

TODAY

In 1554, Lady Jane Grey, who had claimed the throne of England for nine days, and her husband, Guildford Dudley, were beheaded after being condemned for high treason.

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded.

In 1912, Pu Yi, the last emperor of China, abdicated, marking the end of the Qing Dynasty.

In 1914, groundbreaking took place for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. (A year later on this date, the cornerstone was laid.)

In 1973, Operation Homecoming began as the first release of American prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict took place.

In 1983, composer-pianist Eubie Blake, who wrote such songs as "I'm Just Wild About Harry" and "Memories of You," died in Brooklyn, New York, five days after turning 100.

In 1999, the Senate voted to acquit President Bill Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice.

In 2000, Charles M. Schulz, creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip, died in Santa Rosa, California, at age 77.

In 2002, former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic went on trial in The Hague, accused of war crimes (he died in 2006 before the trial could conclude).

In 2006, figure skater Michelle Kwan effectively retired from competition as she withdrew from the Turin Olympics due to injury (she was replaced on the U.S. team by Emily Hughes). Snowboarder Shaun White beat American teammate Danny Kass to win the Olympic gold medal.

In 2019, Mexico's most notorious drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, was convicted in New York of running an industrial-scale smuggling operation; a jury whose members' identities were kept secret as a security measure had deliberated for six days. (Guzman is serving a life sentence at the federal supermax prison facility in Florence, Colorado.)

In 2020, Holland America Line said a cruise ship, the MS Westerdam, which had been barred from docking by four governments because of fears of the coronavirus, would arrive the next day in Cambodia. In Japan, officials confirmed 39 new cases on a cruise ship that had been quarantined at Yokohama, bringing the total number of cases on the Diamond Princess to 174.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Costa-Gavras is 89. Basketball Hall of Famer Bill Russell is 88. Actor Joe Don Baker is 86. Author Judy Blume is 84. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is 80. Country singer Moe Bandy is 78. Actor Maud Adams is 77. Actor Cliff DeYoung is 76. Actor Michael Ironside is 72. Rock musician Steve Hackett is 72. Rock singer Michael McDonald is 70. Actor Joanna Kerns is 69. Actor Zach Grenier is 68. Actor-talk show host Arsenio Hall is 66. Actor John Michael Higgins is 59. Actor Raphael Sbarge is 58. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh is 57. Actor Christine Elise is 57. Actor Josh Brolin is 54. Singer Chynna Phillips is 54. Rock musician Jim Creegan (Bare-naked Ladies) is 54. Actor Jesse Spencer is 43. Rapper Gucci Mane is 42. Actor Sarah Lancaster is 42. Actor Christina Ricci is 42. Actor Jennifer Stone is 29. Actors Baylie and Rylie Cregut (TV: "Raising Hope") are 12.

IMBLER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Finalists meet community

Louise 'Lou' Lyon, RanDell Waite top choices for superintendent

By DICK MASON
The Observer

IMBLER — The future of the Imbler School District is coming into sharper focus for its patrons.

The two finalists for the school district's superintendent position, Louise "Lou" Lyon, superintendent of the Burnt River School District in Baker County, and RanDell Waite, an assistant principal in the Phoenix-Talent School District in Jackson County, met with the Imbler community at a meet and greet, on Thursday, Feb. 10.

Lyon and Waite each have a wealth of experience as educators and neither will ever need a GPS unit when traveling to schools throughout North-eastern Oregon. Lyon is a graduate of Eastern Oregon University and worked as an educator in the Cove, Union and La Grande school districts for almost two decades before being named superintendent of the Burnt River School District in Unity in 2018.

Waite, who grew up in Pendleton, is also an EOU graduate whose experience includes three years as a teacher at La Grande High School and four years as a teacher at Weston-McEwen High School in



Dick Mason/The Observer

Louise "Lou" Lyon, left, a finalist for the Imbler School District's superintendent position, talks with school board member Ken Patterson on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022.

Weston. His other career stops include Ontario, Roseburg, Crater and Phoenix high schools.



Waite

Waite has worked as an educator for 28 years, the first 22 years as a teacher and the past six as an administrator. He took his present position as assistant principal of Phoenix High School in July 2020. About 2-1/2 months later his perspective on life was transformed when the Alameda Fire destroyed much of Phoenix and Talent.

