

TODAY

On October 26th, 2001, President George W. Bush signed the USA Patriot Act, giving authorities unprecedented ability to search, seize, detain or eavesdrop in their pursuit of possible terrorists.

In 1774, the First Continental Congress adjourned in Philadelphia.

In 1825, the Erie Canal opened in upstate New York, connecting Lake Erie and the Hudson River.

In 1861, the legendary Pony Express officially ceased operations, giving way to the transcontinental telegraph. (The last run of the Pony Express was completed the following month.)

In 1881, the "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral" took place in Tombstone, Arizona, as Wyatt Earp, his two brothers and "Doc" Holliday confronted Ike Clanton's gang. Three members of Clanton's gang were killed; Earp's brothers and Holliday were wounded.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of Leyte Gulf ended in a major Allied victory over Japanese forces, whose naval capabilities were badly crippled.

In 1965, the Beatles received MBE medals as Members of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire from Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

In 1975, Anwar Sadat became the first Egyptian president to pay an official visit to the United States.

In 1979, South Korean President Park Chung-hee was shot to death by the head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, Kim Jae-kyu.

In 1984, "Baby Fae," a newborn with a severe heart defect, was given the heart of a baboon in an experimental transplant in Loma Linda, California. (Baby Fae lived 21 days with the animal heart.)

In 2002, a hostage siege by Chechen rebels at a Moscow theater ended with 129 of the 800-plus captives dead, most from a knockout gas used by Russian special forces who stormed the theater; 41 rebels also died.

In 2010, Iran began loading fuel into the core of its first nuclear power plant.

In 2018, former Fox News Channel personality Megyn Kelly was fired from her NBC morning show after triggering an uproar by suggesting it was OK for white people to wear blackface at Halloween.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jaclyn Smith is 76. TV host Pat Sajak is 75. Hillary Rodham Clinton is 74. Musician Bootsy Collins is 70. Actor James Pickens Jr. is 69. Rock musician David Was is 69. Rock musician Keith Strickland (The B-52s) is 68. Actor Lauren Tewes is 68. Actor D.W. Moffett is 67. Actor-singer Rita Wilson is 65. Actor Patrick Breen is 61. Actor Dylan McDermott is 60. Actor Cary Elwes is 59. Singer Natalie Merchant is 58. Actor Steve Valentine is 55. Country singer Keith Urban is 54. Actor Tom Cavanaugh is 53. Actor Rosemarie DeWitt is 50. Actor Anthony Rapp is 50. Writer-producer Seth MacFarlane (TV: "Family Guy") is 48. TV news correspondent Paula Farris is 46. Actor Lennon Parham is 46. Actor Florence Kasumba is 45. Actor Hal Ozsan is 45. Actor Jon Heder is 44. Singer Mark Barry (BBMak) is 43. Actor Jonathan Chase is 42. Actor Folake Olowofoyeku is 38. Olympic silver medal figure skater Sasha Cohen is 37. Rapper Schoolboy Q is 35. Actor Beulah Koale (TV: "Hawaii Five-0") is 30.

LOTTERY

Friday, Oct. 22, 2021

Megamillions

9-14-26-29-66

Megaball: 22

Megaplier: 3

Jackpot: \$20 million

Lucky Lines

4-5-10-15-20-23-26-29

Jackpot: \$18,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 9-6-3-5

4 p.m.: 5-7-8-4

7 p.m.: 8-8-9-7

10 p.m.: 1-2-8-9

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021

Powerball

10-30-51-57-63

Powerball: 20

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$93 million

Megabucks

7-20-29-32-33-34

Jackpot: \$4.8 million

Lucky Lines

3-7-11-15-20-23-25-31

Jackpot: \$19,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 3-6-8-2

4 p.m.: 3-3-3-5

7 p.m.: 9-2-5-2

10 p.m.: 7-3-2-8

Win for Life

19-22-70-74

Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021

Lucky Lines

4-5-11-13-19-21-26-31

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Pick 4

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

4 p.m.: 5-4-7-1

7 p.m.: 0-5-3-8

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

Eastern Oregon residents make a Stand 4 Freedom



Dick Mason/The Observer

People participate in a medical freedom rally in front of La Grande City Hall on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021. The intent of the Stand 4 Freedom Rally was to show support for the right to choose regarding COVID-19 safety protocols including vaccinations and the wearing of masks. Everyone who values medical freedom was encouraged to participate in the rally, regardless of their opinions on masks and vaccinations.

