

TODAY

In 1763, Britain, Spain and France signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the Seven Years' War (also known as the French and Indian War in North America).

In 1840, Britain's Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

In 1936, Nazi Germany's Reichstag passed a law investing the Gestapo secret police with absolute authority, exempt from any legal review.

In 1959, a major tornado tore through the St. Louis area, killing 21 people and causing heavy damage.

In 1967, the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, dealing with presidential disability and succession, was ratified as Minnesota and Nevada adopted it.

In 1981, eight people were killed when a fire set by a busboy broke out at the Las Vegas Hilton hotel-casino.

In 1989, Ron Brown was elected the first Black chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

In 1992, boxer Mike Tyson was convicted in Indianapolis of raping Desiree Washington, a Miss Black America contestant. (Tyson served three years in prison.) "Roots" author Alex Haley died in Seattle at age 70.

In 1996, world chess champion Garry Kasparov lost the first game of a match in Philadelphia against an IBM computer dubbed "Deep Blue." (Kasparov ended up winning the match, 4 games to 2; he was defeated by Deep Blue in a rematch the following year.)

In 2005, North Korea boasted publicly for the first time that it possessed nuclear weapons.

In 2015, NBC announced it was suspending Brian Williams as "Nightly News" anchor and managing editor for six months without pay for misleading the public about his experiences covering the Iraq War. Jon Stewart announced he would step down as host of "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central later in the year.

In 2020, U.S. health officials confirmed the first case of the novel coronavirus among the hundreds of people who'd been evacuated from China to military bases in the United States; it was among the 13 confirmed cases in the U.S. Britain declared the new coronavirus a "serious and imminent threat to public health" and said people with the virus could now be forcibly quarantined.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Leontyne Price is 95. Actor Robert Wagner is 92. Singer Roberta Flack is 85. Singer Jimmy Merchant (Frankie Lyman and the Teenagers) is 82. Rock musician Bob Spalding (The Ventures) is 75. Olympic gold-medal swimmer Mark Spitz is 72. Walt Disney Co. executive Robert Iger is 71. Rock musician and composer Cory Lerios (Pablo Cruise) is 71. World Golf Hall of Famer Greg Norman is 67. Actor Kathleen Beller is 66. Country singer Lionel Cartwright is 62. Movie director Alexander Payne is 61. ABC News correspondent George Stephanopoulos is 61. Political commentator Glenn Beck is 58. Actor Laura Dern is 55. Writer-producer-director Vince Gilligan (TV: "Breaking Bad") is 55. Country singer Dude Mowrey is 50. Actor Jason Olive is 50. Actor Elizabeth Banks is 48. Actor Julia Pace Mitchell is 44. Reggaeon singer Don Omar is 44. Actor Uzo Aduba is 41. Actor Stephanie Beatriz is 41. Actor Max Brown is 41. Actor Barry Sloane is 41. Rock singer Eric Dill is 40. Actor Trevante Rhodes is 32. Actor Emma Roberts is 31. Actor Makenzie Vega is 28. Actor Chloe Grace Moretz is 25. Actor Yara Shahidi is 22.

LOTTERY

Monday, Feb. 7, 2022

Megabucks

16-21-23-27-44-46

Estimated jackpot: \$1.4 million

Lucky Lines

1-8-10-16-18-23-25-32

Estimated jackpot: \$19,000

Win for Life

15-22-29-62

Pick 4

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

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

7 p.m.: 2-1-4-3

10 p.m.: 1-7-2-1

Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022

Mega Millions

1-17-20-52-54

Mega Ball: 2

Megaplier: 3

Estimated jackpot: \$42 million

Lucky Lines

2-6-12-13-20-21-27-31

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 1-1-2-5

4 p.m.: 9-2-7-1

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

10 p.m.: 0-3-1-1



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

As the snow begins to melt off the roof of the Enterprise School, the replacement of that roof becomes more imperative. Plans are in place to replace the roof this summer, along with other projects.

Enterprise schools get ready to build

Work on school scheduled to begin in May

By **BILL BRADSHAW**

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Despite a one-year delay because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Enterprise School District is gearing up for construction projects to be done this year — and next.

District voters in 2020 approved a \$4 million bond measure that was matched with a \$4 million Oregon School Capital Improvement grant. The district also received a \$540,454 federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief grant and \$111,682 in state energy grants, for a total of more than \$8.85 million to complete urgent construction needs, according to a flyer circulated to district voters last month.

