

TODAY

In 1493, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus arrived back in the Spanish harbor of Palos de la Frontera, two months after concluding his first voyage to the Western Hemisphere.

In 1820, Maine became the 23rd state.

In 1917, Czar Nicholas II abdicated in favor of his brother, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, who declined the crown, marking the end of imperial rule in Russia.

In 1919, members of the American Expeditionary Force from World War I convened in Paris for a three-day meeting to found the American Legion.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied bombers again raided German-held Monte Cassino.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson, addressing a joint session of Congress, called for new legislation to guarantee every American's right to vote; the result was passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In 1972, "The Godfather," Francis Ford Coppola's epic gangster movie based on the Mario Puzo novel and starring Marlon Brando and Al Pacino, premiered in New York.

In 1977, the situation comedy "Three's Company," starring John Ritter, Joyce DeWitt and Suzanne Somers, premiered on ABC-TV.

In 2005, former WorldCom chief Bernard Ebbers was convicted in New York of engineering the largest corporate fraud in U.S. history. (He was later sentenced to 25 years in prison.)

In 2011, the Syrian civil war had its beginnings with Arab Spring protests across the region that turned into an armed insurgency and eventually became a full-blown conflict.

In 2019, a gunman killed 51 people at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, streaming the massacre live on Facebook. (Brenton Tarrant, an Australian white supremacist, was sentenced to life in prison without parole after pleading guilty to 51 counts of murder and other charges.)

In 2020, the Federal Reserve took massive emergency action to help the economy withstand the coronavirus by slashing its benchmark interest rate to near zero and saying it would buy \$700 billion in treasury and mortgage bonds. After initially trying to keep schools open, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said the nation's largest public school system would close in hopes of curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Judd Hirsch is 87. Jazz musician Charles Lloyd is 84. Rock musician Phil Lesh is 82. Singer Mike Love (The Beach Boys) is 81. Rock singer-musician Sly Stone is 79. Rock singer-musician Howard Scott (War; Lowrider Band) is 76. Rock singer Ry Cooder is 75. Actor Frances Conroy is 69. Actor Craig Wasson is 68. Rock singer Dee Snider (Twisted Sister) is 67. Actor Joaquim de Almeida is 65. Actor Park Overall is 65. Movie director Renny Harlin is 63. Model Fabio is 61. Singer Terence Trent D'Arby (AKA Sananda Maitreya) is 60. Rock singer Bret Michaels (Poison) is 59. R&B singer Rockwell is 58. Actor Chris Bruno is 56. Actor Kim Raver is 55. Rock singer Mark McGrath (Sugar Ray) is 54. Rock musician Mark Hoppus is 50. Country singer-musician Matt Thomas (Parmalee) is 48. Actor Eva Longoria is 47. Rapper-musician will.i.am (Black Eyed Peas) is 47. Rock DJ Joseph Hahn (Linkin Park) is 45. Rapper Young Buck is 41. Actor Sean Biggstaff is 39. Actor Kellan Lutz is 37. Actor Caitlin Wachs is 33.

Demonstrators fill Max Square in support of Ukraine



Photos by Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group



Six-year-old Josephine Yielding, above, holds up a sign in support of Ukraine during a demonstration in protest of the Russian invasion of Ukraine at Max Square, La Grande, on Saturday, March 12, 2022. Nearly 100 residents came out to support Ukraine. The event featured La Grande Mayor Steve Clements, Union County Commissioner Paul Anderes and musician Al "Too Loud" MacLeod. More than \$2,300 was raised during the two-hour event and will be donated to organizations that are working to get much needed food and medical supplies into Ukraine.

Late artist gets her due

Art Center East's Co-op Gallery renamed in memory of Sue Orlaske

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Sue Orlaske made countless contributions to North-eastern Oregon's world of art over a span of more than two decades.

Orlaske's contributions will never be forgotten and Art Center East, of La Grande, made sure of it on the evening of Friday, March 11.

The late artist was saluted by Art Center East when it announced that its Co-op Gallery was being renamed in Orlaske's honor. The step is being taken after Orlaske won an election for the renaming. Orlaske was one of four Union County artists who were posthumously nominated to become the gallery's namesake.

