

TODAY

On Jan. 11, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed the Grand Canyon National Monument (it became a national park in 1919).

In 1861, Alabama became the fourth state to withdraw from the Union.

In 1913, the first enclosed sedan-type automobile, a Hudson, went on display at the 13th National Automobile Show in New York.

In 1927, the creation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was proposed during a dinner of Hollywood luminaries at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

In 1935, aviator Amelia Earhart began an 18-hour trip from Honolulu to Oakland, California, that made her the first person to fly solo across any part of the Pacific Ocean.

In 1943, the United States and Britain signed treaties relinquishing extraterritorial rights in China.

In 1963, the Beatles' single "Please Please Me" (B side "Ask Me Why") was released in Britain by Parlophone.

In 1964, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry issued "Smoking and Health," a report that concluded that "cigarette smoking contributes substantially to mortality from certain specific diseases and to the overall death rate."

In 1978, two Soviet cosmonauts aboard the Soyuz 27 capsule linked up with the Salyut 6 orbiting space station, where the Soyuz 26 capsule was already docked.

In 1989, nine days before leaving the White House, President Ronald Reagan bade the nation farewell in a prime-time address, saying of his eight years in office: "We meant to change a nation and instead we changed a world."

In 2003, calling the death penalty process "arbitrary and capricious, and therefore immoral," Illinois Gov. George Ryan commuted the sentences of 167 condemned inmates, clearing his state's death row two days before leaving office.

In 2010, Mark McGwire admitted to The Associated Press that he'd used steroids and human growth hormone when he broke baseball's home run record in 1998.

In 2020, health authorities in the central Chinese city of Wuhan reported the first death from what had been identified as a new type of coronavirus; the patient was a 61-year-old man who'd been a frequent customer at a food market linked to the majority of cases there.

Today's Birthdays: Former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is 88. Actor Mitchell Ryan is 88. Movie director Joel Zwick is 80. Country singer Naomi Judd is 76. World Golf Hall of Famer Ben Crenshaw is 70. Singer Robert Earl Keen is 66. Actor Phyllis Logan is 66. Musician Vicki Peterson (The Bangles) is 64. Actor Kim Coles is 60. Actor Jason Connery is 59. Former child actor Dawn Lyn (TV: "My Three Sons") is 59. Rock musician Tom Dumont (No Doubt) is 54. Movie director Malcolm D. Lee is 52. Singer Mary J. Blige is 51. Musician Tom Rowlands (The Chemical Brothers) is 51. Actor Marc Blucas is 50. Actor Amanda Peet is 50. Actor Rockmond Dunbar is 49. Actor Aja Naomi King is 37. Actor Kristolyn Lloyd is 37. Reality TV star Jason Wahler is 35. Pop singer Cody Simpson is 25.

LOTTERY

Friday, Jan. 7, 2022

MegaMillions

7-29-43-56-57

Megaball: 6

Megaplier: 3

Jackpot: \$300 million

Lucky Lines

2-6-9-15-19-23-28-31

Jackpot: \$70,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 5-0-9-8

4 p.m.: 1-5-0-1

7 p.m.: 5-4-9-1

10 p.m.: 8-8-8-3

Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022

Powerball

20-21-36-60-65

Powerball: 13

Power Play: 10

Jackpot: \$27 million

Megabucks

2-6-15-22-43-46

Jackpot: \$8.1 million

Lucky Lines

3-6-12-15-18-23-26-30

Jackpot: \$71,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 7-6-5-7

4 p.m.: 0-4-3-6

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

10 p.m.: 1-3-3-6

Win for Life

10-11-16-55

Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022

Lucky Lines

1-7-10-13-18-22-27-32

Estimated jackpot: \$72,000

Pick 4

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

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

7 p.m.: 8-4-9-2

10 p.m.: 4-4-7-9

Cold, but dry, weather is here

A high pressure system will be keeping snowstorms out of the region

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — No snowstorms are on the horizon for the Grande Ronde and Wallowa valleys, but the thick snow that arrived in late December and early January will not be leaving in the near future.

The National Weather Service office in Pendleton is forecasting that temperatures from Tuesday, Jan. 11, through Saturday, Jan. 15, in the Grande Ronde and Wallowa valleys will remain cold and there will be little if any snow.

The only possible precipitation is snow that may fall in the mountains surrounding the Grande Ronde Valley on the evening of Jan. 12, according to Ann Adams, a forecaster with the National Weather Service, Pendleton.

No storms are expected to roll through Northeastern Oregon for at least the next five days because of a high pressure system over it.

