

TODAY

On Nov. 16, 1914, the newly created Federal Reserve Banks opened in 12 cities.

In 1907, Oklahoma became the 46th state of the union.

In 1933, the United States and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations.

In 1945, "The Friendly Ghost," an animated short featuring the debut of Casper, was released by Paramount's cartoon division.

In 1961, House Speaker Samuel T. Rayburn died in Bonham, Texas, having served as speaker since 1940 except for two terms.

In 1981, the Senate confirmed Dr. C. Everett Koop to be surgeon general. Oscar-winning actor William Holden, 63, was found dead in his Santa Monica, California, apartment.

In 1982, an agreement was announced in the 57th day of a strike by National Football League players.

In 1989, six Jesuit priests, a housekeeper and her daughter were slain by army troops at the University of Central America Jose Simeon Canas in El Salvador.

In 1991, former Louisiana governor Edwin Edwards won a landslide victory in his bid to return to office, defeating State Rep. David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan leader.

In 2001, investigators found a letter addressed to Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., containing anthrax; it was the second letter bearing the deadly germ known to have been sent to Capitol Hill.

In 2004, President George W. Bush picked National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to be his new secretary of state, succeeding Colin Powell.

In 2006, Democrats embraced Nancy Pelosi as the first female House speaker in history, but then selected Steny Hoyer as majority leader against her wishes.

In 2018, a U.S. official said intelligence officials had concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had ordered the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

One year ago: President-elect Joe Biden warned of dire consequences if President Donald Trump and his administration continued to refuse to coordinate with his transition team on the coronavirus pandemic and kept blocking briefings on national security policy issues and vaccine plans; Biden told reporters, "More people may die if we don't coordinate." As officials in Nevada's most populous counties certified results of the election, Trump took to Twitter with a new attack on the vote count that gave Biden a 33,596-vote statewide victory. A second experimental COVID-19 vaccine — this one from Moderna Inc. — yielded extraordinarily strong early results; Moderna said the vaccine appeared to be 94.5% effective.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clu Gulager is 93. Journalist Elizabeth Drew is 86. Blues musician W.C. Clark is 82. Actor Joanna Pettey is 79. Actor Steve Railsback is 76. Rock musician Mani is 59. Former MLB All-Star pitcher Dwight Gooden is 57. Jazz singer Diana Krall is 57. Actor Harry Lennix is 57. Rock musician Dave Kushner (Velvet Revolver) is 55. Actor Lisa Bonet is 54. Actor Tammy Lauren is 53. R&B singer Bryan Abrams (Color Me Badd) is 52. Actor Michael Irby is 49. Actor Missi Pyle is 49. Rock musician Corey McCormick (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 45.

LOTTERY

Friday, Nov. 12, 2021

Megamillions

30-32-42-46-48

Megaball: 15

Megaplier: 2

Jackpot: \$63 million

Lucky Lines

1-6-11-13-17-24-25-32

Jackpot: \$14,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 1-5-3-0

4 p.m.: 7-8-1-4

7 p.m.: 9-7-2-3

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

Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021

Powerball

8-15-26-35-45

Powerball: 9

Power Play: 3

Jackpot: \$180 million

Megabucks

15-18-23-24-34-36

Jackpot: \$5.7 million

Lucky Lines

4-8-10-15-20-24-28-30

Jackpot: \$15,000

Pick 4

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

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

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

10 p.m.: 2-4-6-3

Win for Life

10-18-20-75

Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021

Lucky Lines

3-6-11-14-19-22-25-30

Estimated jackpot: \$16,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 5-2-8-9

4 p.m.: 3-2-8-3

7 p.m.: 1-9-1-9

10 p.m.: 3-6-9-9

La Grande to start sewer rehabilitation

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A major infrastructure upgrade is set to get underway in La Grande.

La Grande Public Works is undertaking a sanitary sewer rehabilitation project that will replace roughly a mile of outdated sewer mains. The project bid was awarded at the city council meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 3, and the work is slated to begin in February.

"A lot of the main lines in La Grande's sanitary sewer system are pretty old, so you have different materials involved," La Grande Public Works Director Kyle Carpenter said.

Planned and Engineered Construction, Inc., a firm based in Helena, Montana, was awarded the bid for the project at a price point of \$192,250. The bid is roughly \$100,000 less than the estimates by the other two competing companies. According to Carpenter, PEC's familiarity with the city's infrastructure was likely a cause for the lower price.

