

## TODAY

**On Jan. 8, 1964**, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, declared an “unconditional war on poverty in America.”

**In 1815**, the last major engagement of the War of 1812 came to an end as U.S. forces defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans, not having received word of the signing of a peace treaty.

**In 1867**, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in overriding President Andrew Johnson's veto of the District of Columbia Suffrage Bill, giving Black men in the nation's capital the right to vote.

**In 1912**, the African National Congress was founded in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

**In 1918**, President Woodrow Wilson outlined his Fourteen Points for lasting peace after World War I. Mississippi became the first state to ratify the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which established Prohibition.

**In 1935**, rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi.

**In 1982**, American Telephone and Telegraph settled the Justice Department's antitrust lawsuit against it by agreeing to divest itself of the 22 Bell System companies.

**In 1994**, Tonya Harding won the ladies' U.S. Figure Skating Championship in Detroit, a day after Nancy Kerrigan dropped out because of the clubbing attack that had injured her right knee. (The U.S. Figure Skating Association later stripped Harding of the title.)

**In 1998**, Ramzi Yousef, the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, was sentenced in New York to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

**In 2008**, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton powered to victory in New Hampshire's 2008 Democratic primary in a startling upset, defeating Sen. Barack Obama and resurrecting her bid for the White House; Sen. John McCain defeated his Republican rivals to move back into contention for the GOP nomination.

**In 2011**, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot and critically wounded when a gunman opened fire as the congresswoman met with constituents in Tucson; six people were killed, 12 others also injured. (Gunman Jared Lee Loughner was sentenced in Nov. 2012 to seven consecutive life sentences, plus 140 years.)

**In 2016**, Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman, the world's most-wanted drug lord, was captured for a third time in a daring raid by Mexican marines, six months after walking through a tunnel to freedom from a maximum security prison.

**In 2020**, Iran struck back at the United States for killing Iran's top military commander, firing missiles at two Iraqi military bases housing American troops; more than 100 U.S. service members were diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries after the attack. As Iran braced for a counterattack, the country's Revolutionary Guard shot down a Ukrainian jetliner after apparently mistaking it for a missile; all 176 people on board were killed, including 82 Iranians and more than 50 Canadians.

**Five years ago:** “La La Land” won seven Golden Globe Awards, including best motion picture, comedy or musical, while “Moonlight” was recognized as best movie drama; Meryl Streep, accepting a lifetime achievement award, criticized President-elect Donald Trump without mentioning him by name.

**One year ago:** President Donald Trump said he would skip President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration; Biden responded that he was just fine with that, calling it “one of the few things we have ever agreed on.” Twitter said it was banning Trump from its platform, citing “risk of further incitement of violence.”

## LOTTERY

**Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022**

**Megabucks**

7-18-21-28-41-45

Jackpot: \$8 million

**Lucky Lines**

1-6-11-15-18-24-25-31

Estimated jackpot: \$68,000

**Powerball**

6-14-25-33-46

Powerball: 17

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$20 million

**Win for Life**

36-44-50-55

**Pick 4**

1 p.m.: 8-6-9-6

4 p.m.: 2-7-4-5

7 p.m.: 0-9-2-4

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

**Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022**

**Lucky Lines**

1-5-10-15-20-24-28-31

Jackpot: \$69,000

**Pick 4**

1 p.m.: 5-7-3-7

4 p.m.: 9-8-9-1

7 p.m.: 9-9-7-5

10 p.m.: 5-5-3-0

## Fishtrap prepares for move to larger home

Wallowa County organization relocating to larger space in downtown Enterprise

By ANN BLOOM

For EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — Fishtrap, Wallowa County's premier writing organization, is preparing for a new chapter in its life as it anticipates moving into its new home on Main Street after 20 years in the Coffin House.

The reason for the move, according to Fishtrap Director Shannon Mc Nerney, is that the nonprofit had outgrown the Coffin House, and it would have needed major renovations to make it work.

