

TODAY

On Nov. 30, 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the Brady Bill, which required a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and background checks of prospective buyers.

In 1782, the United States and Britain signed preliminary peace articles in Paris for ending the Revolutionary War; the Treaty of Paris was signed in September 1783.

In 1803, Spain completed the process of ceding Louisiana to France, which had sold it to the United States.

In 1835, Samuel Langhorne Clemens — better known as Mark Twain — was born in Florida, Missouri.

In 1874, British statesman Sir Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace.

In 1900, Irish writer Oscar Wilde died in Paris at age 46.

In 1965, "Unsafe at Any Speed" by Ralph Nader, a book highly critical of the U.S. auto industry, was first released in hardcover by Grossman Publishers.

In 1981, the United States and the Soviet Union opened negotiations in Geneva aimed at reducing nuclear weapons in Europe.

In 1982, the Michael Jackson album "Thriller" was released by Epic Records.

In 2000, Al Gore's lawyers battled for his political survival in the Florida and U.S. Supreme Courts; meanwhile, GOP lawmakers in Tallahassee moved to award the presidency to George W. Bush in case the courts did not by appointing their own slate of electors.

In 2010, the Obama administration announced that all 197 airlines that flew to the U.S. had begun collecting names, genders and birth dates of passengers so the government could check them against terror watch lists before they boarded flights.

In 2013, Paul Walker, 40, the star of the "Fast & Furious" movie series, died with his friend, Roger W. Rodas, who was at the wheel of a Porsche sports car that crashed and burned north of Los Angeles.

In 2018, former President George H.W. Bush, a World War II hero who rose through the political ranks to the nation's highest office, died at his Houston home at the age of 94; his wife of more than 70 years, Barbara Bush, had died in April.

Ten years ago: The central banks of the wealthiest countries, trying to prevent a debt crisis in Europe from exploding into a global panic, swept in to shore up the world financial system by making it easier for banks to borrow American dollars. Police in Los Angeles and Philadelphia dismantled Occupy Wall Street encampments. An Arizona jury sentenced convicted "Base-line Killer" Mark Goudeau (goo-DOH) to death for killing nine people in the Phoenix area.

Five years ago: Air conditioning company Carrier Corp. said it had reached a deal with President-elect Donald Trump to keep nearly 1,100 jobs in Indiana instead of moving them to Mexico; however, some 600 other jobs were still eliminated by outsourcing. House Democrats reelected Nancy Pelosi as their leader. A prosecutor cleared a Charlotte, North Carolina, police officer in the killing of a Black man whose death touched off civil unrest, saying the officer was justified in opening fire on Keith Scott.

LOTTERY

Friday, Nov. 26, 2021
Megamillions

7-27-37-42-59
Megaball: 2

Megaplier: 2
Jackpot: \$102 million

Lucky Lines
4-6-10-13-18-23-27-30

Jackpot: \$28,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 4-5-9-7

4 p.m.: 4-2-5-0

7 p.m.: 4-3-1-8

10 p.m.: 1-9-0-7

Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021

Powerball

8-32-55-64-66

Powerball: 10

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$253 million

Megabucks

4-6-7-16-24-41

Jackpot: \$6.3 million

Lucky Lines

4-8-10-14-20-23-27-32

Jackpot: \$29,000

Pick 4

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

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

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

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

Win for Life

5-17-21-42

Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021

Lucky Lines

2-5-9-14-20-21-25-31

Estimated jackpot: \$30,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 5-4-9-9

4 p.m.: 5-9-4-6

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

10 p.m.: 5-0-2-4



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

Festival director Chris Jennings takes a break from preparing promotional material for the upcoming Eastern Oregon Film Festival at the HQ office in La Grande on Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021.

Film festival ends unique year

EOFF wraps up 2021 efforts after hybrid format

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — It was a unique year for the Eastern Oregon Film Festival, but the hybrid mix of in-person and virtual attendance produced a solid turnout in the 2021 rendition.

The 12th annual film festival took place at Eastern Oregon University and HQ in late October in La Grande. A record-high 52 films were screened by festival members, and two feature-length films were presented for public viewing. Fifteen visiting filmmakers traveled to Union County to present their work and create connections in La Grande.