Work is scheduled to begin in May.

The highest-priority project is a new roof for the primary school, middle school and the secondary school buildings, said interim Superintendent Tom Crane.

"The roof is the No. 1 project," Crane said. "We're going to get the roof done and we're going to get the HVAC done this summer."

The heating, ventilation and air conditioning will be funded largely by the bond funds, while the ESSER grant covers ventilation, the flyer stated.

But it's the roof that's the most urgent priority, as it's been experiencing leaks.

"They did a temporary fix on the roof and it's pretty much holding," Crane said, adding — in jest — that if new leaks occur, "We'll tell the kids to bring their buckets, their rain coats, their rain hats, whatever. ... The point is the roof has always been the No. 1 priority and we're going to get it done and done right."

All the school's buildings are in need of work, Crane said. The middle school was built in 1918, the secondary school in 1960 and the smaller primary building in 1950.

Cassie Hibbert, the project manager with Wenaha Group, which handles the construction projects for the school district, said it's time to replace the roofs, as the last time they were replaced was after the district's last bond project in 2004. She also took part in Thursday's interview.

"The roofs have passed their functional life," Hibbert said. "The roofing product has degraded and needs to be replaced."

The roofing job was originally intended to be done last summer, but the contractor who put in the original bid was unable to obtain the needed insulation because of COVID-related supply chain problems. As an emergency measure, the district contracted with a La Grande firm to do a spray coating in October to get the roofs through this winter.

The other priorities scheduled for this year include mitigating stormwater runoff issues and asbestos abatement. The latter has to be accomplished with the HVAC work.

The district had to rebid the roof project in December, but the district only received one bid — which was accepted. Palmer Roofing, of Pendleton, submitted the approved bid. Palmer's bid was for about \$2.3 million — about \$1 million higher than the previous approved bid, cutting into the available funds, Hibbert said.

Limited funds

Increased costs of building materials have limited what the district can do with its \$8.85 million, Crane and Hibbert agreed.

"Our total project budget hasn't changed. It's just how

much we can buy with that money," Hibbert said. "Our goal is to buy as much for the district as we possibly can. We've just really been challenged with supply-chain issues and price increases that have been nationwide in the construction industry since COVID started."

Some of the projects now scheduled for summer of 2023 that could be affected include accessibility upgrades to comply with Americans with Disability Act standards and remodeling the science room and the girls' locker room, Hibbert said. Those are the highest-priority projects for next year, although lesser projects also are planned.

The accessibility upgrades include the possibility of elevators in the middle and high school buildings, each of which is two stories.

"Our original plan in the bond scope had been to do two elevators. ... Elevators give you a lot of bang for your buck, but they're expensive," Hibbert said. "So we may need to revisit other ways to improve that accessibility. Maybe we're not doing an elevator, but we can improve accessibility routing and things like that."

But Crane said they haven't given up on those later projects.

"Nothing has been taken off of the list," he said. "We have a Bond Oversight Committee that, when we get done with this summer and we know the amount of money we have (left over), will recommend which project or projects we can do the following summer."

Hibbert agreed. "What's great about that Bond Oversight Committee is that a lot of the folks on it were in the long-range facility planning effort so they've had continuity through the whole project and can really speak to original priorities and present a well-rounded recommendation to the district's board," she said.

Imbler district holding meet and greet

Community has opportunity to meet with finalists for superintendent position

By **DICK MASON**

The Observer

IMBLER — The public will have an opportunity to meet the two finalists for the Imbler School District's superintendent's position on Thursday, Feb. 10.

A community meet and greet for the finalists, Louise "Lou" Lyon, superintendent of the Burnt River School District in Baker County, and Randell Waite, an assistant principal in the Phoenix-Talent School Dis-

trict in Jackson County, will begin at 6 p.m. in Imbler Elementary School's gym.

Participants will be provided with comment cards where they can share their impressions of the candidates. The cards will be given to the Imbler School Board.

Lyon has served as superintendent of the Burnt River School District since 2018. Prior to that she was an online coordinator for the La Grande Learning Academy in the La Grande School District for one year. Lyon has a masters degree in teacher education from Eastern Oregon University and earned her administrative credentials from Portland State University.