"A high pressure system



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

A snowplow-equipped ATV clears Jefferson Avenue in front of the La Grande Union Pacific train station on Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021. The National Weather Service office in Pendleton is forecasting that temperatures from Tuesday, Jan. 11, through Saturday, Jan. 15, in the Grande Ronde and Wallowa valleys will remain cold and there will be little if any new snow.

is shunting moisture away from the inland Northwest," Adams said.

Little of the snow present will likely melt this week, with temperatures expected to not climb past 40 degrees in either La Grande or Joseph.

The highs in La Grande and Joseph are expected to be similar throughout Jan. 11-15. La Grande's highs are projected to be 35 degrees on Jan. 11, 38 degrees on Jan. 12, 36 degrees on Jan. 14 and 37 degrees on Jan. 15. The

forecast for Joseph's highs are 35 degrees on Jan. 11, 39 degrees on Jan. 12, 38 degrees on Jan. 14 and 37 degrees on Jan. 15, according to the National Weather Service.

The low temperatures will diverge in La Grande and Joseph in the coming days, with Joseph being significantly colder. La Grande's average low temperature from Jan. 11-15 is forecast to be 24.2 degrees and Joseph's is projected to be 21.6 degrees. One reason for the difference, Adams

said, is the elevation difference between the two communities. Joseph's elevation is 4,190 feet, while La Grande's is 2,785 feet.

La Grande's low temperatures are forecast to be 27 degrees on Jan. 11, 30 degrees on Jan. 12, 25 degrees on Jan. 13, 24 degrees on Jan. 14 and 26 degrees on Jan. 15. Joseph's low temperatures are projected to be 24 degrees on Jan. 11, 23 degrees on Jan. 12, 22 degrees on Jan. 13, 20 degrees on Jan. 14 and 19 degrees on Jan. 15.

Umatilla National Forest continues flood repairs

Access to roads, trails in South Fork Walla Walla watershed restored

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Umatilla National Forest reported its staff continues to repair roads and trails damaged in the 2020 floods.

According to a press release Thursday, Jan. 6, from the Umatilla National Forest, staff has restored access to Forest Service Road 32, two trails within the South Fork Walla Walla watershed and Forest Service Road 54.

The Umatilla National Forest experienced two separate floods during 2020. The first event occurred region-wide on Feb. 6, 2020, impacting numerous communities in Northeastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington. The flooding was the result of heavy snowfall followed by increased temperatures and significant rainfall.

Floods on the Umatilla National Forest caused extensive damage to 14 roads and trail systems surrounding the Umatilla, South Fork Walla

Walla and Little Tucannon rivers, requiring long-term temporary closures until the completion of critical repairs.

The second flood event occurred on May 21, 2020, causing significant damage to Forest Service Road 54 along Pearson Creek, approximately 10 miles southeast of Pilot Rock. The North Fork John Day Ranger District temporarily closed 13 miles of the road following the flood due to significant washouts.

The Umatilla National Forest made significant progress restoring access to these areas, incrementally reopening roads and trails after work was completed, the press release stated, reopening most roads and trails that were damaged. But the following closures remain in place due to significant washouts, debris slides, hazard trees, bridge damage and ongoing repair work.

- Forest Service Road 32: Closed at the Forest boundary near Corporation Guard Station to where the road turns south away from waterways toward Ruckel Junction at the southern end of the North Fork Umatilla Wilderness (approximately 9 miles).

- South Fork Walla Walla Trails: Two trails remain closed within the South Fork Walla Walla watershed (Burnt Cabin Trail No. 3226 and a segment of the South Fork Walla Walla Trail No. 3225 between the private cabins and Harris Park).

- Forest Service Road 54: Closed at mile point 4.5 from East Birch Creek Road, within the Umatilla National Forest, to the installed gate just east of the intersection of Forest Service roads 54 and 5411.

The Umatilla National Forest in 2022 is focusing repair efforts on these remaining roads and trails, according to the press release. Forest staff is working with the Federal Highway Administration for emergency relief for federally owned roads, with the aim of attaining financing to continue restoration work for qualifying Forest Service roads affected by the floods when funds become available. Forest staff or the Federal Highway Administration will complete analysis of hydrology and fisheries impacts prior to completing any work.

The Umatilla National Forest anticipates a portion of Forest Service Road 32 to reopen to the public

in 2022 from the national forest boundary at Lick Creek to the bridge near Umatilla Forks campground. A portion of the campground also will reopen. Environmental analysis and repair work will focus on the significant damage upstream from the bridge.

