

TODAY

On Jan. 6, 2021, supporters of President Donald Trump, fueled by his false claims of a stolen election, assaulted police and smashed their way into the Capitol to interrupt the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's victory, forcing lawmakers into hiding; most of the rioters had come from a nearby rally where Trump urged them to "fight like hell." A Trump supporter, Ashli Babbitt, was shot and killed by a police officer as she tried to breach a barricaded doorway inside the Capitol. Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, injured while confronting the rioters, suffered a stroke the next day and died from natural causes, the Washington, D.C., medical examiner's office said. (In the weeks that followed, four of the officers who responded to the riot took their own lives.) Congress reconvened hours later to finish certifying the election result.

In 1412, tradition holds that Joan of Arc was born this day in Domremy.

In 1838, Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail gave the first successful public demonstration of their telegraph in Morristown, New Jersey.

In 1912, New Mexico became the 47th state.

In 1919, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, died in Oyster Bay, New York, at age 60.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, outlined a goal of "Four Freedoms": Freedom of speech and expression; the freedom of people to worship God in their own way; freedom from want; freedom from fear.

In 1974, year-round daylight saving time began in the United States on a trial basis as a fuel-saving measure in response to the OPEC oil embargo.

In 1982, truck driver William G. Bonin was convicted in Los Angeles of 10 of the "Freeway Killer" slayings of young men and boys. (Bonin was later convicted of four other killings; he was executed in 1996.)

In 1994, figure skater Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed on the leg by an assailant at Detroit's Cobo Arena; four men, including the ex-husband of Kerrigan's rival, Tonya Harding, went to prison for their roles in the attack. (Harding pleaded guilty to conspiracy to hinder prosecution, but denied any advance knowledge about the assault.)

In 2001, with Vice President Al Gore presiding in his capacity as president of the Senate, Congress formally certified George W. Bush the winner of the bitterly contested 2000 presidential election.

In 2005, former Ku Klux Klan leader Edgar Ray Killen was arrested on murder charges 41 years after three civil rights workers were slain in Mississippi. (Killen was later convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 60 years in prison; he died in prison in 2018.)

In 2006, velvet-voiced singer Lou Rawls died in Los Angeles at age 72.

Ten years ago: The Obama administration expanded the FBI's more than eight-decades-old definition of rape to count men as victims for the first time and to drop the requirement that victims physically resisted their attackers.

Five years ago: Congress certified Donald Trump's presidential victory over the objections of a handful of House Democrats, with Vice President Joe Biden pronouncing, "It is over." An arriving airline passenger pulled a gun from his luggage and opened fire in the baggage claim area at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Florida, killing five people and wounding eight. (An Alaska man, Esteban Santiago, admitted to the shooting and was sentenced to life in prison.) Mother-and-daughter actors Debbie Reynolds and Carrie Fisher were laid to rest together at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Hollywood.

LOTTERY

Monday, Jan. 3, 2022 Megabucks
11-15-16-23-24-34
Estimated jackpot: \$7.9 million
Lucky Lines
3-6-10-15-20-23-27-32
Estimated jackpot: \$66,000
Win for Life
29-50-71-76
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 5-2-3-2
4 p.m.: 9-1-3-0
7 p.m.: 8-8-7-1
10 p.m.: 7-1-4-8

Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022 Mega Millions
4-6-16-21-22
Mega Ball: 1
Megaplier: 3
Estimated jackpot: \$278 million
Lucky Lines
4-8-11-15-18-24-26-30
Estimated jackpot: \$67,000
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 5-2-7-6
4 p.m.: 8-0-5-4
7 p.m.: 7-7-9-1
10 p.m.: 4-5-6-2

Northeastern Oregon sees \$22 million in reimbursements for 2020 floods

By ALEX WITTWER
EO Media Group

PENDLETON — Oregon State Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley announced nearly \$22 million in grant money would be dispersed to Northeastern Oregon.

The funds will be used to help reimburse the costs associated with the historic flooding that occurred in February 2020, when nearly 400 homes were destroyed or damaged by the torrential rain, mostly in Umatilla County.

The total cost of the damage was estimated to be more than \$48 million, with well more than \$26 million in removing debris removal, emergency protective measures and repairing roads, bridges and public buildings, according to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

"We're prepared to take full advantage of the funding, and we've got projects in the works for development," said Tom Strandberg, public information officer with the Oregon Department of Transportation for Eastern Oregon.

