

TODAY

In 1618, German astronomer Johannes Kepler devised his third law of planetary motion.

In 1817, the New York Stock & Exchange Board, which had its beginnings in 1792, was formally organized; it later became known as the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1948, the Supreme Court, in *McCullum v. Board of Education*, struck down voluntary religious education classes in Champaign, Illinois, public schools, saying the program violated separation of church and state.

In 1971, Joe Frazier defeated Muhammad Ali by decision in what was billed as "The Fight of the Century" at Madison Square Garden in New York.

In 1983, in a speech to the National Association of Evangelicals convention in Orlando, Florida, President Ronald Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire."

In 1988, 17 soldiers were killed when two Army helicopters from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, collided in mid-flight.

In 1999, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio died in Hollywood, Florida, at age 84.

In 2000, President Bill Clinton submitted to Congress legislation to establish permanent normal trade relations with China. (The U.S. and China signed a trade pact in November 2000.)

In 2004, Iraq's Governing Council signed a landmark interim constitution.

In 2008, President George W. Bush vetoed a bill that would have banned the CIA from using simulated drowning and other coercive interrogation methods to gain information from suspected terrorists.

In 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, a Boeing 777 with 239 people on board, vanished during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, setting off a massive and ultimately unsuccessful search.

Ten years ago: Jesse Owens was posthumously made an inaugural member of the IAAF Hall of Fame more than 75 years after he won four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. (Owens, Carl Lewis, Jackie Joyner-Kersey and nine others were the first athletes to be honored by the IAAF in its newly created Hall of Fame.)

Five years ago: Hawaii became the first state to sue to stop President Donald Trump's revised travel ban (the state had previously sued over Trump's initial travel ban, but that lawsuit was put on hold while other cases played out across the country).

One year ago: According to some long-awaited guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fully vaccinated Americans could now gather with other vaccinated people indoors without wearing a mask or social distancing.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician George Coleman is 87. Actor Sue Ane Langdon is 86. College Football Hall of Famer Pete Dawkins is 84. Songwriter Carole Bayer Sager is 78. Actor-director Micky Dolenz (The Monkees) is 77. Singer-musician Randy Meisner is 76. Pop singer Peggy March is 74. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Rice is 69. Jazz musician Billy Childs is 65. Singer Gary Numan is 64. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 63. Actor Aidan Quinn is 63. Actor Camryn Manheim is 61. Country-rock singer Shawn Mullins is 54. Neo-soul singer Van Hunt is 52. Actor Andrea Parker is 52. Actor Boris Kodjoe is 49. Actor Freddie Prinze Jr. is 46. Actor Laura Main is 45. Actor James Van Der Beek is 45. R&B singer Kameelah Williams (702) is 44. Actor Nick Zano is 44.



A masked Monty the Mountaineer poses for a photo on campus at Eastern Oregon University on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. The university will drop indoor mask requirements along with the state, effective Saturday, March 12, 2022.

Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group, File

EOU will drop mask mandate March 12

Officials base decision on low on-campus rates of COVID-19 cases

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — In the midst of consistently low cases on campus and across Oregon, Eastern Oregon University is set to drop its mandatory indoor mask mandate on March 12.

According to a statement from the university, masks will be welcomed but not required.

"As with anything, we're utilizing OHA's guidelines and our local health authority in making our decisions," said Lacy Karpilo, the university's vice president of student affairs. "We've stayed true to the science and our local health authorities."

The university has taken a number of steps in loosening mitigation efforts, including allowing

travel for field trips and limiting testing for vaccinated individuals. Eastern stopped its large-scale testing clinics, moving COVID-19 testing to the university's health center.

Eastern is continuing to host vaccine clinics, offering initial doses and primarily booster shots — the university most recently hosted a vaccination clinic on March 2. Across in-person students, 75.7% are vaccinated and 24.2% received an exemption. The university's employee vaccination numbers stand at 80.1% vaccinated and 17.7% exempt.

According to Karpilo, Eastern has tried to stay extra cautious with federal and state mandates that have fluctuated over the course of the pandemic. A close connection with the Oregon Health Authority and the Center for Human Development has allowed the university to make timely, fact-based decisions.

"We've been able to pivot very quickly on things when we've needed

to," Karpilo said. "We make sure that we're taking the time to connect with all of our resources. With every decision, there's an impact. I think that's what has made COVID such a difficult thing to manage."

The university tallied just one case among students and faculty in the two-week period from Saturday, Feb. 18, through March 5.

Eastern has tallied 295 total COVID-19 cases since the start of the academic calendar in July, with 157 coming from off-campus students. There have been 56 cases among employees and 42 cases in on-campus students.

The university had one reported off-campus isolation/quarantine over the last two-week period, a number that has stayed steady since late January.

In the past several months, students at the university have reported non-COVID illnesses.



Karpilo

The typical increase in winter illnesses such as the flu without traces of COVID-19 is a promising sign for university officials.

"Right now what we're seeing is that students are getting other things," Karpilo said. "There's still illness going around, but it's not COVID. It's great because it signifies that our students are still being responsible. Our students are doing really good work on that front."

According to Karpilo, Eastern will continue making its decisions based on COVID-19 trends and consultations with health authorities. While the steady low numbers are a promising sign, the university is continuing to monitor cases and trends.

"We really look at what's best for our community, both the EOU community and the local community," Karpilo said. "We don't view ourselves as just a silo, we see ourselves as part of the bigger community."

Eight candidates vie for four positions on city council

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande City Council will see some new faces after this fall's election.

Two candidates will be vying for mayor and six will be competing for three open city council positions in the Nov. 8 election, according to filing information released Friday, March 5.

The race for mayor will match Mathew Miles, a retired educator,

against Justin Rock, a current member of the La Grande City Council.

