

TODAY

On Oct. 12, 2000, 17 sailors were killed in a suicide bomb attack on the destroyer USS Cole in Yemen.

In 1792, the first recorded U.S. celebration of Columbus Day was held to mark the tricentennial of Christopher Columbus' landing.

In 1933, bank robber John Dillinger escaped from a jail in Allen County, Ohio, with the help of his gang, who killed the sheriff, Jess Sarber.

In 1942, during World War II, American naval forces defeated the Japanese in the Battle of Cape Esperance. Attorney General Francis Biddle announced during a Columbus Day celebration at Carnegie Hall in New York that Italian nationals in the United States would no longer be considered enemy aliens.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon nominated House minority leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan to succeed Spiro T. Agnew as vice president.

In 1976, it was announced in China that Hua Guofeng had been named to succeed the late Mao Zedong as chairman of the Communist Party; it was also announced that Mao's widow and three others, known as the "Gang of Four," had been arrested.

In 1984, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher escaped an attempt on her life when an Irish Republican Army bomb exploded at a hotel in Brighton, England, killing five people.

In 1986, the superpower meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, ended in stalemate, with President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev unable to agree on arms control or a date for a full-fledged summit in the United States.

In 1997, singer John Denver was killed in the crash of his privately built aircraft in Monterey Bay, California; he was 53.

In 2002, bombs blamed on al-Qaida-linked militants destroyed a nightclub on the Indonesian island of Bali, killing 202 people, including 88 Australians and seven Americans.

In 2007, former Vice President Al Gore and the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change won the Nobel Peace Prize for sounding the alarm over global warming.

In 2017, President Donald Trump lashed out at hurricane-devastated Puerto Rico, saying the federal government can't keep sending help "forever" and suggesting that the U.S. territory was to blame for its financial struggles.

In 2019, a Black woman, Atiana Jefferson, was fatally shot by a white Fort Worth, Texas, police officer inside her home after police were called to the residence by a neighbor who reported that the front door was open. (Officer Aaron Dean, who shot Jefferson through a back window, resigned in the days after the shooting and is charged with murder; he has pleaded not guilty and is scheduled to go to trial in November.)

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, is 89. Singer Sam Moore is 86. Broadcast journalist Chris Wallace is 74. Actor-singer Susan Anton is 71. Pop/rock singer/songwriter Jane Siberry is 66. Actor Hiroyuki Sanada is 61. Actor Carlos Bernard is 59. Jazz musician Chris Botti is 59. R&B singer Claude McKnight (Take 6) is 59. Rock singer Bob Schneider is 56. Actor Hugh Jackman is 53. Actor Adam Rich is 53. R&B singer Garfield Bright (Shai) is 52. Country musician Martie Maguire (Courtyard Hounds, The Chicks) is 52. Actor Kirk Cameron is 51.

LOTTERY

Friday, Oct. 8, 2021

Megamillions

21-24-36-40-70

Megaball: 22

Megaplier: 5x

Jackpot: \$73 million

Lucky Lines

4-5-12-13-18-23-25-32

Jackpot: \$22,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 8-3-6-7

4 p.m.: 1-0-0-5

7 p.m.: 0-3-0-8

10 p.m.: 7-5-9-6

Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021

Powerball

12-17-30-45-62

Powerball: 5

Power Play: 2x

Jackpot: \$38 million

Megabucks

12-20-31-33-35-45

Jackpot: \$4.2 million

Lucky Lines

3-8-12-23-19-22-27-30

Jackpot: \$23,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 7-5-3-2

4 p.m.: 5-7-5-4

7 p.m.: 3-9-3-0

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

Win for Life

37-63-64-68

Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021

Lucky Lines

2-6-10-15-20-23-27-31

Estimated jackpot: \$24,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 3-7-0-1

4 p.m.: 3-7-6-4

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

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

Pumpkin Patch Kids



Allison Hamill, left, helps her daughter Adalynn, 3, down from a hay bale stack during a Heidi Ho Christian Preschool and Kindergarten field trip to Pick'n Patch in Cove on Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021. The annual event was canceled last year due to the pandemic, but students were able to celebrate the coming fall this year as restrictions were lifted. At bottom left, Heidi Ho student Carsyn, 3, carries a white pumpkin she selected during the field trip. The school received a generous donation from a benefactor allowing students and their parents to take home a pumpkin for free.

