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Are we in for a white Christmas?

By **DICK MASON**

The Observer

LA GRANDE — A white Christmas may be on the horizon for the Grande Ronde and Wallowa valleys.

La Grande and Enterprise may receive up to 2 inches of snow on Christmas Day, according to the National Weather Service, Pendleton. If there is snow it will likely come in both areas at about 4 p.m.

Wind velocity may be what determines whether there will be snow on Christmas Day, according to Roger Cloutier, a National Weather Service meteorologist.

"It will depend on the wind coming out of the southeast," he said.

He said if there is strong wind from the southeast there likely will not be snow on Christmas Day, but if there is no or little wind, snow will be much more likely. Cloutier said that wind blowing hard has a drying impact that reduces the likelihood of snow.

Cloutier noted one reason the Grande Ronde Valley often has limited snow is the strong southeast wind blowing in from Ladd and Pyles canyons.

"It warms up and dries out the air," he said.

Conditions in the Grande Ronde and Wallowa valleys are expected to be cold and dry in the days leading up to Christmas.

On the snow front in La Grande heading into Christmas there will be a 50% chance of snow in the late afternoon on Tuesday, Dec. 21; a 60% chance of snow throughout Dec. 22, a 50% chance of snow late in the morning into the evening evening of Dec. 23, and a chance of snow on Dec. 24.

The Grande Ronde Valley has received limited measurable snowfall over the past week, but that is not true in Wallowa Valley, which was hit with a deluge of snow over the past weekend. The reported snowfall was heaviest in Joseph, which as of 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, had received 6 inches of snow during the past 24 hours, according to Matt Callihan, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

The snow projections leading up to Christmas in Enterprise will be much lighter, according to the National Weather Service. Its forecast calls for a 30% chance of snow on Dec. 21, a 20% chance of snow on Dec. 22 during the day, a 40% chance of snow throughout Dec. 23, and a chance of snow on Dec. 24.

In La Grande the high temperatures are expected to be 38 degrees on Dec. 21 and Dec. 22, 36 degrees

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WHITE GOLD

Anthony Lakes Ski Resort opens for season after recent storms blanket the mountains

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**

The Observer

NORTH POWDER — Ski season is back in Northeastern Oregon.

Recent snowstorms have opened Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort just in time for winter break and skiers flocked to the slopes on opening day, Saturday, Dec. 18. Conditions were ideal as ski resorts across the Pacific Northwest continue to see a rise in traffic during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There's a lot of folks excited to get out and ski this weekend and through the holiday break," said Chelsea Judy, the marketing director at Anthony Lakes. "We definitely expect to see it busy, but maybe not quite like last season."

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Photos by Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

Above, snowboarders walk the incline near the Alice's Wonderland learning area and, below, a group of skiers descend Road Run slope at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort during opening day, Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021. The resort received enough snow from recent storms to open the slopes just in time for winter break.



Painter loves tricking the eye

Pendleton artist wins commission for art installation in La Grande

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Most all of us have experienced looking at something and seeing only a jumble, then marveling when everything suddenly resolves into crystal clarity.

Pendleton artist Jason Hogge cultivates those moments in the art he creates. He loves optical illusions, three-dimensional pieces and anything that tricks the viewer's eye.

Last month, the La Grande City Council approved Hogge's idea for a large public art installation to sit in front of Cook Memorial Library. The La Grande Arts Commission earlier



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Pendleton artist Jason Hogge's idea for a large art installation was chosen by the La Grande Arts Commission to sit in front of the Cook Memorial Library. The piece will include four different murals in one.

selected the artist and his concept and needed a go-ahead from the city council.

Hogge envisions about 25 con-

crete panels that will become pieces of several murals, viewable from four spots.

"It'll be partly sculpture and partly mural using concrete panels that look randomly spaced and turned at different angles," Hogge said. "When you stand directly in front of it, it looks jumbled."

The murals will reveal themselves when viewers look from separate designated spots at eye level — though the last is meant to be viewed from a child's height.

"Adults will have to get down on their hands and knees to be low enough to see it," Hogge said.

The first mural will depict two Native American women gathering camas backdropped by a wide expanse of the Grande Ronde Valley. Hogge modeled the scene after a photo of one of his wife's ancestors and another woman digging for camas root. His wife, Ethel Hogge, her sister,

Irene Jackson, and her niece, Rey Jackson, modeled for a newer photo, which Hogge will paint.

He bases the second mural on an old photo of a Black logger named Lafayette "Lucky" Trice who logged in Wallowa County and later was a well-known businessman in La Grande. Hogge's mockup of the mural also includes an old bridge, a water wheel, the historic staircase leading to Eastern Oregon University and four railroad workers — two of them Chinese — operating a handcar.

The third mural will highlight La Grande as a place of recreation, education and the arts. In the mockup, a salmon swims toward a fishing lure. Bear prints and the footprint of a hiking boot mark the soil. A paintbrush and a graduation tassel float midair. Like the others, this mural is still developing in Hogge's fertile imagination.

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WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

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