"It was horrific," he said. Suddenly at least 20% of the students in his district were homeless. Much of Waite's time was spent finding temporary housing for students and their families, taking them to and from hotel rooms and making sure they had food and water. The experience has given Waite a deeper

awareness of the role schools play in society.

"Schools rally around the community," he said during the meet and greet in Imbler Elementary School's gym. "That is important."

Waite started working as an educator at age 22 right after graduating from EOU. Lyon by contrast worked in business before pursuing a career as an educator. She first operated a bookstore in John Day for three years and then ran a business that made screen print T-shirts.

Lyon became the Burnt River School District's superintendent after serving as the online coordinator for the La Grande Learning Academy for one year. She said one of the most challenging moments she experienced was when the state issued its mask

IMBLER SCHOOL BOARD TO MEET FEB. 15

IMBLER — The Imbler School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15. The meeting will be in room 1 of Imbler High School. The board's search for a new superintendent will be one of the subjects discussed at the meeting.

mandate for schools prior to the start of the 2021-22 school year. Lyon said she made every effort to create situations in which students did not have to wear masks while at school. For example, some classes were taught outdoors.

Lyon said that security is a big concern in the Burnt River School District because the nearest law enforcement office is 48 miles away in Baker City. This has forced the school district to strike a balance.

"We want to make our schools welcoming but also safe and secure," she said.

Waite and Lyon are among six people who submitted applications for the Imbler superintendent position.

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

LG CITY COUNCIL

Lillard, Bozarth not seeking reelection

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande City Council is set to say goodbye to some familiar faces.

Two council members, Gary Lillard and John Bozarth, along with Mayor Steve Clements, announced earlier this month they will not be running in the upcoming elections in November.

Lillard and Bozarth have each served many years within the city, taking part in the council and other committees. Both councilors will continue serving on the council until their terms expire at the beginning of the regular session in January 2023.

"I've been doing this for a good long while," Lillard said of the decision. "I just decided that it was time."

Lillard, a La Grande native, has served positions with the city for nearly 30 years. Now retired, the councilor previously worked as a manager and interim superintendent at Camp Riverbend Youth Transitional Facility.

For Lillard, serving in city government boiled down to giving back to his hometown and doing his part.

"I was born and raised here, and it was just something I really wanted to do as someone loyal to their hometown and wanting to give back," he said.

Lillard previously served on the planning commission, during which time La Grande constructed the new fire station. The city councilor also played a role during the creation of Cook Memorial Library and the implementation of the Quiet Zone in La Grande — the ban on train whistles in the city stands out as one of Lillard's fondest accomplishments.

Bozarth, who declined to comment, served multiple positions within the city over the last few decades. He won a seat on the city council in 2010 after previously serving a 6-1/2 year stint as a council member.

Bozarth previously served on the La Grande budget committee for three years and four years on the planning commission. He was elected to the council in the fall of 2020 to serve another term, which filled in the gap at Position 6. As a whole, Bozarth served more than 10 years on the council and more than 20 years with the city.

Both councilors were tasked with helping the city stay afloat through the COVID-19 pandemic. The council was dedicated to keeping local businesses alive and doing what it could to provide funding and resources.

"It's certainly been among the most difficult challenges I have faced as a councilor in 20 years," Lillard said. "I think that ultimately as a city government, we were able to help people in business particularly who really needed the help by being able to assign funds to a system with a variety of issues."

MORE INFORMATION

Applications for the four positions up for election are available at city hall and are due back by 1 p.m. on March 1. The primary election is set for May 17, with the intent of nominating candidates for the November election.

Students and parents rally against masks in school

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Dozens of parents and La Grande students of varying ages rallied outside of La Grande Middle School on the morning of Friday, Feb. 11, to voice their opposition to mask requirements in school. The demonstration is one of many that have occurred across the state in the wake of Oregon health officials announcing that indoor mask mandates will continue until the end of March.

"We don't like wearing the stupid masks!" one student yelled during Friday's protest.

The outdoor rally along Fourth Street in La Grande comes just one day after a number of students at La Grande Middle School refused to wear masks indoors. The protest involved students from Central Elementary and La Grande Middle School, along with many parents.

