

## TODAY

On Dec. 4, 1942, during World War II, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time with a raid on Naples. President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.

In 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his Continental Army officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson left Washington on a trip to France to attend the Versailles Peace Conference.

In 1954, the first Burger King stand was opened in Miami by James McLamore and David Edgerton.

In 1956, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins gathered for the first and only time for a jam session at Sun Records in Memphis.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard on a two-week mission. (While Gemini 7 was in orbit, its sister ship, Gemini 6A, was launched on Dec. 15 on a one-day mission; the two spacecraft were able to rendezvous within a foot of each other.)

In 1967, actor-comedian Bert Lahr, who played the Cowardly Lion in "The Wizard of Oz," died in New York at age 72.

In 1978, San Francisco got its first female mayor as City Supervisor Diianne Feinstein was named to replace the assassinated George Moscone.

In 1980, the bodies of four American churchwomen slain in El Salvador two days earlier were unearthed. (Five Salvadoran national guardsmen were later convicted of murdering nuns Ita Ford, Maura Clarke and Dorothy Kazel, and lay worker Jean Donovan.)

In 1986, both houses of Congress moved to establish special committees to conduct their own investigations of the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush ordered American troops to lead a mercy mission to Somalia, threatening military action against warlords and gangs who were blocking food for starving millions.

In 2000, in a pair of legal setbacks for Al Gore, a Florida state judge refused to overturn George W. Bush's certified victory in Florida and the U.S. Supreme Court set aside a ruling that had allowed manual recounts.

In 2018, long lines of people wound through the Capitol Rotunda to view the casket of former President George H.W. Bush; former Sen. Bob Dole steadied himself out of his wheelchair to salute his old friend and one-time rival.

**Ten years ago:** Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's party hung onto its majority in Russia's parliamentary election, but faced accusations from opponents of rigging the vote. Rafael Nadal recovered from a terrible start and beat Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina 1-6, 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (0) to give Spain its fifth Davis Cup title. After going more than two years and 26 tournaments without a victory, Tiger Woods won the Chevron World Challenge.

**Five years ago:** A North Carolina man armed with a rifle fired several shots inside Comet Ping Pong, a Washington, D.C., pizzeria, as he attempted to investigate an online conspiracy theory that prominent Democrats were harboring child sex slaves at the restaurant; no one was hurt, and the man surrendered to police. (He was later sentenced to four years in prison.)

**One year ago:** The government reported that America's employers scaled back their hiring in November as the viral pandemic accelerated, adding 245,000 jobs in the fifth straight monthly slowdown. Actor David L. Lander, best known for playing Squiggy on the popular ABC comedy "Laverne & Shirley," died at 73 after a decades-long long battle with multiple sclerosis.

## WOLVES IN UNION COUNTY



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/Contributed Photo, File

The Oregon State Police is seeking the public's help in an investigation into the poisoning of eight wolves in Eastern Oregon.

## OSP seeks info on poisoning of wolves

By DICK MASON

The Observer

UNION COUNTY — Police are asking for the public's help in identifying individuals responsible for the poisoning of the wolves in the Catherine Pack earlier this year in Eastern Oregon.

Oregon State Police in a press release reported Fish and Wildlife Division troopers received information in February from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife about a dead collared wolf. Troopers responded to the area and found five dead wolves — three males and two females. It was later determined the wolves were from the Catherine Pack, with all known members present and deceased.

The wolves were southeast of Mount Harris, within Union County. Troopers and ODFW personnel with the assistance of a helicopter searched the area for anything of evidentiary value and found a dead magpie in the vicinity of the dead wolves.

The five wolves and magpie were collected and transported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Lab in Ashland to determine the cause of death.

Fish and Wildlife troopers in March again received information from ODFW personnel of an additional wolf collar emitting a mortality signal in the same general location. A search of the area located a deceased female wolf, plus a skunk and a magpie close to the scene. All animals were collected and immediately submitted to the USFWS lab for testing. The female wolf was dispersing from the Keating Pack.

Fish and Wildlife Troopers were initially hampered in investigating the scene due to snow levels and inclement weather. Troopers continued searching over the next few weeks as snow melted and found evidence of suspected poisoning. The evidence was submitted for testing and analysis.

In April, the USFWS submitted its examination reports with findings consistent with poisoning as the cause of death for all six wolves, the skunk and two magpies. Lab results also indicated the suspected evidence confirmed a poisonous substance.

It is unlikely that the two magpies or the skunk died from consuming flesh from the poisoned wolves, according to OSP's Stephanie Bigman, who is captain of government and media relations.

