

## TODAY

On Jan. 13, 2021, President Donald Trump was impeached by the U.S. House over the violent Jan. 6 siege of the Capitol, becoming the only president to be twice impeached; 10 Republicans joined Democrats in voting to impeach Trump on a charge of “incitement of insurrection.” (Trump would again be acquitted by the Senate in a vote after his term was over.)

In 1733, James Oglethorpe and some 120 English colonists arrived at Charleston, South Carolina, while en route to settle in present-day Georgia.

In 1794, President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union. (The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.)

In 1898, Emile Zola’s famous defense of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, “J’accuse,” was published in Paris.

In 1941, a new law went into effect granting Puerto Ricans U.S. birthright citizenship. Novelist and poet James Joyce died in Zurich, Switzerland, less than a month before his 59th birthday.

In 1982, an Air Florida 737 crashed into Washington, D.C.’s 14th Street Bridge and fell into the Potomac River while trying to take off during a snowstorm, killing a total of 78 people, including four motorists on the bridge; four passengers and a flight attendant survived.

In 1987, West German police arrested Mohammed Ali Hamadi, a suspect in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner and the killing of a U.S. Navy diver who was on board. (Although convicted and sentenced to life, Hamadi was paroled by Germany in December 2005 and returned home to Lebanon.)

In 1990, L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the nation’s first elected Black governor as he took the oath of office in Richmond.

In 1992, Japan apologized for forcing tens of thousands of Korean women to serve as sex slaves for its soldiers during World War II, citing newly uncovered documents that showed the Japanese army had had a role in abducting the so-called “comfort women.”

In 2000, Microsoft chairman Bill Gates stepped aside as chief executive and promoted company president Steve Ballmer to the position.

In 2001, an earthquake estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey at magnitude 7.7 struck El Salvador; more than 840 people were killed.

In 2011, a funeral was held in Tucson, Arizona, for 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, the youngest victim of a mass shooting that also claimed five other lives and critically wounded Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

In 2020, at a royal family summit in eastern England, Queen Elizabeth II brokered a deal to secure the future of the monarchy; it would allow Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, to live part-time in Canada.

**Today’s Birthdays:** Actor Frances Sternhagen is 92. TV personality Nick Clooney is 88. Comedian Charlie Brill is 84. Actor Billy Gray is 84. Actor Richard Moll is 79. Rock musician Trevor Rabin is 68. R&B musician Fred White is 67. Rock musician James Lomenzo (Megadeth) is 63. Actor Kevin Anderson is 62. Actor Julia Louis-Dreyfus is 61. Rock singer Graham “Suggs” McPherson (Madness) is 61. Country singer Trace Adkins is 60. Actor Penelope Ann Miller is 58. Actor Patrick Dempsey is 56. Actor Suzanne Cryer is 55. Actor Traci Bingham is 54. Actor Keith Coogan is 52. TV producer-writer Shonda Rhimes is 52. Actor Nicole Eggert is 50. Actor Ross McCall is 46. Actor Michael Pena is 46. Actor Orlando Bloom is 45. Meteorologist Ginger Zee is 41.

## LOTTERY

Monday, Jan. 10, 2022

**Megabucks**  
8-14-24-32-33-46  
Estimated jackpot: \$8.2 million

**Lucky Lines**  
2-5-12-15-18-21-26-31  
Estimated jackpot: \$73,000

**Win for Life**  
32-35-40-52

**Pick 4**  
1 p.m.: 4-1-2-1  
4 p.m.: 4-4-7-7  
7 p.m.: 9-6-3-9  
10 p.m.: 1-8-3-0

**Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022**

**Mega Millions**  
2-3-19-52-58  
Mega Ball: 16  
Megaplier: 2x  
Estimated jackpot: \$325 million

**Lucky Lines**  
1-6-12-15-17-23-26-31  
Estimated jackpot: \$74,000

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

## Snowpacks growing across the state

Winter storms subsiding for next two weeks

By KATY NESBITT  
For EO Media Group

PENDLETON — Winter storms recently wreaked havoc across Northeastern Oregon, knocking out power, closing schools and roads and compromising shipments to grocery stores among other businesses. On the bright side, almost every river basin in Oregon is well above average for precipitation.

The Umatilla-Walla Walla-Willow Basin is at 117% of average precipitation since Oct. 1, 2021, the beginning of the “water year” as measured by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Grande Ronde-Burnt-Powder-Imnaha Basin is at 112%, and the John Day Basin is at 108%.

Much of that precipitation has come in the form of snow with high water equivalent, meaning more water stored for the spring and summer months. The Umatilla-Walla Walla-Willow Basin is at 142% of snow water equivalent, while the Grande Ronde-Burnt-Powder-Imnaha Basin is at 122% and the John Day is at 124%.