Lloyd Mills, a parent of two students at Central Elementary, attended the protest in favor of optional mask usage.

"They were forced out," Mills said of his children. "They said I had to take them home because I didn't want them wearing masks. I



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Students and parents protest Oregon's mask mandate outside La Grande Middle School on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022.

couldn't even take my kids to school."

Many parents stood alongside their children at the protest, holding signs and chanting at oncoming cars. Numerous motorists driving by honked in support, while one driver yelled out, "Wear your mask!"

The rally started around 7:30 a.m. Friday and lasted through the start of the school day. Upon school starting, many students remained at the rally. Students who attempted to enter the building without masks were turned away.

"They won't let our kids go to school," one parent said. The issue has been prev-

alent since before the start of the school year, when many parents refused to send their children to school if they were required to wear masks.

"If you look at the left, when they make their arguments for abortion they say, 'My body, my choice.' How is this any different?" Mills stated. "They can kill their children, but we can't keep masks off of ours? That doesn't make any sense. This is the result of that."

La Grande Superintendent George Mendoza noted that the students at the rally had the option to go into the school with a mask on or go home with their parents at the conclusion of the protest.

NEWS BRIEF

La Grande company recognized as top Zimmatic dealership

LA GRANDE — Dunning Irrigation Supply, which has locations in Union County, was recently recognized by irrigations systems manufacturer Lindsay Corporation for its outstanding achievement.

The local business was named one of Lindsay Corporation's top-20 Zimmatic dealerships during the North American Irrigation Dealer Convention in Maui, Hawaii, on Monday, Feb. 2.

"We are proud to recognize the team from Dunning Irrigation Supply for this outstanding achievement," said Gustavo Oberto, president of Global Agricultural Irrigation at Lindsay Corporation. "They are dedicated to providing their customers with game-changing innovations that improve grower operational efficiency, boost productivity and reduce input costs. Their commitment to customer service is first rate."

Dunning Irrigation Supply, which

is based locally in Elgin, is one of over 400 Zimmatic dealerships associated with Zimmatic Corporation. The corporation is based in Omaha, Nebraska and stretches to dealerships across the world — its irrigation systems are currently operating in over 90 countries.

Since opening in 1997, Dunning Irrigation Supply has been distributing a variety of irrigation products — the local company sells and services Zimmatic pivots, wheel-line, hand-line and drip irrigation systems. Dunning Irrigation Supply also sells livestock feed, sporting goods and fish and tackle.

Westbound lanes of Interstate 84 reopen after hazardous materials spill

LA GRANDE — The westbound lanes of Interstate 84 began reopening in the early hours of Friday, Feb. 11, between Pendleton and Ontario, much of which had been closed for about 20 hours following a truck crash at 6 a.m. on Feb. 10. The

long closure involved a hazardous materials spill at the site of the crash, 10 miles east of Pendleton.

The westbound lanes of I-84 were reopened at 1:30 a.m. Feb. 11 in La Grande, at 2 a.m. in Baker City and at 2:30 a.m. in Ontario, according to Oregon Department of Transportation spokesperson Tom Strandberg. The openings were made after the truck involved in the crash was removed and most of the hazardous materials were cleared up.

The crash also forced the closure of the Tollgate Highway between Elgin and Weston, which was also reopened early the morning of Feb. 11. The Tollgate Highway was available as a detour from 2-3 p.m. on Feb. 10 but was then closed again because "it was overwhelmed with traffic," Strandberg said.

Some cleanup of the hazardous materials is continuing on I-84, which may require some westbound lane closures at the site of the cleanup and cause minor traffic delays.

— The Observer

LOTTERY

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022

Megabucks

3-13-27-29-43-45

Jackpot: \$15 million

Lucky Lines

3-7-10-16-20-22-25-31

Estimated jackpot: \$21,000

Powerball

2-17-33-51-63

Powerball: 26

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$172 million

Win for Life

27-41-72-77

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 8-9-2-9

4 p.m.: 7-0-1-3

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

10 p.m.: 4-9-9-2

Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022

Lucky Lines

3-5-12-16-20-23-28-29

Jackpot: \$22,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 4-6-2-9

4 p.m.: 8-7-0-4

7 p.m.: 2-8-0-1

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