"I don't believe they died from eating the wolves. They probably died from eating the poison," she said, adding that there is information about the case she cannot share



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/Contributed Photo, File

The Union County Board of Commissioners gave three local ranching operations a boost in their efforts to protect their livestock from wolf attacks.

## COUNTY AWARDS FUNDING FOR LIVESTOCK PROTECTIONS

LA GRANDE — The Union County Board of Commissioners gave three local ranching operations a boost in their efforts to protect their livestock from wolf attacks.

The commissioners voted on Wednesday, Nov. 30, to provide the ranchers a total of \$6,000 to help pay for their efforts to protect their livestock in Union County. The money is funding Union County received from the Oregon Department of Agriculture for wolf depredation compensation and must be spent by Jan. 31, 2022.

The money will be provided to Krebs Livestock, which will receive \$2,910.60; Eric Harlow, who will receive \$1,123.80; and the Mike Becker Bar V Cattle Co., which was awarded \$1,965.60.

Krebs will spend its money on blue-tooth speakers, night pen trailers, which

have bright lights and make loud noises, and additional herders. Harlow will use the funding on fencing, spotlights, air horns and radios. The Bar V Cattle Co. will use the money it was awarded on aircraft operation costs.

The sums awarded were recommended by the Union County Wolf Depredation Compensation Committee.

Union County Commissioner Donna Beverage said she wished that more funding could have been awarded but the \$6,000 was all that the Union County received for wolf deterrence from the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

"We hope it makes a difference," she said. Beverage, who raises cattle, said that wolves take a toll on livestock beyond depredation. She said livestock live in fear of wolves and can smell them. The anxiety the animals experience because of wolves impacts their health, causing them to eat less and lose weight.

— Dick Mason, The Observer

with the public.

Two more collared wolves were found dead in Union County after the initial incidents. In April a deceased adult male wolf from the Five Points Pack was located west of Elgin, and in July a young female wolf from the Clark Creek Pack was discovered in northeast of La Grande.

In both cases, the cause of death was not readily apparent. Toxicology reports confirmed the presence of poison in each wolf.

Based on the type of poison and the locations, the death of the young female wolf may be related to the earlier six poisonings, according to OSP.

Bigman said the wolf from the Five Points Pack died from a poison not similar to the type that killed the seven other wolves.

"It is different enough that it could be a different incident," she said.

ODFW spokesperson Michelle Dennehy said the poisonings are "terrible news," and the agency

hopes someone from the public will come forward with information to help solve the case.

"The poisoning of an entire pack is significant," she said. "We'll have a clearer picture on how that affects the overall (wolf) population after we complete our winter surveys this year."

There were 173 known wolves in Oregon at the end of 2020. In addition to the eight poisonings, another wolf was poached in September in the Skull Creek drainage of the Willamette-Whitman National Forest in Eastern Oregon.

ODFW also culled six wolves from the Lookout Mountain Pack over the summer in Baker County. The wolves had repeatedly attacked livestock.

Anyone with information about the poisonings is asked to contact OSP through the Turn-In Poachers Hotline at 1-800-452-7888, or email TIP@state.or.us, referencing case number SP21-033033.

— Capital Press reporter George Plaven contributed to this report.

## IN BRIEF

## Union County tallies three new COVID-19 cases in latest report

SALEM — The Oregon Health Authority released its latest COVID-19 daily update on Thursday, Dec. 2, which detailed three new cases in Union County. Willamette County totaled two new COVID-19 cases in the report.

The new cases brought Union County's total to 3,395 since the start of the pandemic, while Willamette County is up to 762.

Across Oregon, 1,046 new confirmed and presumptive cases were reported — the state's total case count since the start of the pandemic currently stands at 393,232. The state recorded 42 new COVID-19 deaths, which brings Oregon's death toll to 5,228.

OHA's weekly breakthrough report showed that 71.3% of the 4,134 COVID-19 cases between Nov. 21 and Nov. 27 were among unvaccinated individuals. The state totaled 1,168 breakthrough cases, which is 28.7%. There have been 45,545 breakthrough cases in Oregon since the start of the pandemic.

There are currently 384 patients in Oregon hospitalized with COVID-19, which is a decrease of 20 from yesterday's report. Out of 691 total adult ICU beds, 49 are available. There are 312 adult non-ICU beds open out of 4,078.

Oregon's seven-day running average of vaccine doses per day stands at 11,810.

