

TODAY

On Jan. 20, 1942, Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Europe's Jews.

In 1265, England's first representative Parliament met for the first time.

In 1801, Secretary of State John Marshall was nominated by President John Adams to be chief justice of the United States.

In 1841, the island of Hong Kong was ceded by China to Great Britain. (It returned to Chinese control in July 1997.)

In 1936, Britain's King George V died after his physician injected the mortally ill monarch with morphine and cocaine to hasten his death; the king was succeeded by his eldest son, Edward VIII, who abdicated the throne 11 months later to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first chief executive to be inaugurated on Jan. 20 instead of March 4.

In 1961, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States.

In 1964, Capitol Records released the album "Meet the Beatles!"

In 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

In 1986, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the nation's 44th, as well as first African American, president.

In 2011, federal authorities orchestrated one of the biggest Mafia takedowns in FBI history, charging 127 suspected mobsters and associates in the Northeast with murders, extortion and other crimes spanning decades.

In 2020, Chinese government experts confirmed human-to-human transmission of the new coronavirus, saying two people caught the virus from family members and that some health workers had tested positive.

Today's Birthdays: Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin is 92. Olympic gold medal figure skater Carol Heiss is 82. Singer Eric Stewart is 77. Movie director David Lynch is 76. Country-rock musician George Grantham (Poco) is 75. Israeli activist Natan Sharansky is 74. Actor Daniel Benzali is 72. Rock musician Paul Stanley (KISS) is 70. Rock musician Ian Hill (Judas Priest) is 70. Comedian Bill Maher is 66. Actor Lorenzo Lamas is 64. Actor James Denton is 59. Rock musician Greg K. (The Offspring) is 57. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 57. Sophie, Countess of Wessex, is 57. Actor Rainn Wilson is 56. Actor Stacey Dash is 55. TV personality Melissa Rivers is 54. Actor Reno Wilson is 53. Singer Edwin McCain is 52. Actor Skeet Ulrich is 52. Rap musician ?uestlove (questlove) (The Roots) is 51. Former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley is 50. Rock musician Rob Bourdon (Linkin Park) is 43. Singer-songwriter Bonnie McKee is 38. Country singer Brantley Gilbert is 37. Rock singer Kevin Parker (Tame Impala) is 36. Actor Evan Peters is 35.

LOTTERY

Monday, Jan. 17, 2022

Megabucks

20-25-28-31-32-35

Estimated jackpot: \$8.4 million

Lucky Lines

1-5-10-14-18-24-28-30

Estimated jackpot: \$11,000

Win for Life

38-68-70-74

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 7-4-5-0

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

7 p.m.: 4-4-6-8

10 p.m.: 8-4-6-9

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022

Mega Millions

4-9-19-42-52

Mega Ball: 9

Megaplier: 4

Estimated jackpot: \$347 million

Lucky Lines

2-6-12-13-19-23-26-29

Estimated jackpot: \$12,000

Pick 4

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

4 p.m.: 8-3-3-6

7 p.m.: 3-5-7-8

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

Dean Oregon Ranches manager quits

By **BILL BRADSHAW**

Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY

— A new ranch manager for the Bob Dean Oregon Ranches in the Upper Imnaha area has arrived in the county, after the outgoing manager, B.J. Warnock, submitted his resignation notice, according to Wallowa County Sheriff Joel Fish and Warnock.

"We put in our two-week notice on Jan. 12," Warnock said in a statement received Monday, Jan. 17. "The gathering crew will be done the end of the month, as well. We wish the Deans and any future employees the best of luck going forward."

Warnock said he would have no further statements on the issue.

Fish said the new manager is Katie Romero, someone he hasn't met and knows nothing about.

Fish said that his depart-



Anna Butterfield/Contributed Photo, File

Calves rescued from the deep snows in the Upper Imnaha get some refreshment Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, at the Joseph-area ranch of Mark and Anna Butterfield. They are among many that had to be rescued in the past month.

ment's criminal investigation into possible animal neglect is continuing.

"I am interviewing all those involved and/or collecting statements," he said. "This will take time as I have many other duties and am short staffed."

Warnock said in an email earlier this month

that "when we began gathering (cattle) in September, there were 1,613 mother cows on summer range."

He acknowledged bovine casualties during the recovery efforts, even though he and his crew were assisted by neighboring ranchers.

"Despite the efforts of

our crew and the community, 10 cows have been found unrecoverable," he said, adding that "1,548 Dean Oregon Ranches mother cows were successfully gathered by Dean Oregon Ranches crew before the snow. After the snow, 34 mother cows have been gathered through the joint efforts of our crew and the community. Of those, 26 were Dean Oregon Ranches cattle; the others were owned by neighboring ranches."

