

TODAY

On Dec. 2, 1859, militant abolitionist John Brown was hanged for his raid on Harpers Ferry the previous October.

In 1697, London's St. Paul's Cathedral, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, was consecrated for use even though the building was still under construction.

In 1823, President James Monroe outlined his doctrine opposing European expansion in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1942, an artificially created, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time at the University of Chicago.

In 1954, the U.S. Senate passed, 67-22, a resolution condemning Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., saying he had "acted contrary to senatorial ethics and tended to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute."

In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first full-scale commercial nuclear facility in the U.S., began operations. (The reactor ceased operating in 1982.)

In 1970, the newly created Environmental Protection Agency opened its doors under its first director, William D. Ruckelshaus.

In 1980, four American churchwomen were raped and murdered in El Salvador. (Five national guardsmen were convicted in the killings.)

In 1982, in the first operation of its kind, doctors at the University of Utah Medical Center implanted a permanent artificial heart in the chest of retired dentist Dr. Barney Clark, who lived 112 days with the device.

In 1993, Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar was shot to death by security forces in Medellín.

In 2000, Al Gore sought a recount in South Florida, while George W. Bush flatly asserted, "I'm soon to be the president" and met with GOP congressional leaders.

In 2001, in one of the largest corporate bankruptcies in U.S. history, Enron filed for Chapter 11 protection.

In 2015, a couple loyal to the Islamic State group opened fire at a holiday banquet for public employees in San Bernardino, California, killing 14 people and wounding 21 others before dying in a shootout with police.

Ten years ago: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi vowed to work together to promote democratic reforms in Suu Kyi's long-isolated and authoritarian homeland.

Five years ago: A fire that raced through an illegally converted warehouse in Oakland, California, during a dance party killed 36 people. President-elect Donald Trump spoke with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen in a highly unusual move that was bound to antagonize China.

One year ago: Britain became the first country in the world to authorize a rigorously tested COVID-19 vaccine, giving the go-ahead for emergency use of the vaccine developed by American drugmaker Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech. In a video released on social media, President Donald Trump stood before a White House lectern and delivered a 46-minute diatribe against the election results that produced a win for Democrat Joe Biden, unspooling one misstatement after another to back his baseless claim that he really won. Issuing a final rule covering animals on airplanes, the Transportation Department said only dogs could fly as service animals, and that pets used for emotional support didn't count.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., is 82. Movie director Penelope Spheeris is 76. Rock musician Rick Savage (Def Leppard) is 61. Actor Lucy Liu is 53. Singer Nelly Furtado is 43. Pop singer Britney Spears is 40. Pop singer-songwriter Charlie Puth is 30.



Dick Mason/The Observer

Al Dockweiler, left, and Todd McCrae of Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative install La Grande's 2021 Christmas tree on Nov. 29, 2021, at Max Square. The tree will be lit on Friday evening, Dec. 3, following a holiday parade.

Community to ring in holiday season

La Grande Holiday Parade, Christmas tree lighting ceremony set for Dec. 3

By DICK MASON
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Christmas season in La Grande will kick off Friday, Dec. 3, with the return of two popular traditions — the La Grande Holiday Parade and the Christmas tree lighting ceremony — which went silent in 2020.

A tree adorned Max Square last year, but the parade and tree lighting events were canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is really exciting to have these traditions back," said John Howard, a member of the La Grande Main Street Downtown, which is sponsoring the parade and the tree lighting ceremony.

The parade begins at 5 p.m. at Hemlock Street and Adams Avenue and run a half a mile west to Max Square. The lineup for the parade will start at 4 p.m. People who want



Dick Mason/The Observer

Al Dockweiler of Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative puts a string of lights on the 2021 Christmas Tree at Max Square on Nov. 29, 2021, in La Grande. The tree's lights will be turned on at a ceremony on Friday, Dec. 3, following a holiday parade, which begins at 5 p.m. and concludes at Max Square.

to sign up for the parade can call La Grande Main Street Downtown at 541-963-1223.