## Cove council to tackle telecommunications ordinances

COVE — The Cove City Council will meet for a regular session on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at Cove City Hall, 504 Alder St. Two ordinances will be read for the second and final time.

Council members will consider Ordinance 2-2021 and Ordinance 3-2021, both of which involve implementing telecommunications networks within city boundaries.

Ordinance 2-2021 grants Windwave Technologies, an internet service provider in Boardman, the ability to construct, operate and maintain a telecommunications network in Cove. Ordinance 3-2021 will provide the same liberties for Inland Development Corporation, another provider operated out of Boardman.

Aside from the reading of the ordinances, the standard public comment sections will be allotted to individuals in attendance. The council also will review complaints regarding commercial signs on residential property and nuisance garbage.

An open hearing will be held to discuss fence height variance, which is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. and be decided via council vote.

In addition to in-person attendance, the meeting can be viewed virtually. Instructions are listed at [www.citycove.org](http://www.citycove.org). Individuals can also dial 877-309-2073 and use access code 566-891-733 to listen in on the meeting.

Public comments may be emailed to [cityadmin@cityofcove.org](mailto:cityadmin@cityofcove.org) before 6:45 p.m. on Dec. 7.

## COVID-19 vaccination clinics set for December in Union County

LA GRANDE — The Center for Human Development, starting this weekend, will be offering many opportunities this month for people in Union County to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

The opportunities will kick off Sunday, Dec. 5, with a drive-thru event at the Union County Fairgrounds, La Grande. Vaccinations will be available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day through Dec. 10. The vaccinations will be given at the Mount Emily Building, according to the CHD's website.

First, second and third booster vaccines will be available. The clinic will feature the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen and Moderna vaccines for ages 18 and older, and the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5 and older.

People will be able to complete registration forms for vaccinations at the Mount Emily Building.

An identical clinic will be conducted Dec. 8 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the North Powder School District's campus. Signs will be posted to direct people to the clinic.

In addition, people will have opportunities to receive COVID-19 vaccinations at CHD, 2301 Cove Ave., La Grande, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Friday in December except on Christmas Eve.

Another option is to schedule appointments for vaccination shots throughout the week at the CHD.

For additional information call the CHD at 541-962-8800 or email [vaccine@chdinc.org](mailto:vaccine@chdinc.org).

— The Observer

## LOTTERY

Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021

Megabucks

1-5-17-29-36-40

Jackpot: \$6.5 million

Lucky Lines

2-7-11-14-17-23-28-32

Estimated jackpot: \$33,000

Powerball

12-15-38-57-63

Powerball: 24

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$278 million

Win for Life

25-41-44-54

Pick 4

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

4 p.m.: 8-9-3-7

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

10 p.m.: 1-7-8-6

Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021

Lucky Lines

4-7-11-13-17-22-27-30

Jackpot: \$34,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 2-0-0-7

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

7 p.m.: 0-6-9-6

10 p.m.: 4-1-0-7

## LA GRANDE

## Council approves Community Paths grant

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande City Council met for its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 1, approving a grant that opens the door for potential new and improved multi-use paths in the city.

Public Works Director Kyle Carpenter presented the item of new business at the virtual meeting. The Community Paths Program is run through the Oregon Department of Transportation and is an add-on to the bike and pedestrian portion of the Connect Oregon Program.

The intent of approving the agenda item is to allow a consultant to be hired to assess La Grande's current infrastructure as it relates

to multi-use paths. The consultant would then provide suggestions and recommendations, along with the city's input, on the future construction of new multi-use paths and maintenance of current systems.

The goal is to connect the southern part of La Grande near the Gekeler Lane area with the downtown area. The potential path project would also integrate Eastern Oregon University into the path system.

The Oregon Community Paths Program grant is in the amount of \$135,000, with the city pitching in the remaining \$15,000 to cover the \$150,000 cost. According to Carpenter, the \$15,000 is within the city's budget limits this year.

Since the grant is a planning grant, it will go strictly toward the hiring of the consultant and any

legwork needed to prepare for the project. The city would then apply for a construction grant from the Oregon Community Paths Program in next year's grant cycle to complete the project. Carpenter noted that the intention is to go into the next grant cycle and apply for more funds in order to begin work on the multi-use paths.

The agenda item was approved unanimously by the council members.

The multi-use paths grant was the primary focus of a brief agenda in the council's final meeting of 2021. The La Grande City Council will meet next at 6 p.m. on Jan. 5, 2022. There is a Landmarks Commission regular session on Dec. 9 and a Planning Commission regular session on Dec. 14. Both meetings begin at 6 p.m.