Orlaske's husband,

Mitch Wolgamott, of Summerville, who attended the March 11 reception, said the honor would have meant much to his wife.

"She would have been absolutely thrilled," he said.

A biologist who had no formal art training but had a lifelong interest in art, Orlaske became a full-time artist in the 1990s when she moved to Union County. She produced ceramic art as well as two-dimensional art. Her themes often included abstract and representational natural elements — Eastern Oregon landscapes, animals and plants.

She became well known in the region for the quality of her work and for her willingness to help and teach others, Wolgamott said.

"She touched so many lives," her husband said.

She was a member and actively involved with three art co-ops —



Orlaske



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group, File

Art Center East rests in the summer heat Tuesday, July 6, 2021. The nonprofit organization announced at a reception Friday, March 11, 2022, that its Co-op Gallery will be renamed in honor of the late Sue Orlaske, one of four Union County artists who were posthumously nominated to become the gallery's namesake. The gallery gives local and regional artists the opportunity to plan, hang and publicize their own show, host an opening reception and sell their artwork.

Art Center East, Forest Grove's Valley Art and Baker City's Crossroads.

Orlaske, who died Oct. 22, 2021, at age 72, won several regional art awards and was a featured artist on Oregon Public Broadcasting's Oregon Art Beat. Her work has been carried by several galleries in Oregon and Southern Washington.

Orlaske won an election over a field with

three other candidates — Dennis "Craig" Canoy, an art teacher and painter; Kat Galloway, an Eastern Oregon University art instructor who also taught children; and Tom Madden, a poet and EOU writing and journalism professor.

The election, during which people could vote online or in person, lasted for more than a month and concluded March 10.

Baker County man might be unable to attend sex crimes trial

Baker City Herald

BAKER COUNTY — A Baker County man arrested more than two years ago on multiple charges of sex crimes might not physically be able to attend his trial in May.

Bill David Gonyer, 75, is undergoing treatment for cancer. Gonyer's attorney, Damien Yervasi of Baker City, wrote in an email to the Baker City Herald on Thursday, March 10, that "it's hard

to tell at this point" whether Gonyer could participate.

"It all depends on how he's doing between now and then," Yervasi wrote.

Baker County District Attorney Greg Baxter said he will be prepared for a trial in May, but that he's aware of Gonyer's medical situation.

Gonyer, who lived on Stices Gulch Road about 12 miles south of Baker City, was initially arrested Dec. 28, 2019, in Ada County, Idaho, where he

was receiving medical care. He was extradited to Baker County in early January 2020 and was held at the Baker County Jail until December 2020, when Judge Thomas B. Powers approved a motion from Yervasi to grant Gonyer a conditional release so he could get medical treatment at the Boise VA Hospital and other facilities.

State court records show Gonyer faces 41 counts in all, including nine for child pornog-

raphy, five of first-degree sexual abuse and five of felon in possession of a firearm. Fifteen of the charges carry mandatory minimum sentences upon conviction in Oregon.

Gonyer in 1999 pleaded guilty in Clackamas County to one count of first-degree sexual abuse involving a girl younger than 14, according to court documents. He received a prison sentence in that case of six years, three months.

NEWS BRIEFS

Merkley town hall planned for Union County

LA GRANDE — U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, will touch on his work in Washington, D.C., and answer questions later this month at an online town hall geared toward constituents in Union County.

The meeting will be Wednesday, March 30, via Zoom and conference call, according to a press release issued by Merkley's office. Additional details, such as times and Zoom infor-

mation, will be provided closer to March 30.

"Hearing from Oregonians across the state is critical to doing my job. In these uncertain times, it's more important than ever to hear directly from folks," Merkley said. "The ideas and priorities I hear about in town halls inform the solutions that I fight to get into federal law, like the projects for Oregon passing into law this weekend to fight wildfire smoke, invest in infrastructure and jobs, and address housing shortages. I look forward to these discus-



Merkley

sions — whether they're in person, online, on mobile devices, or on the telephone — about how we can strengthen our state and our nation."

Since joining the Senate in 2009, Merkley has held a town hall for each of Oregon's 36 counties every year.

County to focus on transient room tax during meeting

LA GRANDE — The Union County Board of Commissioners will meet Wednesday, March 16.