The press release also reported the Great American Outdoors Act funding is covering the work to replace the damaged bridge on the Burnt Cabin Trail. Forest Service staff anticipates this trail to reopen following completion of that work.

The Forest Service also is working with the Bureau of Land Management to identify options for repairing the segment of South Fork Walla Walla Trail No. 3225 that remains damaged. Staff also could complete additional repairs on roads within the Tucannon Watershed based on input and funding from the Federal Highway Administration. And, according to the press release, Forest Service staff will complete comprehensive assessments of damage on the remaining portions of Forest Service Road 54 to develop further repair plans for the next phase of work on this road.

County denies amendment to airport zoning law

By BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — An amendment to a county ordinance that would have expanded permitted uses on land adjacent to airports in the county was denied Wednesday, Jan. 5, by the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners.

The move came on a 2-1 vote, with Commissioner John Hillock voting against denying the amendment at the conclusion of a public hearing on creating an airport adjacent zone held after the board's regular meeting.

County Planning Director Franz Goebel read a report from the county Planning Commission in which the planners recommended denial of the amendment.

"This is the second official hearing as required for an official amendment," Goebel said. "The first was before the Planning



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County Planning Director Franz Goebel reads from a report on possible rezoning of land near county airports he presented to the Board of Commissioners at a public hearing Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022. The commissioners rejected the rezoning resolution 2-1.

Commission. In summary, their recommendation to the Board of Commissioners was to deny the application."

In voting against denial of the amendment, Hillock said there is still information needed to determine how best to accomplish it.

"We need to do more research on this," he said.

The request for the new

zone was submitted by S&Z Properties LLC, represented by local attorney Rahn Hostetter.

Goebel said there have been multiple hearings on the amendment after which it was continued several times to gather more information, including from the Oregon Department of Aviation. He said both the ODA and the city of Enter-

prise have been opposed to the amendment.

He said the amendment would have applied not only to the commercial airports in Enterprise and Joseph but to private landing strips on private land in the county.

"The application was to create a new zone type that could be applied (for) by a landowner near an airport," Goebel said. "The primary point of contention is that in their application, they included a residential element for apartments and condos near an airport, and that's contrary to what the Oregon Department of Aviation believes is an allowable business."

Goebel said that at this point, there has been no direction from the commissioners to rework the proposed amendment to address objectionable elements of it. It could be done, if S&Z Properties wishes to appeal it.

Board set to decide on bond

La Grande School Board to consider putting \$6 million bond on May ballot

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande School Board is set to make a decision that could have a major impact on the school district's future.

The board, when it meets at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 12, at Willow School, 1305 N. Willow St., will vote on a resolution that would ask voters to approve a \$6 million bond in May for the construction of a new academic and athletic center.

The vote will come late in the meeting after residents have an opportunity to give input on the proposed bond.

The board will make its decision after recently receiving the results of a late 2021 survey conducted by the school district.

"We have had good responses. They have helped us move forward," said Robin Maille, chair of the La Grande School Board.

Passage of the proposed \$6 million bond would not raise the total school taxes paid by property owners because of the recent refinancing of the 20-year \$31.5 million bond voters approved in 2014 for capital construction and maintenance, Maille said.

The refinancing of the 2014 bond will drop what taxpayers are now paying from \$1.93 to \$1.65 per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning in July, the same time charges for the \$6 million bond levy would kick in. The rate per \$1,000 of assessed value for the new bond would be 24 cents.

Money from the bond would pay for the construction of a multi-use academic and athletic center next to the La Grande Middle School, where the Annex building is now. The building would include two gyms and two classrooms that would be used for a variety of classes, including health, science and technology. The building would be a pre-engineered metal structure that would be available for public use and would meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards, which the current Annex building does not.

The school district's aging Annex building, which has a gym and is about 10 feet north of La Grande Middle School, is more than eight decades old. The Annex building and the school district's adjacent maintenance, facilities and grounds structure — which is at least 100 years old — would both be torn down if a bond is approved. The district's maintenance, facilities and grounds services would likely be moved to a structure the school would obtain on Adams Avenue.

Time is of the essence for the La Grande School District because in December 2021 it was awarded a \$4 million Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching grant from the state for the building of the academic and athletic center. The school district will receive the \$4 million grant only if voters approve the \$6 million bond. Voters would have to approve the bond in May because this was the election date specified by the school district in its application for the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching grant.

If voters do not approve a bond in the May election, the school district will lose the \$4 million OSCIM grant and would then have to go through the application process again.