“It needed a lot of effort, time and money,” she said, and that was when the decision was made to sell the house. And, the whole process was, she said, “like magic.”

The sale, though, of the Coffin House was conditional on being able to find and lease a new space that fit all the organization's needs.

Fishtrap had a list of what it wanted: a place that was centrally located, fully accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act, with room for an office, a kitchen and at least 1,000 square feet of event space. The house was listed in June and by July they had an offer.

“We're using the proceeds from the sale of the Coffin House to make sure (Fishtrap's) programs are healthy and strong for the long run,” she said.

The new location is in the downstairs of the historic Bowlby Building as well as the adjacent former barber shop, giving the organization a large 4,000-square-foot space that will provide room for administrative offices, a kitchen, a conference room area, and a large venue for programs such as Fishtrap's popular Fireside readings, Winter Fishtrap, The Big



Shannon Mc Nerney/Contributed Photo

Construction is underway in winter 2022 to upgrade what will be the new home of Fishtrap in downtown Enterprise.



Shannon Mc Nerney/Contributed Photo

After 20 years in the Coffin House, Fishtrap will move to the Bowlby Building and an adjacent former barber shop by April 2022.

Read and writing workshops. The space will also

be made available to local organizations for their

events, Mc Nerney said.

The building housing the new Fishtrap space is owned by Bill Warnock and Michele Starr, who Mc Nerney said, “have been remarkable to work with.”

Currently some Fishtrap staff are working from home, and some are working from a small leased administrative office space.

Mc Nerney said she is “excited about a clean, safe, beautiful space we can work in” even though, “we loved Coffin House.”

Mc Nerney said she expects people's “jaws to drop” when they see the fresh paint, open space and high ceilings of Fishtrap's new home.

The expected move-in date is April 2022 and Mc Nerney promises an open house.

“There will be a celebration for sure,” she said.

“We're stewards of Fishtrap. It belongs to the community,” she said. “I hope the community feels ownership and is proud of it.”

## City approves new audit corrective plan

Council also approves several new committee and commission assignments

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande City Council approved a new business item regarding the audit finding corrective plan, during its monthly meeting Wednesday, Jan. 5.

The audit finding corrective plan allows the mayor to sign the audit and send it off to the state's Audit Division. During a work session on Jan. 3, the council reviewed its yearly audit, which clarifies financial standards and matters related to internal financial reports.

Oregon state law requires that governing bodies adopt a plan of action addressing any deficiencies within 30 days of filing the audit, which the

council approved at the Jan. 3 meeting.

Mayor Steve Clements noted that the financial advisers were pleased with the city's audit and how the process progressed this year.

The council also approved new committee and commission assignments, a task performed at the beginning of the new calendar year.

Clements and Councilor Nicole Howard were assigned to the city's audit committee, while Councilor Mary Ann Miesner will remain on the Northeast Housing Authority and Councilor David Glabe will remain on the airport committee. Clements will remain the treasurer for the Union County Safe Communities Coal-

ition. Councilor Gary Lillard was selected to continue on the senior council, while Howard will continue on the tourism committee.

In addition to councilors being assigned to committees and commissions, the mayor nominated citizens to various committee and commission positions on the final item of new business.

Incumbent Liberty Avila was approved to fill one of two vacancies on the city's planning commission. Two vacancies on the air quality control commission were approved, as well as three spots on the budget committee — the budget committee meets in conjunction with the city council in May for its budget meeting. The council approved the filling of one vacancy in the community landscape and forestry commission for a

three-year term. The landmarks advisory commission filled one out of three vacancies for a three-year term.

The parking, traffic safety and street maintenance commission filled one out of four vacancies. The council approved three new positions on the parks and recreation advisory commission.

The council also ratified the 2021 city manager evaluation. The staff evaluation involves a cumulative review of the city manager and the council's overall performance throughout the year of 2021.

City Manager Robert Strope received a 4.03 score on a scale of one to five and the overall staff rating was 4.43.

