

TODAY

On Oct. 28, 1886, the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, was dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

In 1636, the General Court of Massachusetts passed a legislative act establishing Harvard College.

In 1858, Rowland Hussey Macy opened his first New York store at Sixth Avenue and 14th Street in Manhattan.

In 1914, medical researcher Jonas Salk, who developed the first successful polio vaccine, was born in New York.

In 1922, fascism came to Italy as Benito Mussolini took control of the government.

In 1962, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev informed the United States that he had ordered the dismantling of missile bases in Cuba; in return, the U.S. secretly agreed to remove nuclear missiles from U.S. installations in Turkey.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter and Republican presidential nominee Ronald Reagan faced off in a nationally broadcast, 90-minute debate in Cleveland.

In 1991, what became known as “The Perfect Storm” began forming hundreds of miles east of Nova Scotia; lost at sea during the storm were the six crew members of the Andrea Gail, a swordfishing boat from Gloucester, Massachusetts.

In 1996, Richard Jewell, cleared of committing the Olympic park bombing, held a news conference in Atlanta in which he thanked his mother for standing by him and lashed out at reporters and investigators who’d depicted him as the bomber, who turned out to be Eric Rudolph.

In 2001, the families of people killed in the September 11 terrorist attack gathered in New York for a memorial service filled with prayer and song.

In 2002, American diplomat Laurence Foley was assassinated in front of his house in Amman, Jordan, in the first such attack on a U.S. diplomat in decades. A student flunking out of the University of Arizona nursing school shot three of his professors to death, then killed himself.

In 2012, airlines canceled more than 7,000 flights in advance of Hurricane Sandy, transit systems in New York, Philadelphia and Washington were shut down, and forecasters warned the New York area could see an 11-foot wall of water.

In 2013, Penn State said it would pay \$59.7 million to 26 young men over claims of child sexual abuse at the hands of former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky.

Today’s Birthdays: Jazz singer Cleo Laine is 94. Actor Joan Plowright is 92. Actor Jane Alexander is 82. Actor Dennis Franz is 77. Actor Telma Hopkins is 73. Caitlyn Jenner is 72. Actor Annie Potts is 69. Songwriter/producer Desmond Child is 68. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is 66. The former president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is 65. Rock musician Stephen Morris (New Order) is 64. Rock singer-musician William Reid (The Jesus & Mary Chain) is 63. Actor Mark Derwin is 61. Actor Daphne Zuniga is 59. Actor Lauren Holly is 58. Talk show host-comedian-actor Sheryl Underwood is 58. Actor Jami Gertz is 56. Actor Chris Bauer is 55. Actor-comedian Andy Richter is 55. Actor Julia Roberts is 54. Country singer-musician Caitlin Cary is 53. Actor Jeremy Davies is 52. Singer Ben Harper is 52. Country singer Brad Paisley is 49. Actor Joaquin Phoenix is 47. Actor Gwendoline Christie is 43. Singer Justin Guarini (TV: “American Idol”) is 43. Pop singer Brett Dennen is 42. Actor Charlie Semine is 41. Actor Matt Smith is 39. Actor Finn Wittrock is 37. Actor Troian Bellisario is 36. Singer/rapper Frank Ocean is 34. Actor Lexi Ainsworth (TV: “General Hospital”) is 29. Actor Nolan Gould is 23.

LOTTERY

Monday, Oct. 25, 2021 Megabucks
2-4-7-18-30-33
Estimated jackpot: \$4.9 million
Lucky Lines
1-6-9-14-20-23-28-32
Estimated jackpot: \$21,000
Win for Life
13-31-36-38
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 0-3-5-5
4 p.m.: 0-1-1-8
7 p.m.: 7-5-3-1
10 p.m.: 8-3-8-6
Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021 Mega Millions
6-14-19-56-62
Mega Ball: 9
Megaplier: 4
Estimated jackpot: \$22 million
Lucky Lines
3-8-9-16-19-21-28-31
Estimated jackpot: \$22,000
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 4-4-1-3
4 p.m.: 0-5-9-9
7 p.m.: 9-8-0-8
10 p.m.: 0-8-1-7

Artist spruces up business windows

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — In addition to the natural beauty of Wallowa County, John Michener decorates both homes and businesses with his artwork, and has been doing so for the past five years.

“I’ve been an artist my whole life,” he said. “I’ve been doing murals since my 20s, so over 50 years now.”