According to data gleaned from the Nat-



Union County Search and Rescue/Contributed Photo

The Wallowa Mountains are covered in snow in October 2021. According to the National Weather System’s extended forecast, the northern Blue and Wallowa mountains will likely get a break from the snowstorms until the end of January into early February.

ural Resources Conservation Service website, the Snotel station at Emigrant Springs, elevation 3,800 feet, measured 105% of its median snowpack level with 13.9 inches of precipitation and 4.6 inches of snow water equivalent. Milk Shakes Snotel, at 5,800 feet on the Oregon-Washington line, is at 118% of its median snowpack, recording 32.6 inches of precipitation and 22.1 inches of snow water equivalent. High Ridge, at 4,920 feet east of Pendleton, is at 111% of its median snowpack with 23.4 inches of precipitation and 14.7 inches of snow water equivalent.

In the Wallows, Moss Springs, at 5,760 feet outside of Cove, has recorded 21 inches of precipitation

with 12.6 inches of snow water equivalent and is at 111% of its snowpack median.

Across the divide in Wallowa County, Mount Howard, 7,910 elevation, has received 17.6 inches of precipitation, which is 123% of average, but its 7.4 inches of snow water equivalent is 88% of average. The nearby Snotel near Aneroid Lake has been in somewhat of a snow shadow, recording 87% of its median snow water equivalent (8.7 inches) and 77% of precipitation (11.7 inches).

According to the National Weather System’s extended forecast, the northern Blue and Wallowa mountains likely will get a break from the snowstorms until the end of January

into early February.

For the backcountry enthusiasts, the recent storms have been a boon, yet not without risk. A report released Monday, Jan. 10, on the Wallowa Avalanche Center website described existing and developing wind-slabs to be the main concern in the Blue, Elkhorn and Wallowa mountains through Jan. 12. While the chance of snow is slight, moderate to strong south and southwest winds are predicted.

“Human triggered avalanches are possible on the slopes steeper than 34 degrees at or near ridgelines and any steep leeward terrain features near and above treeline,” the avalanche center website reported.

## Shortage of COVID-19 tests hits La Grande

By DAVIS CARBAUGH  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — As the omicron variant continues to spread and COVID-19 cases rise, local availability of at-home testing has reached a standstill.

Local pharmacies and stores have found their shelves empty as the demand for COVID-19 testing skyrocketed in recent weeks. As the self-testing kits remain backlogged, La Grande and Union County residents are faced with little options for at-home testing.

There has been a noticeable increase in positive COVID-19 cases in Union County since the holidays and start of 2022, a trend that coincides with a national uptick due to the omicron variant. In December 2021, the Oregon Health Authority reported just five days in which Union County’s daily case count reached double digits. Through Tuesday, Jan. 11, Union County’s case counts have been in double digits every day of the new year. The county has eclipsed 20 cases five times and recorded 102 total cases over the weekend of Jan. 9.

From small stores to national chains across La Grande, the once readily available at-home kits are nowhere to be found.

Rite Aid on Island Avenue sold out of kits



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

Giovanna LaMiller, under the direction of volunteer Catherine Parks, prepares to self-administer a COVID-19 test in the Bi-Mart parking lot, the site of a mass testing event in La Grande on Friday, Aug. 27, 2021. In the wake of the COVID-19 spike near the conclusion of 2021, take-home kits have vanished from local pharmacy shelves in La Grande.

on Jan. 9. The store clerk noted that the omicron-related spike in cases brought a large increase in sales of the kits in recent weeks. The employee stated that the pharmacy is expecting a shipment of at-home kits late Thursday night, which would allow the store to start selling the tests by the morning of Friday, Jan. 14. The store previously was able to keep a steady supply of take-home kits on the shelves, while refraining from conducting testing in the pharmacy.

At Rite Aid and other pharmacies, promised shipment days ultimately mean crossing your fingers and hoping for the best. This is the case at the Red Cross Drug Store

in downtown La Grande, where the tests have been unavailable for days. Bi-Mart in La Grande is also out of take-home kits, but a store clerk said the staff was expecting a shipment in mid-January.

Larger stores like Walmart and Safeway are experiencing similar shortages of COVID-19 at-home tests. A Safeway employee said the staff is unsure when the next shipment of tests will come in, while Walmart’s pharmacy line states that over-the-counter tests can be ordered at the store’s website while supplies last. Several tests are listed on the store’s website, but all in-store options are marked as out of stock.

The spike in COVID-19

and subsequent shortage of testing supplies raised alarm from the Center for Human Development in La Grande, which released an update on the pandemic on Jan. 10.