Photos by Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Emergency roof work at Enterprise school

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Emergency roof repairs were planned for this month at the Enterprise School after a leak was discovered and the school district's board of directors decided recently to have the work done before winter, according to a press release.

The board approved an emergency roof-repair contract with Eagle Cap Construction of La Grande during a special meeting. The work was deemed necessary since the planned roof replacement under a school bond had been delayed until next summer because of a nationwide shortage of roofing materials, the release stated.

The leak in the high school roof was discovered Aug. 19. The district's roof design consultant, Structural Waterproofing Consultants of Wilsonville, then evaluated the roof and found that approximately 40% of the high school and cafeteria roofs required immediate repairs to be completed before winter.

"This year has been difficult for contractors to get construction materials," Mandy Decker, the board's chair, said in the release. "We needed to perform the emergency repair to ensure that our students could stay in classes in the buildings this winter. We look forward to replacing the entire roof next summer."

Under an emergency procurement declaration, the district solicited roof replacement and repair quotes and received proposals from three contractors. The district selected Eagle Cap's repair proposal as the most cost-effective option to protect the district's buildings until a full roof replacement can be performed next summer. Eagle Cap will perform repairs on a time and materials basis, with costs capped at \$157,200.

Cassie Hibbert, project manager for the Wenaha Group — the district's bond project manager — said in an email Thursday, Sept. 30, the emergency repair is planned to be paid for out of the general obligation bond plus an Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching grant.

The scope of the emergency roof repair includes



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Workers power clean the roof of the Enterprise High School on Friday, Oct. 1, 2021, in preparation for an emergency repair job to be conducted the following week. The school board authorized the repair to be done before winter rather than waiting for the planned project scheduled for next summer.

spraying Expandothane protective roof coating on top of the existing roof membrane on targeted areas on the high school, the cafeteria and other small areas of the junior high building. Eagle Cap has applied this product on several commercial buildings in the La Grande area to extend roof life.

Hibbert said the repair work won't take long. The contractor pressure-washed the roof Friday, Oct. 1, to clean it so the spray coating will adhere to the existing membrane. She said the current roof is structurally sound, even though it's leaking. If a repair isn't done, there is the potential for water to leak inside and damage finishes and be disruptive to

school activities. She said students and staff are safe under the current roof.

Hibbert said the contractor will need to work during school hours to accomplish this work before the weather turns. The district and the Wenaha Group will closely coordinate the contractor's work to make sure that they are not disruptive of any school or extracurricular student activities and that all students and staff are safe during those three days the contractor is working.

The Enterprise community approved a general obligation bond in November 2020 for capital improvement projects, including a roof replacement on the high school, junior high and primary buildings. Following bond approval, the district fast-tracked the design and bidding of the roof replacement for construction during summer 2021.

The district selected a roofing contractor in April, but due to national supply-chain constraints and raw-material shortages associated in part with the COVID-19 pandemic and early 2021 storms in the Southeast U.S., the contractor could not acquire material in time for summer construction. The district canceled that roof contract and will rebid the full roof project for construction during summer 2022, along with other bond projects.

Three-day job

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ODE releases Oregon At-A-Glance school reports

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

UNION COUNTY — Union County school districts have a wealth of experienced teachers and do a solid job of getting high school freshmen on track to graduate on time.

These are among the conclusions that can be quickly drawn from looking at the Oregon Department of Education's latest Oregon At-A-Glance reports on public school districts and their schools.

The Oregon At-A-Glance school reports are produced annually and are meant to provide parents and community members with an overview of how public schools serve students. The reports do not rate or grade schools and districts.