The La Grande City Council will next meet at its council and Urban Renewal Agency retreats on Jan. 24.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Union County reports 27 new COVID-19 cases

SALEM — The Oregon Health Authority reported 27 new cases of COVID-19 in Union County on Thursday, Jan. 6, with that total among 7,615 new cases in the state. There were no new Union County deaths in the report. The county now has had 3,635 cases during the pandemic, and there have been 64 deaths attributed to COVID-19.

Wallowa County, a day after reporting nine new cases, had just one case in the Jan. 6 report. Wallowa County is at 814 cases and 13 deaths during the pandemic.

Statewide hospitalizations due to COVID-19 were up to 588, an increase of 65 from the previous report, and COVID ICU patients were at 110, up two from the previous report.

There were 19,475 doses of a COVID shot added to the state tally Jan. 6, bringing the seven-day running average to 10,873.

## Anthony Lakes open, but lodge closed this weekend

NORTH POWDER — Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort is open Thursday through Sunday during the season, but the lodge will be closed this weekend, through Sunday, Jan. 9.

“Already short-staffed this season, Anthony Lakes has a handful of employees out due to COVID,” the ski area announced in its daily report Jan. 6. “To prevent further spread and to keep our staff and community safe, we feel it is best to close the lodge. We plan to reopen again next weekend, staffing dependent.”

Anthony Lakes has had 24 inches of new snow this week, although a passing warm front raised the temperature to 40 degrees the morning of Jan. 6. Colder temperatures are forecast into the weekend. The resort, in the Elkhorn Mountains about 44 miles southeast of La Grande, has a snow base of 54 inches.

## Financing small business webinar scheduled for Jan. 11

LA GRANDE — A webinar on financing small businesses will be conducted from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, by the Eastern Oregon University Small Business Development Center.

Finance sources to be discussed include banks, credit unions and loan programs offered through the Small Business Administration, economic development districts, the state of Oregon and nonprofit organizations.

There will be a question and answer session following the webinar.

To register and obtain the Zoom link for the webinar email eousbdc@gmail.com.

## Commissioners shuffle positions for coming year

ENTERPRISE — It was largely personnel matters addressed by the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners during a meeting of Wednesday, Jan. 5, including shuffling of positions on the board.

Commissioner Susan Roberts took the gavel as chairwoman for the coming year, succeeding Todd Nash.

Nash's stepping down as chairman works out timely for him, as he now has the responsibilities of the new president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

“It's a huge honor to be able to represent cattlemen in Oregon,” Nash said. “It means that I'll probably be on the road a bit more the next couple of years as I fill out this term.”

— EO Media Group

## Union County accepts \$500,000 COVID-19 grant

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Union County businesses hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic will be receiving a financial boost later this year.

The Union County Board of Commissioners voted on Wednesday, Jan. 5, to accept a \$500,000 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund grant from the state. The funding is federal money being distributed by the state.

As the board of commissioners earlier told State Rep. Bobby Levy, R-Echo, the county will spend the \$500,000 on helping businesses that are

struggling because of the pandemic, according to Union County Commissioner Donna Beverage.

Levy's legislative district received \$2 million in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund grant funds. The state representative was responsible for determining how the funding was allocated. Levy determined that Union and Wallowa counties would each get \$500,000 and that Umatilla County would receive \$1 million, Beverage said.

The board of commissioners will soon begin deciding how the funding will be distributed.

“We will be setting

guidelines,” Beverage said.

Union County Commissioner Paul Anderes is glad to have the opportunity to help businesses in Union County.

“We want to use it to help support businesses in every part of the county,” he said.

While some local business are thriving, including those in the trucking industry, Beverage said there is a strong need for the latest grant because many businesses, including a number of restaurants, are struggling.

The commissioner said a process similar to one followed a year ago when Union County also

received a Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund grant may be followed when establishing guidelines. The 2021 grant was for a little more than \$700,000 and businesses hurt by COVID-19 were able to apply for assistance. A total of 94 Union County businesses received funding from that grant.

The Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund grant program is a part of the American Rescue Plan, which is delivering \$350 billion to state, local and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.