Many businesses in the county sport his works. One of the most noticed is El Bajio Mexican Restaurant at the corner of River and North streets in Enterprise. Michener added to the cuisine the restaurant serves by painting murals both inside and out, from Western-themed features to the agave plants on the walls of the bar. Agave is what tequila is made from.

Although most of Michener’s work around Enterprise is on storefronts he’s best known for his murals.

“I do everything from marine world theme parks, big 100-foot, 200-foot backdrops of whales or dolphins and that,” he said. “There’s not a lot of that here. I’ve been working at a new hotel they’re building at the corner (of Main and River streets), I’ve got work inside there, the Elks Lodge mural, and NAPA Auto and El Bajio and in Joseph.”

There’s also Ace Hardware, Central Copy, Blue Mountain Computer, Umpqua Bank, the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Outlaw Motor Sports and others.

One of the more interesting is along the high walls of the Back Country



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Above, John Michener, of Michener Murals, stands near a Halloween-themed window he painted at Sugar Time Bakery in Enterprise. Michener’s work can be seen on numerous businesses around Wallowa County. Below, a scene from the woods graces the window of Outlaw Motor Sports in Enterprise.



Little Store in Enterprise. There, Michener painted depictions of a variety of wildlife in their natural setting.

Seasonal paintings

Many of the paintings go with the season, such as the Halloween-themed windows at Sugar Time Bakery.

“Some are waiting for Christmas,” Michener said.

In fact, he said the seasonal decorations opened up a whole new area for his creativity.

“I started doing that about four years ago. I was doing it at Christmas and it caught on and I started

doing all the different seasons,” he said. “It’s fun because when I’m working on the different windows, people stop me in the streets and say they sure love the seasons and the storefronts all painted up.”

His medium

Michener paints almost exclusively with water-based acrylic and latex.

“All the windows are done water-based and it comes off really easy,” he said.

His outdoor murals are of a latex water-based paint with a clear coat over them for protection against the sun’s ultraviolet light. He

said they hold up well.

“I have murals that are 20 or 25 years old,” he said.

Generally, the only touching-up required is if a mural gets damaged. They do require a new clear coat every five years to protect against the UV light.

“If you get a good solid base and you don’t have crumbling paint under it and you put a good primer on there and with the paint and clear coat, it works pretty good,” he said. “The sun will beat down on certain colors — like reds will fade in the sun almost no matter what you do. If you put a clear coat on them, they last a lot longer.”

MICHENER MURALS

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Court dismisses attempted murder charge

Jessey O’Quinn charged with seven counts in connection to Oct. 7 incident

The Observer

LA GRANDE — A Union County grand jury on Thursday, Oct. 14, returned a seven-count indictment against a La Grande man in connection to discharging a firearm.

Jessey O’Quinn, 25, was formally charged with two counts of unlawful use of a weapon, attempted second-degree assault, two counts of felon in possession of a firearm, menacing

and second-degree criminal trespassing.

O’Quinn was arrested on Oct. 7, following a report of gunshots near the 2200 block of Cove Avenue. La Grande police originally arrested O’Quinn for attempted murder, menacing, reckless endangering, disorderly conduct, unlawful use of a weapon and two counts of felon in possession of a weapon.

The judge dismissed the

attempted murder charge and one count of felon in possession of a weapon in a hearing on Oct. 11.

Union County District Attorney Kelsie McDaniel noted it is not uncommon for a grand jury to change the charges after the initial arrest, which was the case for O’Quinn. O’Quinn allegedly fired a gun at the victim on scene, but the charge was dropped because the judge did not find intent.

“In a charge for attempted murder, proven intent has to be there,” she said.

The witness claimed

O’Quinn pointed and shot a firearm at him, following a confrontation in a parking lot near the incident.

The arrest of O’Quinn was made one block away from where the gun was fired.

Jared Boyd, O’Quinn’s defense attorney, echoed a similar sentiment to McDaniel regarding the initial arrest. He noted the initial arrest is not always relevant to the charges filed by the district attorney.

O’Quinn will appear at an arraignment hearing on Nov. 8.

COVID-19 rate falls sharply in La Grande schools

School district may soon enter low risk category

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande School District’s COVID-19 infection rate for the week of Oct. 18-22 was down dramatically from the week prior.

La Grande School District statistics indicate that 17 students missed school during the week because of positive COVID-19 tests, COVID-19 symptoms or close contact with those who have COVID-19. Those numbers are down 40 from the week of Oct.