“We have been notified by OHA that CHD will be receiving some at-home test kits for distribution to our community, but these kits can only be used for specific purposes (for populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and have not historically had access to COVID-19 testing, and persons who have a known exposure or have COVID-19-like symptoms),” the statement from CHD Public Health Director Carrie Brogoitti read.

The statement said the tests cannot be used for screening and that the shipment to CHD will not include enough to give one test to every Union County resident but the organization “will continue working with our partners to see if additional testing kits can be obtained and distributed.”

Weekly testing clinics are held from noon to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Union County Fairgrounds. Center for Human Development continues to hold drop-in vaccination clinics from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Friday, and appointments are available for the vaccine, according to its website.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Dead wolf found in Wallowa County likely shot, OSP says

WALLOWA — Oregon State Police are seeking information about a dead wolf found in Wallowa County after apparently being shot by a firearm.

A citizen reported the wolf carcass to OSP about 10:36 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8.

The wolf was found along Parsnip Creek Road about 6 miles southeast of Wallowa.

The wolf, which was fitted with a tracking collar, is a 2-year-old female that had dispersed from the Chesnimus Pack, according to a press release from OSP.

The initial investigation showed the wolf had been fatally shot.

OSP is urging anyone with information regarding this case to call the Oregon State Police TIP line at 1-800-452-7888, \*OSP (\*677), or

email at TIP@state.or.us. Reference case No. SP22006179.

## Power outage cause still under investigation

ENTERPRISE — The cause of widespread power outages in Wallowa County on Sunday, Jan. 9, is still under investigation — and likely will remain so for days or weeks, according to a spokesperson for Pacific Power & Light.

The lights went out just after 9 a.m. and were restored just before 4 p.m.

According to a PP&L post on Twitter on Jan. 9, the meters of 5,318 customers were affected, hitting virtually all of Wallowa County. Posts and emails began assuring a restoration of power in late morning, ultimately saying it would be restored by 5 p.m.

Drew Hanson, a PP&L spokes-

person, said service was restored to about 900 customers in the Wallowa area by about 1 p.m. and the remainder of the county had its power restored by just before 4 p.m.

“Crews were dispatched at the first reports of an outage, but weather-related driving conditions slowed our response time,” he said.

Hanson said crews were out on the ground and by air looking for possible causes. There was no single cause, such as a vehicle hitting a power pole.

“The actual cause of the interruption is under investigation,” he said, adding that it could take some time.

“We understand the impact being without power in such weather can have,” Hanson said. “We fully understand the impact and appreciate customers’ understanding while crews are working.”

— EO Media Group

## CHD offers new COVID-19 guidance

Up-to-date vaccination status redefined

By ALEX WITTWER  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — In response to a meteoric rise of COVID-19 cases over the weekend — more than 100 new cases have been added in Union County alone, and nearly 1.5 million cases across the United States — the Center for Human Development, La Grande, has created a guideline for residents to follow with the aim of mitigating the spread of the virus and minimizing the damage of the omicron variant.

“If forecasting for the next month is accurate this is just the beginning of a surge that could be unlike any we have experienced thus far,” according to a CHD press release.

The changes come on the heels of a statement from the Oregon Health Authority last week that case investigations and contact tracing are not effectively slowing the spread of COVID-19. As a result, CHD will no longer contact everyone who tests positive or is identified as a contact and instead has initiated new quarantine guidance and updated the definitions of who is and isn’t vaccinated.

“We know that this is a major change from how we have handled cases and contacts since the beginning of the pandemic,” said Carrie Brogoitti, public health administrator at the Center for Human Development. “This approach will be the most efficient way to handle the volume of cases we will see with this surge and after, as COVID-19 will likely be something we are living with for a while.”

The CHD guideline now recommends that those who have tested positive, and those who have symptoms after being exposed to someone who has tested positive, quarantine for at least five days, regardless of vaccination status. If no symptoms develop or are resolved after five days, the individual may leave home but should wear a mask around others for five more days.

Individuals exposed to someone with COVID-19 but are up to date on vaccinations and do not have symptoms, do not need to quarantine but should wear a mask around others for 10 days. Testing on day five is recommended.

Unvaccinated residents, and those who are not up to date on vaccinations, who were exposed to the virus but have no symptoms should quarantine at home for five days. If no symptoms arise during this time, they may end the quarantine but should wear a mask around others for five additional days. CHD recommends testing at the end of quarantine.

Individuals who have been exposed but do not have symptoms and are unable to quarantine should wear a mask for 10 days when around others at home or in public.

Anyone who is unable to wear a mask, and those younger than 2 years of age, and has been exposed to the virus should quarantine for the full 10 days, per CHD guidance.

Those who have not received a booster or it’s been more than six months since the initial Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series or more than two months since receiving the initial dose of Johnson & Johnson are not considered up to date on vaccinations, according to the new guidance.