COVID-19 cases drop in Eastern Oregon

OHSU predicts 'herd immunity' by year's end

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Coronavirus cases are on a consistent decline in several parts of Eastern Oregon, according to a weekly report from the Oregon Health Authority.

Much of the following is based on data disclosed in that report.

Umatilla County has reported declining cases for at least four consecutive weeks, dropping from more than 506 cases

in mid-September to 302 cases last week. The county's infection rate per capita during that period decreased.

Union County has seen a similar drop in cases during that same time period, from 167 in mid-September to 74.

But in other Eastern Oregon counties, including Morrow and Wallowa, cases aren't budging.

The two counties have not reported a consistent decline in cases over the past month, bucking a statewide trend where infection has consistently dropped from record levels seen during the delta variant surge.

Each of the four counties, however, continue to report case rates and positive test rates that are far higher than Western Oregon's more populous counties, including those in the Portland metro area.

Until last week, Wallowa County had reported positive test rates higher than 20 percent for three consecutive weeks, a rate that's higher than most Eastern Oregon counties. Over the past month, Multnomah County has never reported a rate higher than 6 percent.

During that same time period, Wallowa County reported case rates per capita that were nearly four

times higher than Multnomah County, which has more than 800,000 more people.

However, Wallowa County's weekly cases over the past month have only once topped 50, while Multnomah County only once reported less than 1,000.

A recent report from Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, suggests the worst of the delta variant may be over in Oregon within the next two months. The forecast shows a steep decline going into the holiday season, and the possibility of herd immunity reached by the end of the year.

Clinic expanding in Wallowa County

Winding Waters Medical Clinic to purchase Ram Hardware building

By RONALD BOND

Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — What for decades was a hardware store will soon become a site where Wallowa residents can nail down their health care needs.

Winding Waters Medical Clinic is buying Ram Hardware in Wallowa from owners Randal and Mary Johnson, who are going into retirement and are in the middle of a liquidation sale.

The purchase, Winding Waters CEO Nic Powers said, will give the clinic the opportunity to have a facility closer to many of its patients who currently have to travel to Enterprise.

"We've served hundreds of people a year

from Wallowa, and see a need to bring integrated health care close to those folks," Powers said. "When we survey people we frequently hear transportation as a barrier to people getting the care they need."

Currently, patients are seen one day a week at the old Telephone Co., the same building as the new Wallowa Mountain Midwifery.

A portion of the funding will come through a second American Rescue Plan Act grant the clinic is receiving, this one for \$549,709. There are differences, in the ways the dollars can be used.

"My understanding is in April, the funding was about supporting organizations through providing COVID care and main-



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

Ram Auto & Hardware in Wallowa will be the location of the new Winding Waters Medical Clinic with the health care group buying the business from Randal and Mary Johnson.

taining regular operations," he said. "This grant is very specific to health center construction and capital improvements."

Winding Waters won't be trying to renovate the building, but instead will be tearing it down and building a facility that will serve medical, dental and mental health care needs, Powers said.

It will be operational five days a week, and will include five exam rooms, four dental operatories and

two counseling rooms.

He said COVID-19 has made estimating costs difficult, but anticipates the new facility will come in at around \$2.1 million. More grants will be sought to cover the remaining costs.

"The grant has helped us to be confident we can get going on the next steps. We are trying to determine that," Powers said. "We are seeking out and hoping to engage an architect and hoping to get going with the design."

In-person spooks return for Halloween fun

Several groups set to hold local festivities

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The Observer

UNION COUNTY — Spooky season is back and local organizations are joining in on the fun.

Across the county, a variety of Halloween events are set to take place for the youth in the area to enjoy the festivities.

In addition to traditional trick-or-treating, a local youth will have several opportunities to acquire treats.

After a year off due to the pandemic, La Grande Main Street Downtown is bringing back its annual downtown trick-or-treating event. The fes-

tivities include local businesses handing out sweets to children along Adams Avenue, along with a costume contest.

Trick-or-treaters are invited to join in on the fun from 4-6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 29.