Exactly \$11 million was earmarked for North-



Above, Oregon Department of Transportation work crews remove debris that washed against the I-84 bridge over the Umatilla River in Pendleton on Friday, Feb. 7, 2020. Below, Chantal Fuller watches as water floods her home in Thorn Hollow outside of Adams on Feb. 6, 2020.



eastern Oregon specifically, citing the severe storms and increased snowmelt that caused flooding, landslides, sinks, downed trees and ero-

sion that had resulted in damage to critical transportation infrastructure, according to the grants the Federal Highway Administration approved.

As well, \$9 million was approved for projects repairing damage to major highways across Oregon that experienced similar damages in January 2021.

A final \$1.7 million was appropriated for the Umatilla National Forest to repair roads and trails that were damaged by floods in the winter 2020.

December warmer than normal in La Grande

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Temperatures in December 2021 were slightly higher than normal in the La Grande area, according to preliminary data received by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service Office in Pendleton.

The average temperature during the month was 32.5 degrees, 1.8 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 39.8 degrees, 2.2 degrees above normal, according to the monthly climate summary.

The highest temperature was 62 degrees, recorded on Dec. 2.

Low temperatures averaged 25.1 degrees, 1.4 degrees above normal. The lowest temperature for the month was minus 1 on Dec. 31, the report said.

There were 24 days in December when the low temperature dipped below 32 degrees in La Grande. There were six days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation for the month totaled 2.74 inches, 1.08 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation — at least 0.01 inch — was received on 13 days, with



Snow rings the Grande Ronde Valley as seen from Highway 30 near Gangloff Park in La Grande on Monday, Dec. 20, 2021.

the heaviest, 0.53 inches, reported on Dec. 31.

Precipitation in 2021 finished at 14.48 inches, which is 2.04 inches below normal, according to the weather service report. Since October, the water year precipitation at La Grande has been 6.30 inches, 1.32 inches above normal.

The outlook for January from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal highs for La Grande during the month are 38.4 degrees and normal lows are 24.5 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation for the month is 1.63 inches.

Wallowa County

Wallowa County experienced slightly lower than normal temperatures for the month of December, the report said. The average temperature for Joseph during the month was 24.2 degrees, 1.2 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 33.9 degrees, 0.4 degrees above normal. The highest temperature was 57 degrees on Dec. 1.

Low temperatures averaged 14.4 degrees, 2.9 degrees below normal. The lowest temperature for the month was minus 18 degrees, recorded Dec. 31.

There were 31 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees and 14 days when the high temperature

stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation for the month in Wallowa County totaled 0.63 inches, which was 0.69 inches below normal, according to the report. Measurable precipitation — at least 0.01 inch — was received on 10 days during the month, with the heaviest, 0.22 inches, reported on Dec. 14. Since October, the water year precipitation at Joseph has been 2.18 inches, which is 1.77 inches below normal.

Wallowa County's outlook for January predicts below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal highs for Joseph in January are 35.3 degrees and normal lows are 18.7 degrees.

NEWS BRIEFS

Joseph City Council meeting postponed

JOSEPH — The monthly Joseph City Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 6, has been postponed until Jan. 20, according to a press release.

The release stated the postponement was "due to several unforeseen circumstances."

OTEC seeks candidates for board of directors

BAKER CITY — Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is seeking candidates for three board of director seats for 2022.

The board positions up for election, which is in May, are:

Position 7 — Union County, held by incumbent Greg Howard.

Position 8 — Union County, held by incumbent David Baum.

Position 9 — Baker County, held by incumbent Charlene Chase.

Members of the cooperative interested in running for the OTEC Board of Directors can contact the administration at 541-524-2831 or visit otec.coop/annual-meeting-board-elections for nominating committee information, qualifications and applications.

The nominating committee recommends candidates for the board elections and is requesting any members interested in running to contact them on or

before Jan. 31.

Nominations by petition are due by March 22.

Meet Rep. Bentz on Jan. 6 in La Grande

LA GRANDE — U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz will be in La Grande on Thursday, Jan. 6, for a meet and greet at Brother Bear Cafe, 1009 Adams Ave., the Union County Chamber of Commerce announced.

Local business owners and members of the community are invited to visit with Congressman Bentz

(R-Ontario) from 5-7 p.m. Coffee, tea, soft drinks and light snacks will be provided.

— The Observer

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