Waite has been the assistant principal of Phoenix High School

since 2020. Prior to that he was the assistant high school principal and head football coach at Rigby High School in Rigby, Idaho, for four years. Waite has a master's degree in teacher education from EOU and earned his administrative credentials from Lewis and Clark College in Portland.

The school board is seeking a successor for interim school district superintendent Doug Hislop. Hislop has served as interim superintendent since July 2021, after Superintendent Angie Lakey-Campbell resigned to take a position with the Hansen School District in Idaho near Twin Falls. Hislop earlier served as the Imbler School District's superintendent for 10 years through June of 2013.

NEWS BRIEF

Homeland to raffle elk hunt tag

ENTERPRISE — A three-day guided elk hunt on the Zumwalt Prairie Preserve is being offered in a raffle by the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland.

The hunt is for one hunter and two guests with a landowner preference bull elk tag donated by the Nature Conservancy.

Raffle tickets for the right to

purchase the tag will be sold through March 27 — or until they sell out.

Tickets cost \$50 each, with only 200 tickets to be sold. In order to ensure opportunity for Nez Perce individuals to participate in the raffle, 50 tickets will be reserved for Nez Perce only until March 1.

Tickets are available online at wallowanezperce.org/elk-tag-raffle. The winner of the

raffle will be announced live, with the date and time still to be determined.

Proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets will support the Homeland's annual Snake River School float trip, a multiday outing for Nez Perce youths to learn STEM and TEK from tribal instructors while connecting with their ancestral homeland by boat.

— *EO Media Group*



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

La Grande mayor Steve Clements poses for a photo outside of City Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022. Clements announced that he will not run for reelection, and his term will expire in January 2023.

La Grande mayor opts out on reelection

Steve Clements reflects on four terms as mayor

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**

The Observer

LA GRANDE — After four terms as mayor, Steve Clements is ready to move on.

The La Grande mayor announced at the city council's most recent meeting that he will not be running for mayor in the election next November. Clements has served four terms as mayor, which includes functioning also as a member of the city council. Through the many responsibilities of the position, serving the community has remained at the forefront of Clements' priorities as mayor.

"I thought it was a good time to go on a high note," he said. "I did pretty well in the last election and I hope that's a good indication of how people view my performance. It's time to move on to some other things."

Clements has served as mayor since 2014, last winning reelection in 2020. His term will officially end at the first regular session of January 2023, when new councilors are sworn in.

Clements moved to La Grande in 1990, after graduating from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and first ran for city council in 1992. His initial running platform, which he now says was a naive assumption, was to ensure that all roads were paved and that every street would have sidewalks on each side. After several attempts, Clements earned a spot on the council in 1993 and later served from 1998-2010.

From the start, the mayor position was never about political gain.

"For me, being part of a community is about serving the community. I don't look at the mayor's position as a power trip or a stepping stone to another elected office," he said.

As a councilor and as mayor, Clements played a key role in several local initiatives, several of which he sees as helping the city for years to come.

For instance, after more than 20 years of effort from the La Grande community, Clements played a part in creating the Quiet Zone that prohibited train operators from blasting horns at railroad crossings in town.

"It took us five years to get it, but we dotted all the I's and crossed all the T's," Clements said. "That's one thing that, for me, is the biggest accomplishment of my time on the council because it's got a lasting effect."

Perhaps one of the largest, unexpected tasks that mayors across the country faced in the last two years is the COVID-19 pandemic. Clements looks back with confidence on the city's efforts to keep businesses above water during a tumultuous time.

As a councilor and mayor, Clements played a part in the city's refurbishing of Veterans' Memorial Pool, in purchasing the land and constructing Cook Memorial Library and in creating the Urban Renewal District.

"I'm proud of all those things," he said. "I'm proud that I can say I was a part of that."

In terms of challenges facing La Grande moving forward, Clements cited the lack of affordable housing for renters and buyers. The mayor and council played a role in the creation of the Housing Production Strategy, with its implementation a priority going into 2022.

After Clements' term ends at the end of 2022, the mayor has his eyes set on potential committee work as well as current nonprofits he is involved with. Clements noted that a role on the city's planning commission could be a position of interest for him in the coming years.

"It has always been about serving and giving back to the community," he said. "I really liked doing that as a councilor, and I have really enjoyed that last seven years as mayor."