"We hit our mark with

the artists and those who came and visited," festival director Chris Jennings said. "They really enjoyed the opportunity to present in person, which is something that has been missing. The audience that was there made them feel very welcome."

Following the film festival, organizers announced four curator's choice awards — the festival organizers took in audience feedback in choosing the awards.

The curator's choice for best feature went to Mylissa Fitzimmons' "Everything in the End," a humanist story set in Iceland. Chaconne Martin Berkowicz's "In Sync" was selected as curator's choice for best short, and Nick Brandestini and Taylor Segrest's "Sapelo" was chosen as best documentary. Jen Elkington, who presented "JEAN," was picked as the

curator's choice filmmaker to watch.

The Eastern Oregon Film Festival faced several challenges in 2021 but was able to create state-wide partnerships and host a filmmakers residency program for the first time. According to Jennings, the residency will take place again next year, with applications opening on Dec. 15.

"We're excited to bring in some new blood in May and showcase them to the valley," Jennings said.

As the historic Liberty Theatre renovation nears completion, Jennings said the festival is eager to utilize the space in downtown La Grande. The venue will serve as one of the main screening venues for the event in years to come, with projection and ticketing systems already in place.

Jennings said that the festival will be hosting a holiday bazaar and is plan-

ning a New Year's metal rock concert. He hopes that with the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, small in-person events will continue the momentum built by this year's EOFF.

Moving into 2022, the Eastern Oregon Film Festival is looking for support from La Grande and Union County to further its capabilities as a major event in Eastern Oregon. The organization is also open to contributions from individuals and businesses.

"I'm hopeful that our members can help us send some support our way," Jennings said. "I think there's some big potential there and it really wouldn't take much to get behind the festival and elevate it up even further than we have."

New board members and volunteers are also sought to join the team. Those interested can reach out to director@eofilmfest.com.

Council to consider paths program grant

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande City Council is set to meet for its regular session to consider a new grant that would create and maintain multi-use paths in the city. The council will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 1, and the meeting will be streamed on channel 180 and EO Alive TV.

The council's agenda

is brief, consisting of approving regular session minutes from the November meeting and considering the Oregon Community Paths Program grant in the new business section.



Strope

Public Works Director Kyle Carpenter will present the new business item, with the suggested motion of authorizing City Manager Robert Strope to enter into

an agreement for the grant funding.

The Oregon Department of Transportation oversees the Oregon Community Paths Program, which exists to construct and manage multi-use paths in cities across the state. ODOT's mission for the grant funding is to accompany preexisting transportation systems in Oregon. The grant funding goes toward construction, reconstruction, resurfacing or any other improvements

to paths used for walking and biking.

The project in La Grande would include the hiring of a consultant to identify potential path construction to link southern residential areas to the downtown area. The \$134,595 in grant funding will cover roughly 90% of the \$150,000 estimated project cost.

Individuals may submit comments or questions to rstrope@cityoflagrande.org by 5 p.m. on Nov. 30.

UNION COUNTY

Cultural Coalition grant applications now open

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Union County Cultural Coalition is currently accepting applications for its annual Cultural Enrichment Grant program.

Available in matching amounts of up to \$500, Cultural Enrichment grant applications and information about the UCCC can be found at www.union-countyculture.org. Applicants may submit grant requests entirely online through the UCCC website. Grant applications

must be submitted by Dec. 31, 2021.

The UCCC has a mission to support the arts and cultural enrichment of Union County through promotion and increased awareness of the arts and humanities. Oregon residents can double any donation made to the Cultural Trust through the Oregon Cultural Tax Credit. For information, visit www.culturaltrust.org/get-involved/donate or contact the Cultural Trust at 503-986-0088 or cultural.

trust@oregon.gov.

The UCCC provides matching grants directly to artists and organizations involved in cultural and heritage activities and projects. Applications from groups are encouraged and efforts will be made to fund as many as possible. Notification of awards will be sent on or around Jan 31, 2022, with reports due back to the UCCC by Dec. 31, 2022. Funding priority will be given to those who have not been awarded grants during the last two granting

cycles. Incomplete applications cannot be considered.

The UCCC encourages individuals and groups to apply for monetary support for your cultural enrichment project. Many exciting projects have come from these re-granted funds, allowing the effects of the Oregon Cultural Trust to be experienced throughout Union County, according to a press release.