Included in the reports is information on the percentage of teachers who have at least three years of

experience as educators. The statistics indicate that 94% of the Cove School District's teachers have at least three years of experience. This is the highest percentage among Union County's six public school districts.

Cove School District Superintendent Earl Pettit said that of his district's 20 faculty members, 17 have taught for an average of about 15 years, two have been teaching for seven years and one is a second-year teacher.

The Imbler School District has the next highest teacher experience mark at 91%, followed by La Grande at 90%, North Powder at 88%, Union at 77% and Elgin at 74%.

Many teachers in Imbler have taught there for the majority of their careers, and Doug Hislop, who is an interim superintendent after working as Imbler's superintendent for 10 years

before retiring in 2014, said he can understand why so many teachers are spending much of their careers there. He noted that his district has strong community support and excellent facilities and staff members.

Statistics in the At-A-Glance reports also provide information on how well the freshmen at Union County's high schools are doing in terms of staying on track to graduate in four years. This was based on the percentage of freshmen who had earned at least a quarter of the credits they needed to graduate. The statistics, based on data from an earlier year, indicate that 95% of freshmen at North Powder's Powder Valley High School and Imbler High School were on track to graduate, the top marks in Union County. Elgin High School is third at 88%, followed

by Cove High School at 71% and La Grande High School at 70%. The state average according to the ODE is 74%.

Hislop credits his school district's high rating in the on track to graduate category to hard-working students and staff and incentives given to students to encourage them to keep up with their schoolwork.

Hislop added that student attendance is also a big plus in keeping students on track to graduate.

"We have very good attendance in our school district," the superintendent said.

The Oregon At-A-Glance reports also provide information on the numbers of teachers school districts have, student demographics, teacher retention, student attendance and more. The reports can be viewed at ODE's website, www.oregon.gov/ode.

Prescribed burns to start in Umatilla National Forest

The Observer

PENDLETON — Prescribed burns are set to begin soon in the Umatilla National Forest.

The prescribed burns may start this month depending upon weather and could impact camping and hunting in several portions of the forest, according to a U.S. Forest Service press release.

All road and trail closures associated with prescribed burns will go into effect prior to their starts. Prescribed burns typically take two to five days to complete. Hunters are advised to plan ahead and avoid camping in the designated prescribed burn areas.

The burns will be conducted because frequent, low-intensity fire is essential for healthy forests and reducing the risk of wildfire caused by excessive fuel buildup, according to the press release. Prescribed burning is a way to remove brush, shrubs and trees, while encouraging the growth of native vegetation.

Prescribed burning depends on weather. Factors such as wind speed and direction, temperatures, humidity and fuel moisture are all taken into consideration prior to starting a prescribed burn operation. The current rains and moderate temperatures are creating conditions suitable for prescribed burns.

Hunters should be cautious when entering a recently burned area and be aware of hazards, particularly snags. Dead or dying trees that remain standing after a fire are unstable, especially in high winds.

The Umatilla National Forest has developed an interactive map displaying planned burning. The map allows the user to zoom in on areas and click on a burn unit for more information. When burning begins, the map will be updated to display which units are burning. Maps of the proposed prescribed burns also are on InciWeb at inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5808.

Additional information is available on the Umatilla National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla, and on the forest's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UmatillaNF.

NEWS BRIEF

26 new COVID-19 cases reported in Union County over the weekend

SALEM — Twenty-six new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Union County over the weekend ending Sunday, Oct. 11. This brings county's running total of COVID-19 cases to 3,092, according to Union County Commissioner Matt Scarfo, who was reporting information provided by Carrie Brogotti, public health administrator for the Center for Human Development.

Scarfo said that as of Friday, Oct. 8, 56% of Union County residents age 18 and up had been vaccinated for COVID-19. This is up 2.3 percentage points from Sept. 13 when the OHA reported that 53.7% of Union County residents age 18 and older had been vaccinated.

The latest statistics from the Oregon Health Authority indicate that as of Thursday, Oct. 7, Union County's vaccination rate for people of all ages was 45.6%, bringing the total number of people vaccinated here on that date to 12,232.

— The Observer