

TODAY

On Jan. 4, 2007, Nancy Pelosi was elected the first female speaker of the House as Democrats took control of Congress.

In 1821, the first native-born American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, died in Maryland.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, called for legislation to provide assistance for the jobless, elderly, impoverished children and the disabled.

In 1948, Burma (now called Myanmar) became independent of British rule.

In 1964, Pope Paul VI began a visit to the Holy Land, the first papal pilgrimage of its kind

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his State of the Union address in which he outlined the goals of his "Great Society."

In 1974, President Richard Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1987, 16 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington, D.C., to Boston collided with Conrail locomotives that had crossed into its path from a side track in Chase, Maryland.

In 1990, Charles Stuart, who'd claimed that he'd been wounded and his pregnant wife fatally shot by a robber, leapt to his death off a Boston bridge after he himself became a suspect.

In 1999, Europe's new currency, the euro, got off to a strong start on its first trading day, rising against the dollar on world currency markets. Former professional wrestler Jesse Ventura took the oath of office as Minnesota's governor.

In 2002, Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Ross Chapman, a U.S. Army Special Forces soldier, was killed by small-arms fire during an ambush in eastern Afghanistan; he was the first American military death from enemy fire in the war against terrorism.

In 2006, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a significant stroke; his official powers were transferred to his deputy, Ehud Olmert. (Sharon remained in a coma until his death in January 2014.)

In 2015, Pope Francis named 156 new cardinals, selecting them from 14 countries, including far-flung corners of the world, to reflect the diversity of the Roman Catholic church and its growth in places like Asia and Africa.

Ten years ago: Defying Republican lawmakers, President Barack Obama barreled past the Senate by using a recess appointment to name Richard Cordray the first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama urged congressional Democrats to "look out for the American people" in defending his legacy health care overhaul, while Vice President-elect Mike Pence stood firm in telling Republicans that dismantling "Obamacare" was No. 1 on Donald Trump's list.

One year ago: At a campaign rally in Georgia for the Republican candidates in the state's U.S. Senate runoff elections, President Donald Trump declared that he would "fight like hell" to hold on to the presidency and appealed to Republican lawmakers to reverse his election loss. Bracing for violence, the nation's capital mobilized the National Guard ahead of planned protests by Trump supporters in connection with the congressional vote to affirm Joe Biden's election victory.

La Grande rings in the new year



Photos by Alex Wittwer/The Observer



Above, crowds gather to keep warm near fires and, at left, revelers ring in the new year as the ball drops at the New Year's Eve block party on Adams Avenue and Depot Street in La Grande on Friday, Dec. 31, 2021. More than 100 braved the frigid temperatures — which dropped to 11 degrees below zero and shattered the previous record — to welcome in 2022. Free hot dogs, hot chocolate, cider and cookies, as well as a scavenger hunt, were some of the attractions featured at the annual event.

Native grasses damaged by a vandal

Twenty acres of native grassland ruined at Cove Ascension School Camp

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

COVE — The Ascension School Camp and Conference Center in Cove will be involved in extensive reseeding work this spring.

The reseeding will be necessary after a vandal damaged a field filled with native grasses in late December.

"Someone went four-wheeling and really ripped out all of the grass," said Amy Jayne, executive director of the Ascension School Camp and Confer-

ence Center.

The vandal drove a vehicle over 20 acres of land filled with 12 native grasses being grown by the Ascension School Camp and Conference Center. The native grasses damaged include big bluegrass, Idaho fescue and western wheatgrass.

It will cost more than \$1,000 to reseed the native grasses, Jayne said.

The 20 acres of partially damaged land is part of 80 acres of land at the Ascension School Camp where native vegetation is grown. It includes a 40-acre field

where native plants are being grown as a part of a federal government Conservation Resources Enhancement Program. A small portion of this land was also damaged by the vandal.

The Ascension School Camp and Conference Center and the federal government share the cost of maintaining the native vegetation on the Conservation Resources Enhancement Program land.

The 80 acres of land, in addition to its native grasses, has native vegetation including willow trees, serviceberries and camas. All of this native vegetation is protected by fencing around individual plants.

Jayne said one reason it is important to reseed the land is that it is part of the Ascension School Camp's outdoor school program, which serves school groups throughout the state who come to participate in four day, three night programs.

Jayne said it was disheartening to first see the damage inflicted in late December.

"It was really disappointing," she said.

Jayne said the native plant program has been very popular in Cove and that the vandalism incident was out of the ordinary.

"It was an isolated incident. The community has been overwhelmingly supportive," she said.

Suspect in New Year's Eve shootout on I-84 dies

The Observer

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Police Department in a press release Saturday, Jan. 1, reported the suspect law enforcement pursued on New Year's Eve from Union County into Umatilla County has died.

Police identified the suspect as Nicholas Russell Proudfoot, 30, of North Bend, Washington.

The pursuit began the morning of Friday, Dec. 31, after the theft of a vehicle in Ukiah at 6 a.m., according to a press release that day from the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office. The Union County Sheriff's Office at about 10:45 a.m. attempted to stop the vehicle in Union County.

The report from Dec. 31 stated law enforce-

ment caught the suspect at 11:53 a.m. and took him into custody at gunpoint. Officers took the suspect to a hospital for medical attention.

But the press release Jan. 1 from the Pendleton Police Department presents more information.

Pendleton police reported the chase ended on Interstate 84 at approximately milepost 223 on Cabbage Hill, about 13 miles east of Pendleton.

The suspect fired several rounds at an Oregon State Police trooper and civilians as he fled and car-jacked occupied vehicles on the interstate, Pendleton police reported. The trooper and one civilian who was a victim of a car-jacking returned fire at the suspect.