Fish said in his investigation he has spoken with Karen Dean, wife of Bob Dean, who is ailing.

"The cattle are still under Dean Oregon Ranches," he said.

Dean attorney Christopher Gramiccioni, of South Carolina, said Joseph Law Firm in La Grande is representing Dean locally. There was no response to email and telephone requests for comment from the firm.

GOVERNOR'S RACE 2022

Event seeks opinions for media coverage

Oregon Capital Chronicle

SALEM — News organizations and nonprofit groups in Oregon have teamed up to learn what voters want candidates for governor to be talking about as they compete for votes. They seek Oregonians to participate in an upcoming "Let's Talk" 90-minute virtual listening session to share their understanding of the race through the media. There is no cost to join in the event.

Voters would join others via the Zoom platform to discuss off the record what information they want to know about the candidates — and what they don't want to hear.

The intent is for news organizations to provide reporting in the coming

months that serves the interests and needs of Oregonians instead of candidates and their campaigns.

The governor's race promises to be one of the most important in recent Oregon history with several high-profile candidates and a state reeling from the pandemic and political divides.

The effort is led by the Oregon Capital Chronicle, a nonprofit digital news service centered on state government and politics; Rural Development Initiatives, a nonprofit focused on community vitality in rural Oregon; and the Agora Journalism Center, part of the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication in Portland.

The Observer is partici-

pating as a host.

"We're keenly interested in having voters help frame news coverage, to provide reporting beyond the usual polls and campaign financing reporting," said Les Zaitz, editor of Oregon Capital Chronicle.

"We look forward to hearing from diverse groups representing small communities throughout Oregon, to make sure we understand what's important to people as we consider who the next governor should be," said Jennifer Groth, director of Policy and Partnerships at Rural Development Initiatives.

"Understanding and fulfilling the public's information needs to inform their decision at the ballot box is a critical democratic

role for the media," noted Andrew DeVigal, director of the Agora Journalism Center. "Listening is a key first step."

Sessions with voters grouped in their region will take place by the end of February.

To participate Oregonians can go to "Let's Talk" (www.surveymonkey.com/r/8JV25WF). The deadline for expressing interest is Tuesday, Jan. 25.

For more information, contact:

- Les Zaitz, Oregon Capital Chronicle, lzaitz@oregoncapitalchronicle.com.

- Jennifer Groth, Rural Development Initiatives, jgroth@rdiinc.org.

- Andrew DeVigal, Agora Journalism Center, adevigal@uoregon.edu.

LG schools see spike in COVID-19 numbers

By **DICK MASON**

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande School District's COVID-19 infection rate is spiking.

The school district's latest weekly statistics show that 98 students and 17 staff members missed school during the week of Jan. 10-14 because of positive COVID-19 tests, COVID-19 symptoms or close contact with those who have COVID-19. The new figures are up nearly 80 from the week of Jan. 3-7 when 37 students and two staff members missed school because of COVID-19.

The increase helped

prompt the school district to move from low risk to moderate risk starting Tuesday, Jan. 18, based on its communicable disease plan. The moderate-risk category restrictions limit the number of volunteers who can work in the school district, puts students back into cohorts and calls for the screening of staff and students for COVID-19.

The school district's Jan. 10-14 statistics indicate that nine staff members — three each from Central Elementary School and La Grande High School and one each from La Grande Middle School, the Rising Stars program and the school district office — were absent during the week due to

positive COVID-19 tests.

A total of 16 students, according to the Jan. 10-14 statistics, were out due to positive COVID-19 tests. Six absent students were from Central Elementary and three each were from La Grande High School and La Grande Middle School; and Greenwood Elementary School and Island City Elementary School each had two students out because of positive tests.

Five staff, two at Central and three at LHS, were out because of close contact to a positive case.

A total of 73 students during the week of Jan. 10-14 missed school because of close contact

with someone who was COVID-19 positive. Twenty-seven of these students were at Central, 12 were at Island City Elementary, five were at La Grande Middle School, 25 were at La Grande High School and two each were in the Rising Stars program and at Greenwood Elementary School.

Three staff members, two at LHS and one at Island City Elementary, were out because of COVID-19 symptoms. Nine students were out because of COVID-19 symptoms, four at Greenwood Elementary, two each at Central Elementary and LMS and one at Island City Elementary.

NEWS BRIEFS

OHA reports 106 COVID-19 cases in Union County over MLK weekend

SALEM — The Oregon Health Authority released its weekend COVID-19 report on Tuesday, Jan. 18, showing 106 new cases in Union County over the extended weekend from Jan. 14 to Jan. 17. The report indicated 58 new cases in Wallowa County during that same time frame.