"They've been here I think four out of the last five contracts," Carpenter said. "They're pretty comfortable with how our system works and how clean it is."

La Grande has roughly



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

Water flows from a hydrant onto Adams Avenue in La Grande during construction along Second Street in order to relieve pressure from the lines on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. La Grande Public Works is gearing up for a sewer rehabilitation project in February 2022 that will replace nearly a mile of outdated sewer mains.

85 miles of sewer main lines and has reconditioned 29 miles of that main line in the last 29 years. Some of the city's sewer lines have been in place for nearly 100 years, causing a need for repair.

"Most of the problems we end up with aren't the whole pipe collapsing. It's smaller things that just add cost on our daily operations," Carpenter said.

La Grande Public Works monitors the conditions of existing pipes through a camera surveillance system. The footage allows the staff to spot any potential cracks, dips

or areas that may need maintenance.

The rehabilitation project involves a minimal-impact procedure that not only avoids traffic blockage, but saves the city money. The procedure pushes a resin sock down through the main and cures the inside of the line, making a secondary pipe within the original pipe.

"It basically allows us to put in a new main without having to dig up the road, which saves us a ton of money," Carpenter said.

Carpenter estimates

the project should take no longer than a month to complete. Most of the noticeable construction work is expected to last about three weeks, with the workers at PEC operating from manhole to manhole. The project will not cause road closures.

Carpenter noted that the pipes being replaced in this project have been in use since the 1960s. He estimated that the typical lifespan of a PVC pipe extends well past half a decade.

"In all likelihood they'll be in place for about 70 years," Carpenter said.

Chamber director will maintain connections

Suzannah Moore-Hemann served as chamber director since January 2019

By DICK MASON
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Suzannah Moore-Hemann's days as executive director of the Union County Chamber of Commerce are numbered, but not her days as a hard-working advocate for the organization.

Moore-Hemann, who announced in late October that she is resigning, plans to stay connected to the chamber by reaching out to it as a volunteer.

"I just want to stay involved," said Moore, who will be taking a position as assistant director of stewardship and scholarship awards at Eastern Oregon University.

Moore-Hemann said she is looking forward to doing things like helping with the chamber's ambassador and education programs and its annual awards banquets for the business community and those working in agriculture. She is eager for the chamber to again start putting on banquets after they were canceled in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"They were our chances to say thank you to the community," she said.



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

Union County Chamber of Commerce Director Suzannah Moore-Hemann, who announced in late October 2021 she will resign to take a position at Eastern Oregon University, plans to stay connected to the chamber by reaching out to it as a volunteer.

The decision to step down as chamber director is one she agonized over.

"It was hard because I love the chamber and the direction it is going in," she said.

Moore-Hemann has served as chamber director since January 2019. She will continue as its director through the end of December before starting to work full-time at EOU.

Projects Moore-Hemann has helped spearhead during her tenure as chamber director include revitalizing its holiday decoration contest for businesses and residents. Participation in the program has increased significantly in the past two years, and tours in Union County are now conducted that allow people to see the top entries.

"I have heard some people talk nostalgically

about how this was how it used to be years ago for their families," she said.

Moore-Hemann is also pleased with the success of the chamber's new Shop Hop program, which rewards residents for visiting a wider range of participating businesses.

"It helps businesses make new connections," she said.

Moore-Hemann oversaw the launch of a new chamber website, one she is pleased with.

"It is easy to navigate and does a wonderful job of showcasing the businesses of this region," she said.

The chamber director said that another of the favorite parts of her job has been learning about the inner workings of the broad range of businesses in Union County, including Blue Mountain Seeds,

whose grass seed is sold in many European countries.

"We have so many businesses here with international platforms," she said.

Moore-Hemann's responsibilities, in her new position at the university, will include helping raise funds for the EOU Foundation, making sure donors and contributors receive the recognition they deserve and awarding scholarships funded by the foundation.

"A lot of my focus will be on building relationships with individuals and families," she said.

Moore-Hemann is no stranger to EOU — she has earned three degrees from the university and has served on the EOU Foundation's board of trustees.

At Eastern she will also be teaching some business classes, including one on portfolio and resume development. Moore-Hemann will be working with faculty members who had been her professors.

"I never would have imagined that I would someday be working alongside the people who taught me," she said. "It will be a very cool feeling."

Moore-Hemann believes she will always look back fondly on her three years as chamber director.

"Every day I had a never-ending opportunity to help make this a better place," she said.

