La Grande Rural and Cove Rural fire departments.

The cause of the fire has not been determined.

ODOT to start taking applications for chain-up helper permits

PENDLETON — The Oregon Department of Transportation announced in a press release it will issue permits for those interested in chaining up commercial vehicles during the winter months along specific sections of Interstate 84 in Eastern Oregon.

The department’s District 12 office in Pendleton, the District 13 office in La Grande and the District 14 office in Ontario will each issue permits, depending on the need and number of applicants. Interested parties need to contact the appropriate ODOT district office between Oct. 1 and Oct. 31 for details and application requirements. Each ODOT office will hold random drawings on Nov. 1 to determine who will receive an offer for the permits.

ODOT permit specialist Tom Lapp said, “After the drawing, those individuals selected will have one week to complete the permit application and return it to the district office.”

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation also will issue some permits for the Umatilla County area to tribal members.

Only persons who have the chain-up permits will be allowed to provide this service to truck drivers in designated chain-up areas. The permits will be valid between Nov. 1, 2020, and April 1, 2021.

“This is a safety issue,” Lapp said. “Limiting the permits for each district is necessary to help control the

number of people working along state highways during winter weather conditions.”

Information regarding chain-up helper permits issued by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is available from John Barkley, Danielle Broncheau or Michelle Bratlie at 541-429-7193.

Woodgrain to add 35 jobs to Island City Particleboard

LA GRANDE — Woodgrain Lumber & Composites announced Monday, Sept. 27, that an expansion at Island City Particleboard is expected to bring about 35 new jobs into the plant by March 2022.

According to a press release, this would be a bump in personnel of about 30%. Woodgrain said it hopes the expansion will increase its presence in the particleboard market.

Woodgrain acquired Island City Particleboard, which was founded in 1966, in 2018.

“It is an exciting time to be a part of Woodgrain,” Division Vice President Tom Lovlien said in a statement. “Our company has continued to invest in its facilities here in Northeast Oregon, and our leadership has complete confidence that the Particleboard team will meet this new demand while maintaining both customer and employee satisfaction. This is a place people want to be, and we want them here.”

Those interested in applying for one of the new positions can visit woodgrain.com/careers, or visit the company’s Human Resources office at 1917 Jackson Ave., La Grande.

Enterprise schools to mull new superintendent

ENTERPRISE — The Enterprise School District hopes to have a new superintendent by the end of October, School Board Chairwoman Mandy Decker said Wednesday, Sept. 22.

“We will be interviewing five people on Oct. 3 for the position of interim superintendent,” she said.

The successful candidate will replace Erika Pinkerton, who left Aug. 30 for a position with the La Grande School District. She had been at Enterprise since 2016.



Decker

Baker man arrested after high-speed chase

By JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — A Baker City man was arrested Tuesday, Sept. 21, after leading police from multiple agencies on a vehicle chase with speeds that at times exceeded 100 mph.

Zachary Charles Persicke, 36, surrendered to police and was arrested without

incident about noon along Interstate 84 at Milepost 330, about 26 miles southeast of Baker City near the Ash Grove Cement plant.

Persicke was jailed on a parole violation warrant, according to a press release from Baker City Police Chief Ty Duby.

A Baker County grand jury indicted Persicke on multiple charges Sept. 23, including attempting to elude a police officer, and unlawful possession and delivery of methamphetamine and heroin.

Persicke’s bail was set at \$215,000. He is scheduled to enter a plea on Sept. 29 at 1 p.m. in Baker County Circuit Court.

The drug charges stemmed from an investigation by the Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team, which yielded about a pound of suspected methamphetamine, multiple ounces of heroin, and opioid pills from Persicke’s car.

Police also found a loaded Glock .45-caliber pistol on the passenger seat, and a loaded Smith and Wesson AR-15 rifle with a 60-round capacity magazine in the vehicle’s trunk.

Police later served a search warrant on Persicke’s home, where they found about half a pound of methamphetamine, several grams of heroin, a sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun and three handguns.

Persicke is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The incident started about 11 a.m. when police tried to stop a white Chevrolet Monte Carlo as part of an ongoing investigation by the Narcotics Enforcement Team into drug and gun trafficking. Persicke, who was driving the Monte Carlo, stopped for police. Three passengers in the car fled on foot, according to the press release.

Persicke drove away, with police in pursuit.

He initially drove north of Interstate 84 beyond North Powder to the Wolf Creek exit, near Milepost 283. Persicke exceeded 100 mph at times, according to the press release.

Near North Powder, Persicke used his cellphone to call 911 and make what the press release describes as “lethal force threats towards law enforcement that was pursuing him.”

At the Wolf Creek exit Persicke left the freeway and then returned to I-84, headed south toward Baker City.

Baker City Police deployed a spike strip near Baker City, which flattened one tire on Persicke’s car. He slowed to between 60 and 70 mph but continued driving south on the freeway. He exited at the Campbell Street exit but then returned to the freeway, heading toward Durkee.

During the pursuit, officers from the Baker County Parole and Probation Department went to Persicke’s home, where they met with his mother and his girlfriend. They called Persicke’s cellphone and convinced him to pull over and surrender.

The Baker City Police Department was assisted by the Baker County Sheriff’s Office, Baker County Parole and Probation, Union County Sheriff’s Office, and Oregon State Police.