11-15 when 57 students missed school because of COVID-19.

The school district’s statistics indicate that no staff members were absent during the week of Oct. 11-15 due to positive COVID-19 tests, symptoms of the disease or close contact with someone who has it. This marks the third week in a row that no La Grande School District staff were out because of COVID-19.

The district’s statistics, based on reports to school district nurses, indicate that just one La Grande High School student was out due to testing positive for COVID-19. A total of nine students were out the week of Oct. 11-15.

A total of 16 students were being quarantined due to close contact with someone with COVID-19 or suspected of having COVID-19. Three were from Central Elementary School, five were from Greenwood Elementary School, three were from LMS and five were from LHS.

La Grande School District Superintendent George Mendoza said the decline is due in part to a decrease in COVID-19 rates in the region.

“This reflects that,” he said.

The superintendent also credits the decline to how well students and staff are adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols.

NEWS BRIEF

Report shows one death, 18 new cases in Union County in last two days

SALEM — The Oregon Health Authority released its daily update Tuesday, Oct. 26, showing 1,557 new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases and 23 deaths in Oregon. On Wednesday, there were 1,360 cases and 16 deaths.

The state’s total case count is up to 362,561 since the start of the pandemic. The death toll is at 4,334.

Four new cases were reported in Union County on Tuesday, while none were tallied in Wallowa County. On Wednesday, there were fourteen new cases were reported in Union County, which brings the county’s total to 3,229 since the start of the pandemic. In Wallowa County, two new cases Wednesday increased the county’s total to 695 cases since the beginning of COVID-19.

A 41-year-old man from Union County who tested positive on Oct. 19 died at St. Alphonsus Regional

Medical Center on Oct. 25. The man had underlying conditions. With the death, Union County’s death toll is 50 since the start of the pandemic.

There are 554 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 across Oregon, which is an increase of 14 from Tuesday’s report. Out of 692 total adult ICU beds, there are 45 open in the state. There are 247 available adult non-ICU beds out of 4,144 in Oregon.

The state’s seven-day average on vaccination doses per day is 8,885.

— The Observer

Running for a cause

Drug-Free Run raises funds for Union County Safe Communities Coalition

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Local runners came together for a good cause and showed off their Halloween costumes this past weekend.

The 24th annual Drug-Free Run raised funds and awareness for the Union County Safe Communities Coalition, a local organization seeking to create a drug-free community for youth in the area. The event raised over \$6,000 in sponsorships, alongside the registration funds from over 80 participants.

“All these funds go right back into the community,” Coalition Coordinator Marce Martin said. “The turnout was really good. We had more people there this year than in previous years.”

The Drug-Free Run included a 10K, 5K and one-mile race at Mount Emily Recreational Area for a variety of skill levels. Keegan Dutto won the 10K with a time of 49:17, Jon Gisi placed first in the 5K at 20:07 and Gus Hawks took the one-mile race with a time of 7:47. Participants flourished in the Halloween season, sporting their best costumes during the run.

The races serve as the top fundraising event of the year for the coalition, with the proceeds used for youth programs in the county. One particular project the funds from the event will benefit is the yearly seventh grade conference, a partnership with the district attorney’s office to educate local seventh graders on internet safety.

The coalition primarily relies on grant support to implement its community development programs. The Drug-Free Run helps the organization complete its mission of preventing youth alcohol, tobacco and marijuana abuse.

A major element of the fundraiser coming together is the coalition’s sponsorships within the community and help from those involved, such as Single Speed Screen Printing doing the shirts, coalition members marking the course and even Mayor Steve Clements directing parking. Over 20 local businesses and organizations contributed to the event as sponsors.

“The effort of a lot of people and sponsors really makes the event happen,” Martin said. “We had a lot of response from sponsors this year, which is phenomenal.”

The event was a major success in comparison to last year, when participants took part virtually due to the pandemic.

The rise in turnout brought in a substantial amount of funds and helped spread awareness of the coalition.

The event was originally set for August, but fire conditions at MERA and COVID-19 concerns pushed it back several months.

With the event taking place in October, the coalition added the Halloween element.

Martin stated that she hopes to build upon the success of the Drug-Free Run and continue to create community-oriented fundraisers in the future.

“Lots of people were smiling,” she said. “When the kids are having fun, it’s always a great time. It’s a fun day.”