Fatal crash closes Interstate 84 early Monday

LA GRANDE — A man driving a semitrailer was killed in a one-vehicle crash Monday, Nov. 15, on Interstate 84 just west of La Grande.

The driver, who was eastbound, died when he was ejected from his vehicle after he failed to negotiate a curve between the Oregon Department of Transportation weigh station, about 2 miles west of La Grande, and Exit 259. After the driver failed to negotiate the curve his trailer flipped, causing his truck to also flip and eject him, according to Oregon State Police Sgt. Grant Jackson.

The driver died at the scene, according to Oregon State Police, which has not identified the victim.

The crash occurred at 4:25 a.m. and the interstate was closed at 5 a.m., according to ODOT. Interstate 84 was reopened at 1:30 p.m.

Jackson said the victim was not

wearing a seatbelt. The driver had no passengers. Jackson said that speed may have been a factor in the crash.

The crash closed the eastbound lanes of traffic on Interstate 84 between La Grande and Exit 216, 6 miles east of Pendleton.

Diesel fuel from the truck involved leaked during the crash. A hazmat crew was called in from Baker City to clean up the fuel.

In addition to the OSP, the La Grande Fire Department and the Oregon Department Transportation responded to the crash.

Meat shoot takes place Nov. 21 in Wallowa

WALLOWA — The annual meat shoot at the Wallowa Rod and Gun Club is set for 9 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at the club's site on Lower Diamond Lane in Wallowa.

The event will have games for nonshooters. Breakfast and lunch

will be available, and meat prizes will be awarded. Novices are encouraged by organizers to attend the event.

For more information, call Randal at 541-886-3245 or John at 541-886-8802.

Wallowa County commissioners meet Nov. 22

ENTERPRISE — The regular meeting of the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners that would normally be Wednesday, Nov. 17, will be put off until Monday, Nov. 22, according to a press release.

The meeting, which begins at 9 a.m. at the courthouse, is delayed because of a scheduling conflict.

The meeting is open to the public. To attend by Zoom, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83569798511>. And join with meeting ID 835 6979 8511 and passcode 747220.

— EO Media Group

EOU Board of Trustees meets in person for first time this year

The Observer

LA GRANDE — After 18 months of remote and hybrid meetings, Eastern Oregon University's Board of Trustees returned to the Dixie Lund Boardroom on Wednesday, Nov. 10, for its first in-person meeting of the 2021 academic year.

The meeting agenda had trustees reviewing new degree programs, discussing enrollment strategies, learning about several new grants and gifts and receiving updates on statewide issues.

The trustees learned that fall enrollment met expectations, seeing only a slight downturn overall. The total student head count is down just 1%, and student credit hours saw a decrease of 3.5%. Online enrollments continue to trend upward.

EOU President Tom Insko said declining community college enrollments have impacted the number of transfer students looking to earn a bachelor's degree on campus or online at EOU, and he noted that uncertainty about the economic future and lingering effects of COVID-19 are contributing to a smaller incoming freshman class.

"Low-income, first-generation and diverse students have lost their systems for connecting to higher education," Insko said. "The inability to connect with counselors, advocates and support services at the high school level has led to a lack of transition to colleges and universities."

Trustees welcomed Ben Cannon, executive director of Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission, who highlighted progress on Oregon's Student Success Bill, which aims to improve support for underrepresented students. The HECC is providing research on rural students with hopes the data will help influence 2023 legislation.

"From a HECC standpoint this really represents a great opportunity," Cannon said.

The board also received an update on the Transfer Bill (HB 233) and the ways it will remove barriers to students who bring credits from prior institutions. EOU has representatives on a newly created state council to develop pathways for transferring credits between universities.

DEIA reshapes staffing

EOU's 2020 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access Strategic Plan seeks to improve resources and connection while addressing systemic barriers to success. The university plans to rename and reconfigure the Student Diversity and Inclusion Department to wrap around Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Human Resources and the Diversity Committee.

A new director and an assistant director of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging will guide diversity initiatives alongside two new staff members, a resources advocate and a student support specialist.

Fieldhouse gift

EOU's new fieldhouse has taken shape over the last several months on the eastern side of campus. The project is well underway and is expected to be completed in spring 2022. An \$800,000 gift to the EOU Foundation from long-time professor Dr. Jean Neely and her sister, Janice, will support the facility, including a new Human Health and Performance classroom, lab and offices.