For more information, contact Michael Sell, UCCC chair, at uccc@unioncountyculture.org.

NEWS BRIEFS

No one injured in one-vehicle crash

LA GRANDE — Nobody was injured in a one-vehicle commercial truck accident in Ladd Canyon Sunday, Nov. 28.

The accident involved a red 2019 Freightliner truck, driven by Clinton James Dance, 61, of Idaho, pulling a trailer filled with soft drinks. It was westbound on Interstate 84 about 3 miles east of the Reynolds Rest Area when it veered off the right shoulder and came into contact with the side slope, causing both the truck and trailer to tip onto its side, according to the Oregon State Police.

The truck and trailer were towed

from the scene.

The accident forced the Oregon Department of Transportation to close the right westbound lane of Interstate 84 from about 7:30 a.m. to 1:40 p.m. At one point near the end of the removal of the truck and trailer, both the right and left westbound lanes were closed for about an hour.

OSP said no citations were issued related to the crash.

Union County Board of Commissioners to meet Dec. 1

LA GRANDE — The Union County Board of Commissioners will meet Wednesday, Dec. 1.

Presentations to be made at the 9 a.m. meeting include a staff report

on the Red Apple Forest Management Project at the Mount Emily Recreation Area.

The public will not be able to attend the meeting in person because of the COVID-19 pandemic. To listen to the meeting, or participate in the public comment opportunity, call 253-215-8782 or 301-715-8592 and enter meeting ID number 814 2000 6863. Those having difficulties getting through are advised to continue trying.

To join the meeting via Zoom go to www.us02web.zoom.us/j/81420006863.

To submit comments by email, send them to amoore@union-county.org. All written comments are due by 5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 30.

— The Observer

Contractor charged with theft

Hermiston man failed to build home for Baker City couple

By JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — A Baker County grand jury has indicted a Hermiston building contractor on felony theft charges for failing to do work for a Baker City couple after they paid him \$150,000 this spring as the first installment on the construction of their home.

James A. Cavan, 41, is charged with aggravated first-degree theft, a Class B felony.

The grand jury issued the indictment on Nov. 18.

Jeff and Angie Skillicorn hired Cavan to build a home and shop on their property in Baker Valley, Baker County District Attorney Greg Baxter said.

The couple has not had any contact with Cavan for several months, Baxter said.

The indictment on criminal charges follows a civil lawsuit that the Skillicorns filed on Aug. 13 in Baker County Circuit Court.

The suit names as defendants James and Felicia Cavan, doing business as Dreams to Reality.

The lawsuit includes a copy of the construction contract agreement between the Skillicorns and James Cavan, dated May 26, 2021.

The agreement calls for the Skillicorns to pay Cavan a total of \$457,700, including a \$150,000 deposit at the time the agreement was signed.

According to the civil suit, Cavan used \$29,500 of the \$150,000 deposit for materials and labor, which consisted of building the foundation for the Skillicorns' home. Cavan has not refunded the remaining \$120,500.

Jeff Skillicorn wrote in an Oct. 4 court filing that around July 20, Cavan told him he had lost his contractor's license and could not finish the home.

"Defendants have acknowledged their obligation to reimburse Plaintiffs and have expressed that they do not have readily available funds to reimburse Plaintiffs," the lawsuit states. "For that reason, Defendants offered to reimburse Plaintiffs using the proceeds from the sale of Defendants' house and principal place of business."

On Sept. 27 a default order was approved in Baker County Circuit Court and Cavan was ordered to pay the balance of the Skillicorns' deposit, \$120,500.

On Oct. 21, Judge Matt Shirlcliff signed a supplemental judgment ordering Cavan to pay an additional \$12,521.65 in attorney's fees and other costs.

According to the Oregon Construction Contractors Board, a contractor's license was issued to James and Felicia Cavan on June 24, 2016. That license has been suspended and is not active, according to the agency.

Disciplinary records from the Construction Contractors Board show that the Cavans were fined \$1,000 in March 2021 for doing work without being certified as a lead-based paint renovation contractor.

Their license was suspended on July 22, 2021. The records don't list a specific reason for the suspension.

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