"The incident ended

after the suspect's stolen vehicle became disabled," according to the press release, "and he was found unresponsive with an injury to his head."

Pendleton police reported law enforcement performed lifesaving efforts and an ambulance took Proudfoot to a hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries at 9 p.m. Dec. 31.

No civilians or law enforcement officers were injured during this chase and shooting.

At approximately noon that day, Pendleton Police Department, at the request of the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office and in compliance with the Umatilla County Deadly Physical Force Plan, assumed control of the investigation. Police

also reported there will be an autopsy to determine the manner and cause of Proudfoot's death.

The investigation of multiple crime scenes led to the shutdown of I-84 between mileposts 237 and 223 on both the east and westbound sides until about 9:30 p.m.

The investigation also is relying on resources from Hermiston Police Department, Umatilla Tribal Police Department, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, Union County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police and its crime lab and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"Once the investigation is complete," according to the press release, "all material will be turned over to the Umatilla County District Attorney."

Cattle, calves rescued from deep NE Oregon snows

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

IMNAHA — Rescue efforts are still underway to save dozens of cattle stranded in up to 7 feet of snow on a Northeastern Oregon grazing allotment.

The cattle — many of which had young calves — were mired in deep snow on U.S. Forest Service land in the Upper Imnaha area, Wallowa County Sheriff Joel Fish confirmed on Friday, Dec. 31.

Fish said the sheriff's office is investigating and "assisting with the retrieval of the cattle on the Forest Service grazing permits on the Marr Flat C&H Allotment. We have had deputies on snowmobiles assisting."

Numerous volunteers were helping in the rescue efforts, according to Todd Nash, chair of the Wallowa County Commission, and volunteers with the Wallowa County Humane Society.

Social media alert

One of the first widespread alerts came in a Facebook post by Craig Stockdale, who was one of the first to discover the cattle on the 200 Road south of Salt Creek.

"I just came upon them snowmobiling," Stockdale said Jan. 1.

He said his social media post mobilized rescuers — both those out finding the cattle and those with facilities to care for the rescued livestock.

On Dec. 29, Kathy Gisler Reynolds, a volunteer with the Humane Society, also shared a post of the cattle. Photos posted on Facebook showed a cow up to its neck in snow and unable to move.

"I was alerted to it yesterday by the ranchers who have been out there trying to save them," Reynolds said Dec. 30.

"Some were too weak to even move," she said of the cattle, adding that although rescuers were able to retrieve calves, some of the adult cows had to be euthanized.

Stockdale and Anna Butterfield, who with her husband, Mark, ranches northeast of Joseph, confirmed the cattle are on the Bob Dean Oregon Ranch managed by B.J. Warnock. Dean lives out of town and Warnock was unavailable for comment Jan. 1.

County involved

Nash — who is a rancher and president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association — said Dec. 30 information on the situation was limited.

"The things we do know is that this was a Forest Service permit for the Upper Big Sheep Creek and the Upper Imnaha. It takes in a large area — 72,000 acres — known as the Marr Flat Grazing Allotment. They had a viable permit to go on sometime in the spring. They were supposed to have all cattle removed, according to the Forest Service permit," Nash said.

"There is a rescue effort being made right now to try and rescue as many as possible. We've committed county resources to it. There've been a number of people who have volunteered or have contributed time," he said. "There have been helicopters that have flown feed into some that were extremely isolated, and the rescue continues. Those are the basics that I do know.

Compounding the heavy snowfall that came all at once, rain and heavy snow brought down trees across a lot of the access roads in the area, Nash added.

LOTTERY

Friday, Dec. 31, 2021

Megamillions
2-5-30-46-61
Megaball: 8
Megaplier: 3
Jackpot: \$244 million

Lucky Lines
3-6-11-13-18-23-28-32
Jackpot: \$63,000

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 1-6-6-3
4 p.m.: 1-4-1-2
7 p.m.: 2-8-5-7
10 p.m.: 7-2-3-4

Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022

Powerball
6-12-39-48-50
Powerball: 7
Power Play: 2
Jackpot: \$540 million

Megabucks
1-4-20-23-40-46
Jackpot: \$7.8 million

Lucky Lines
2-5-12-16-20-21-28-30
Jackpot: \$64,000

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 2-9-7-8
4 p.m.: 8-3-4-6
7 p.m.: 5-1-1-1
10 p.m.: 7-4-5-7

Win for Life
28-52-55-70

Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022

Lucky Lines
4-8-12-15-20-24-26-32
Estimated jackpot: \$65,000

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 0-6-1-8
4 p.m.: 7-0-0-6
7 p.m.: 6-6-3-2
10 p.m.: 4-5-1-1

NEWS BRIEF

Home builders association offering scholarship opportunity

HERMISTON — The Northeast Oregon Home Builders Association is offering two \$1,500 scholarships to help educate and train individuals in a profession related to the building industry.

Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of their potential to succeed.

Applicants must currently be a senior enrolled in high school, enrolled as a college student or in a qualified apprenticeship program. The students must be a resident of Umatilla, Morrow, Union, Baker or Wallowa counties and have an interest in or intend to pursue a career in the construction profession, including welding, heating and ventilation, heavy equipment operator, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, concrete, construction management,

architecture/engineering.

To learn more about building trade career opportunities, go online to the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council or visit the different colleges that offer construction management degrees.

Scholarship application forms are available online at www.neohba.com or www.columbiabasinstudenthomes.org.

The deadline to apply is April 15.

— *The Observer*