Steve Clements, the incumbent, did not file for reelection. Clements is completing his fourth two-year term as mayor.

The city council berths up for election are positions 5, 6 and 7.

Two candidates have filed for each of the three spots.

Aaron R. Cooper and Molly A. King filed for Position 5, now held by Gary Lillard, who is not

running for reelection.

The candidates for Position 6 are David Moyal and Denise Wheeler.

John Bozarth, the incumbent, did not file for reelection.

Cody R. Vela and Corrine Dutto, who recently served a four-year term on the council, will be running for Position 7, the spot now held by Rock.

The filing deadline for the La Grande City Council positions was March 1.

All candidates were

required to submit signature petitions. Only candidates who had the needed number of verified signatures were able to successfully file.

No La Grande City Council races will be on the May primary ballot because none of the races for the open berths have three or more candidates.

The city's charter states that when there are at least three candidates for a position, an election for it must be conducted in May.

School board accepts superintendent's resignation

Tammy Jones plans to stay on as superintendent until end of June

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — The Wallowa School Board made it official, during an emergency session Tuesday, March 1, accepting the resignation of the school district's superintendent, Tammy Jones, from her position.

"I think we should skip this one," said board Chairperson Woody Wolfe, as he looked at the next item

on the agenda. However, he opened it up for discussion.

Jones, who also resigned from her position on the Joseph City Council effective Feb. 15, said before the school board meeting that the two resignations are in no way connected.

"In some ways but not really," Jones said. "It's just time for me and my health."

She also said she is resigning to spend more time with her family.

Her letter of resignation in Joseph said it was because of pressures and responsibilities at work. She said that she was unable to attend evening



Jones

meetings in Joseph because she had to be at school functions. Also, in the two weeks separating the two resignations, she hadn't yet received financial planning information regarding her state job.

Jones plans to stay on as superintendent until the end of June.

Board member Matt Howard made the motion, saying, "Reluctantly, I move to approve the retirement/resignation of the superintendent."

The board voted unanimously to accept the motion.

This is the second time

in four years the district has lost a superintendent. In 2020, Jay Hummel resigned after just two years on the job, being replaced by Jones at that time.

Wolfe asked the board for authorization to contact the Oregon School Boards Association and employ it to begin finding an interim superintendent to replace Jones. Since it usually takes six to eight months to find a permanent superintendent, the district doesn't have the time before Jones resigns.

Board members did note that should they be pleased with the person hired as interim superintendent, it may be possible to offer a permanent contract.

Measure to discuss Oregon's border back on ballot

By **RONALD BOND**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — A variation of a measure that just missed passage in Wallowa County in the November 2020 general election will be on the ballot this May.

Measure 32-007, which would require the county commissioners twice a year to meet to discuss the relocation of Idaho's border, will be voted on in the May 17 primary election.

If the measure sounds similar, that's because it is. Measure 32-003, in the 2020 general elec-

tion, required county commissioners to meet three times a year to discuss the interests of the county

joining Idaho, part of the Move Oregon's Border movement that has gained traction in

recent years. The measure passed in several counties in 2020, but fell by a razor-thin margin in Wallowa County, receiving 2,478 yes votes and 2,519 no votes.

"I thought we would be like Union County and it would pass here in Wallowa County was what I anticipated," Commissioner Todd Nash said following the failed 2020 vote and referring to neighboring Union County's passage of the measure. "I think there's some sentiment and frustration with the way Oregon has legislated, and so I thought that it might be tilted a little bit more. Not completely surprised, either, that it failed."

The measure to be voted on in May is almost verbatim of what was voted on in 2020. The main difference is commissioners would be required to meet just twice a year — on the fourth Wednesday of February and August — "to discuss how to promote the interests of Wallowa County that would be relevant to a relocation of state borders, and to prepare the county for becoming a county of Idaho."

"The commissioners, if the voters vote it in, we'll comply with what they said," Commissioner John Hillock said.

Since Jefferson and Union counties voted in 2020 to hold meetings about the potential of moving to Idaho, six other counties have joined this investigation phase: Harney, Malheur, Baker, Grant, Lake and Sherman counties.

Voters in Douglas, Josephine and Klamath counties have a similar measure on the ballot this May. Four additional counties expect to put a measure on the ballot in November.

Both Hillock and Lathrop have filed to run again for their respective positions. Currently, nobody else has filed to run in opposition.

"I've been honored to serve the county, and feel like I still have some energy left to carry on another four years. I think things have been running relatively good in county government," Hillock said.

The filing deadline is March 8.

Also on spring ballot

In addition to the ballot measure, two positions are up for election this spring: Position 3 on the county board of commissioners, held currently by Hillock, and the county clerk, which currently is Sandy Lathrop.

Both Hillock and Lathrop have filed to run again for their respective positions. Currently, nobody else has filed to run in opposition.

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LOTTERY

Friday, March 4, 2022

Megamillions

11-19-28-46-47

Megaball: 5

Megaplier: 4

Jackpot: \$126 million

Lucky Lines

1-5-11-15-18-23-27-29

Jackpot: \$21,000

Pick 4

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

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

7 p.m.: 6-7-3-4

10 p.m.: 7-8-3-9

Saturday, March 5, 2022

Powerball

8-23-37-52-63

Powerball: 13

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$90 million

Megabucks

8-10-14-34-37-40

Jackpot: \$2.5 million

Lucky Lines

1-8-11-16-18-23-28-32

Jackpot: \$22,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 7-9-0-4

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

7 p.m.: 3-6-2-2

10 p.m.: 5-9-4-0

Win for Life

18-47-59-65

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Lucky Lines

3-6-10-14-18-23-25-31

Estimated jackpot: \$23,000

Pick 4

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

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

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

10 p.m.: 4-0-5-3