The new report increased Union County's total since the start of the pandemic to 3,975, while Wallowa County's total increased to 937. Neither county was reported to have any deaths in the latest OHA report.

Across the state, 28,037 new confirmed and presumptive cases were reported — Oregon's total case count is up to 541,415 since the start of COVID-19. There were 10 new deaths reported, bringing the state's death toll to 5,893.

The report showed that 911 patients are currently hospitalized with COVID-19 in Oregon, with 152 patients in intensive care unit beds. There are currently 62 open adult ICU beds out of 662 in the state, while 250 adult non-ICU beds are

available out of 4,107.

Oregon's seven-day running average of vaccine doses per day stands at 15,482.

MERA logging project updated

LA GRANDE — ReedCo Inc., the logging company that had won the contract to thin Mount Emily's Red Apple area, has adjusted project plans because road conditions on Apple Drop are not ideal for heavy equipment at this time.

The project's focus is shifting to the northern end of the project area, part of the Mount Emily Recreation Area. Access from the Upper Igo Trailhead has been opened to allow heavy equipment access. Project work will start near Intersection 2 and proceed to the northern boundary of the unit. Heavy activity is to be expected for the next four weeks. Log hauling can be expected to begin Friday, Jan. 21, and will be utilizing Igo Lane.

Trail access will be impacted on Archer Lane, MERA Loop, Lower Hotshot, Skills, Bridleway, Gateway and others as signed. Signage will

be placed to direct the general public away from any danger, and some trail closures are to be expected for safety.

OSP identify man killed in I-84 collision

BAKER CITY — Oregon State Police have identified the man hit and killed on Interstate 84 near Baker City early Sunday, Jan. 16.

Oregon State Police troopers responded about 12:12 a.m. to the scene near the Baker Valley Rest Area, at milepost 295.

Their preliminary investigation found that a westbound Volkswagen Passat, driven by Karli McKim, 21, of La Grande, struck Luis Manuel Torres Rivera, 44, of Lynnwood, Washington, who was standing in the freeway.

Rivera was pronounced dead at the scene.

OSP was assisted at the scene by the Baker County Sheriff's Office, Baker City Fire Department and Oregon Department of Transportation.

— *The Observer*

Do you want to be a landlord?

Presentation aimed at boosting rental housing options in La Grande

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Local organizations are looking to assist in La Grande's housing shortage.

The Eastern Oregon Workforce Board is set to host "So You Want to Be a Landlord," a presentation and Q&A session intended to gauge interest in creating more rental opportunities in La Grande. The session on Thursday, Jan. 20, will focus on workforce housing, along with accessory dwelling units and tax benefits of becoming a landlord.

"The goal of this event is to educate people on how to become a landlord and how to take that first step, addressing the tax benefits," said Kasi Cooper, office manager at Eastern Oregon Workforce Board.

Several partners will contribute to the event, including EOU Rural Engagement and Vitality Center, Northeast Economic Development District and the city of La Grande. The session is aimed to create a collaborative space among speakers, legal groups and like-minded individuals with knowledge of the rental and housing landscape in La Grande.

According to Cooper, the presentation is one of the organization's first steps in addressing the need for affordable workforce housing and additional rental units. Following the presentation will be work sessions and breaking out into groups by county. The 2019 housing analysis report indicated that La Grande will need upward of 800 additional dwelling units over the next 20 years.

Eastern Oregon Workforce Board works throughout all of Eastern Oregon and is holding the first-of-its-kind meeting in Union County before potentially hosting similar events in surrounding counties.

"Union County decided that this was one of the first things we should do to address our workforce housing," Cooper said.

La Grande Community Development Director Mike Boquist noted that he will be speaking about the city's codes and explaining that acquiring rental properties in La Grande can be a manageable task. The housing needs analysis pointed out that La Grande is in need of more affordable renting options, with roughly one in four households in the city under severe rent burden — this term refers to a household spending 50% or more of their income on housing.

Cooper stated that GCT Land Management owner Gust Tsiatsos will be giving insight about the private sector and investing in real estate in La Grande.

MORE INFORMATION

The presentation is open to the public and set to take place at the La Grande Middle School commons from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 20. Following presentations from speakers, a Q&A and open discussion will take place with those in attendance.

Speakers at the event include Grande Ronde Hospital Financial Officer Bob Seymour, La Grande Community Development Director Mike Boquist and GCT Land Management owner Gust Tsiatsos. The listed topics are "keep your investment dollars in local real estate," "tax benefits and consequences" and "where can you build a rental?"

Participation for the event is free and open to the public, but interested individuals can register ahead of time and see any updates at <https://fb.me/e/4WutOSkeK>.