People riding floats will not be allowed to toss candy to spectators, according to Mary Ann Miesner, chair of La Grande Main Street Downtown's Christmas Committee. Organizers are also asking that nobody participating in the parade dress up as Santa since the parade already

has its own St. Nick.

"It would confuse the children," Miesner said.

The parade route will be more decorative thanks to Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative staff and Tyson Brooks of La Grande who will be installing angels and snowflakes decorations on poles along Adams Avenue this week. The decorations have been maintained by the La Grande Lions Club, said

Miesner, who also is a member of the La Grande City Council.

The annual tree lighting ceremony will take place at Max Square immediately after the parade. The La Grande High School a cappella choir will perform and Santa Claus will be a guest.

The tree to be lit this year is an approximately 35-foot tall grand fir. The tree was donated by Ves and Lois Doty of Summerville. It was selected by Howard who helped transport it to Max Square. OTEC staff, including Al Dockweiler and Tadd McCrae, with the help of a line truck, then installed the tree and attached the lights.

Max Square's holiday look is being enhanced by the La Grande Rotary Club, which is decorating the site this week.

Following the tree lighting ceremony free horse-drawn carriage rides will be provided through town by Henneke Farm Carriage. The rides are first come, first served. Additional free carriage rides will be offered from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11, and from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18.

OTEC not expecting rate increases through 2022

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Member-owners of Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative should not expect any increased rates in the coming year.

According to a press release from OTEC on Tuesday, Nov. 30, rates will not see any jumps in 2022. The cooperative announced that member-owners should not expect any rise in prices in the midst of pandemic-related economic challenges that have affected many industries.

"Because of the value of hydropower and the dams that supply this clean, carbon-free and affordable resource, we can continue providing some of the lowest rates in not only Oregon, but in the nation, for many years to come," OTEC Chief Financial Office Heidi Dalton said.

The notice stated that OTEC will continue to provide top-tier service for its membership while attempting to control

costs. The announcement was made in conjunction with Bonneville Power Administration, OTEC's wholesale supplier of electricity. OTEC's power supply costs compensate for about 50% of the company's costs.

The release included a statistic from the U.S. Energy Information Administration showing that the mean cost of cents per kilowatt hour stood at 13.15 across the country. In Oregon that average was 11.17, while

OTEC says it sustained an average rate of 10.12.

Dalton stated in the announcement that OTEC is committed to saving its members money while still providing top-quality clean energy.



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

Maaie Schotborgh, safety and loss control manager with Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, models protective equipment for students at Greenwood Elementary, La Grande, on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, during a career and safety training day at the school. The cooperative announced on Nov. 30 the member-owners should not expect any increase in price rates through 2022.

NEWS BRIEF

OHA reports one new COVID-19 death, two cases in Union County

SALEM — The Oregon Health Authority's daily COVID-19 report on Tuesday, Nov. 30, showed one new death in Union County.

A 70-year old woman from the county tested positive on Nov. 20 and died on Nov. 29 at Grande Ronde Hospital. The woman reportedly had underlying conditions.

Union County has totaled 55

COVID-19 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

The Nov. 30 report showed two new cases in Union County and three new cases in Wallowa County. To date, Union County has counted 3,387 total COVID-19 positive cases, and Wallowa County has tallied 757.

Across the state, 1,054 new confirmed and presumptive cases were reported — Oregon's total since the start of the pandemic has reached 391,099 cases. OHA reported 19 new deaths, bringing the state's

total to 5,161.

Tuesday's report listed 404 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in Oregon, which is an increase of eight patients from the previous day's report. Out of 687 adult ICU beds in the state, 52 were reported to be available. There are 317 open adult non-ICU beds out of 4,118 in Oregon.

Oregon's seven-day running average of vaccination doses stands at 13,576.