The costume contest is set to take place at the corner of Depot Street and Adams Avenue at 5:30 p.m.

The Union County Country Club will host its second annual trick-or-treating event on Saturday, Oct. 30. The golf club originally held the event last year in a COVID-friendly setting when many other Halloween events were canceled.

The event will mirror a format similar to last year's trick-or-treating, which involved club members spacing out golf

carts around the course and handing out treats. During last year's festivities, the members slid the candy down from a tube to the children. Loveland Funeral Chapel is sponsoring the event this year.

Participants can take part from 3-5 p.m. near the seventh hole on the golf course. According to general manager Stuart Smart, there will be around 15 to 18 golf cart stations set up giving away candy, with one dentist handing out toothbrushes and floss at the end.

In Union, Falk's Mini Mart is organizing a trick-or-treat event at the Union High School. The event takes place from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 31, in the school parking lot.

Dennis Falk of Falk's Mini Mart organized the

Union event. According to an employee at the store, volunteers from the community are asked to set up their trunks at 3 p.m. The event will entail a loop of trick-or-treating and other kid-friendly activities.

At Art Center East in La Grande, the annual Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead exhibit and community celebration will open on Oct. 29 from 6-8 p.m. The exhibit will include art from K-12 students across Union County. The artwork features Mexican traditions of the Dia de los Muertos holiday.

Community members are invited to join throughout the day on Oct. 29 and bring photos or mementos of lost loved ones to be displayed in the exhibit. The artwork will be on display at Art Center East, 1006 Penn Ave., through Nov. 10.

NEWS BRIEFS

Seventeen new COVID-19 cases in Union County

UNION COUNTY — The Oregon Health Authority reported 17 COVID-19 cases in Union County and seven in Wallowa County on Monday, Oct. 25, among the 2,293 cases that came in over the weekend. It brings the total in the counties during the pandemic to 3,211 in Union County and 693 in Wallowa County. There were no new deaths reported in either county, with those numbers staying at 49 and 12, respectively.

Hospitalizations in Oregon increased to 571, but the number of ICU COVID patients decreased to 123. The state is reporting 58 ICU beds and 273 non-ICU beds available in the state.

In Region 9, which includes Union and Wallowa counties, there are 10 ICU beds available among 26, and 42 non-ICU beds among 119. The region, according to OHA data, had 18 patients hospitalized due to COVID-19. The number of COVID patients hospitalized in the region has been less than 20 four days in a row, the longest stretch that low in more than two months.

Union County's vaccination rate for those 18 and older has inched up to 56.8%, and the rate for the entire population of the county is currently up to 46.4%. Of those, 42.6% are fully vaccinated.

In Wallowa County, the vaccination rate of people 18 and older is up to 66.1%, and the rate of all residents now sits at 55.8%. There are currently 51.7% of all Wallowa County residents that have been fully vaccinated, per OHA data.

Nov. 3 events set at Joseph Center

JOSEPH — Two events are taking place Wednesday, Nov. 3, at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph, both encouraging participants to try their hand at some creativity.

From 10 a.m. to noon, Walk-in Wednesday offers various medium disciplines.

Tickets are \$20. Proof of vaccination against COVID-19 is required.

From 4-7 p.m., the Watercolor Society embraces the practice of watercolor painting.

Crystal Newton will guide and direct new techniques and help with refining old ones.

Tickets are \$45. To learn more, call the center at 541-432-0505 or visit www.josephy.org.

Intro to collage to be at Joseph Center

JOSEPH — An introduction to collage workshop will be held Dec. 4 at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture, according to a press release.

The workshop, which runs from 1-4 p.m., will be led by Janis Carper. Cost is \$45.

In this workshop, participants will explore a variety of collaging techniques and materials. They'll play with design, layering, color and transparency.

Basic materials are provided, but participants are urged to bring any materials they find inspirational. Participants will come out of the workshop with a finished product.

To learn more, call the center at 541-432-0505 or visit <http://secondchanceproductions.com>.

Elgin Museum closes for season Saturday

ELGIN — The Elgin Museum's last day of operation for its 2021 season will be Saturday, Oct. 30.

The museum will reopen Thursday, June 2, 2022.

— EO Media Group