— The Observer

Wallowa County Longhorn featured in calendar

By ANN BLOOM
For EO Media Group

WALLOWA — Texas Longhorn cattle are not something you see everywhere in Wallowa County. Wallowa's Rocking M Ranch is the exception. What also sets the ranch apart from other ranches is that it is home to "Mr. Blue."

The 2-year-old bull is also well known in Longhorn cattle circles for his appearance as the bull for the month of October in the 2022 calendar published by Dickinson's Cattle Co.

Mr. Blue's owner, Jeremy McCulloch, who operates the ranch with his uncle, Donald McCulloch Jr., said the calendar is "pretty exclusive. You have to be offered a spot."

He explained that a bull, or a herd, "can be showcased as long as you want."

The calendar's publishers reached out to McCulloch for the photo to be featured in the calendar.

The ranch supports 225 registered Texas Longhorns, with nine major herd sires and 150 mother cows. Most of the bull calves go to the ranch's beef program, as does the occasional heifer.

The bull calves that are not reserved for breeding go to the meat program.

McCulloch and his uncle decided to diversify and do something specific, "and it grew from there," he said. This was in 2008.

"We're the largest breeder west of Colorado now for registered stock," he said. The Rocking M Ranch works well with Dickinson's, said McCulloch, and got their start from them. Breeding of Longhorn cattle is more concentrated in the West.

"There are not as many east of the Mississippi," he said.

Longhorn cattle vary in hide color, weight and horn length, which as McCulloch explained is due to genetics. Mr. Blue's horns measure just over 73 inches from tip to tip, but will increase as he matures. He will be fully mature at 5 years old and will be used for breeding purposes. His hide is blue roan with darker gray ticking. Hide color on Texas Longhorns varies from red to roan, from dun to red and white, to tricolor and other combinations.

"It's important to balance out the traits. You want cows over 1,000 pounds and 60 inches tip to tip on horns, bulls a ton and over 80 inches tip to tip," McCulloch said.

The meat of a Longhorn steer tastes the same as any other breed of cattle but is leaner. McCulloch said it is heart healthy and full of omega-3 fatty acids. The meat benefits from long, slow cooking, like bison, "but obviously tastes like beef," he said.

Although many think of Texas and the Southwest when they think of Longhorn cattle, places that are customarily hot and arid, Longhorn cattle do well in Wallowa County. McCulloch explained that they "almost never need help with calving" and can tolerate the county's cold winters. He said he gives the cattle minerals to support hide health and horn growth. He said they have, "a docile temperament," though he was quick to add that any aggressive tendencies or fence jumping "won't be tolerated."

Cattle displaying those characteristics are relegated to the beef program for sale. McCulloch admits Longhorn cattle raising is a "niche market. It's not for everybody."

The ranch values customer service and values its buyers, and has a lot of repeat buyers. He said the ranch provides cattle for starter herds and provides replacement bulls and seed stock.

"It's not simple, but it works for us," he said.

The skulls and horns are also available for sale. The skulls and horns are sold together. A skull-horn set that is finished at the taxidermist (the flesh and hide are removed) and the skull and horns polished) can run \$700-\$1,500. He said if artwork is involved — painting for example — the price can rise to more than \$4,000.

Information on cattle for sale and beef prices can be found on the ranch's website at www.rockingm-cattleco.com.

LOTTERY

Monday, Nov. 29, 2021 Megabucks
6-8-15-25-34-43
Estimated jackpot: \$6.4 million

Lucky Lines
1-8-9-15-17-22-26-31
Estimated jackpot: \$31,000

Win for Life
27-47-50-64

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 0-0-9-8
4 p.m.: 2-9-2-6
7 p.m.: 1-7-0-2
10 p.m.: 1-1-5-5

Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021 Mega Millions

7-8-26-30-39
Mega Ball: 17
Megaplier: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$112 million

Lucky Lines

3-8-10-14-17-21-25-29
Estimated jackpot: \$32,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 6-0-4-6
4 p.m.: 8-8-3-2
7 p.m.: 2-6-1-2
10 p.m.: 4-0-6-9