The meeting will start at 9 a.m. in the board's meeting room, 1106 K Ave.,

La Grande. The meeting will be open for public attendance.

Union County's transient room tax program will be one of the subjects discussed at the meeting.

To listen to the meeting by phone dial 253-215-8782 or 301-715-8592. The meeting ID number is 814 2000 6863.

The link for watching the meeting online via Zoom is www.us02web.zoom.us/j/81420006863.

Written comments for the meeting may be submitted via email to amoore@union-county.org by 5 p.m. March 15.

— The Observer

Fairgrounds, History Center allocated funding

Wallowa County to receive combined \$1.5 million for upgrades

By **RONALD BOND**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Two Wallowa County entities are in line to receive a combined \$1.5 million for infrastructure that will provide funding needed to further improvements.

House Bill 5202, which passed a vote of the Oregon Legislature on Friday, March 4, will allocate \$1 million to the Wallowa County Fair from its general fund for "fairgrounds infrastructure," according to the text of the bill. It is one of 15 counties in Oregon set to receive at least that amount for their fairgrounds.

Additionally, the Wallowa History Center is slated to receive \$500,000 to "support the restoration of the Bear-Sleds Ranger District Compound," according to text from the bill.

The bill passed the House 41-16 on March 4, and the Senate later that day, 23-2.

The money for HB 5202 can come from lottery funds, American Rescue Plan Act funds or the general fund, according to Ann Rava, staff member for Sen. Bill Hansell. General fund dollars are primarily from tax revenue.

Rava noted that given the bill contains an emergency clause, it "becomes effective upon passage, so as soon as it is signed by the governor they can start distributing the funds." However, she said in an email to the Chieftain that how long it actually takes for the funds to arrive is uncertain.

Both Hansell and Rep. Bobby Levy voted in favor of the legislation, which now heads to Gov. Kate Brown's desk.

Wallowa County Commissioner Todd Nash, who is also a member of the fair board, said he was excited about the funding.

"Our deferred maintenance on the fairground is substantial," he said. "The newest building we have was built in the late '60s ... the Cloverleaf Hall. To make some upgrades, to replace some things and do some long-needed maintenance (is) really important, and that million dollars is going to go a long way to helping do that."

The county recently received \$500,000 in funding from Levy's portion of ARPA funding, which also was allocated for the fairgrounds.

Nash said the money from the general fund would be much less restrictive than ARPA funding — the only major restriction being that it is dedicated to infrastructure.

"The million has very few strings attached to it," he said.

He added it will be "pretty easy" to find ways to use the added resources.

"We have some plans, and we are going to go through a process. This is all pretty new to us," he said. "We'll go before the fair board and we'll start to identify those places we'll spend the money."

David Weaver, president of the board for the Wallowa History Center, said the money will primarily go into converting the warehouse at the four-building complex into an interpretive center.

"For the \$500,000, all of (it) is basically is going to go toward getting that warehouse up and running, including us kicking off our capital campaign for more," he said.

Weaver said more — as much as another \$500,000, though he said that was a guess — will be needed between renovation and adding exhibits to complete the interpretive center.

"By the time we get our exhibits in, it's going to take all the \$500,000 and then some," he said. "We (do) have a line on a contractor who specializes in historic restoration."

LOTTERY

Friday, March 11, 2022
Megamillions
24-28-39-44-66
Megaball: 25
Megaplier: 3
Jackpot: \$22 million
Lucky Lines
3-6-11-16-20-23-26-31
Jackpot: \$28,000
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 9-4-1-0
4 p.m.: 4-0-1-7
7 p.m.: 1-9-4-7
10 p.m.: 0-7-8-4
Saturday, March 12, 2022
Powerball
19-20-37-39-61
Powerball: 8
Power Play: 2
Jackpot: \$112 million
Megabucks
12-27-33-34-40-41
Jackpot: \$2.8 million
Lucky Lines
2-7-10-16-18-21-27-32
Jackpot: \$29,000
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 5-5-2-5
4 p.m.: 8-0-5-5
7 p.m.: 8-1-7-7
10 p.m.: 2-8-4-2
Win for Life
30-37-52-64
Sunday, March 13, 2022
Lucky Lines
2-5-9-14-20-24-26-31
Estimated jackpot: \$30,000
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 8-5-5-0
4 p.m.: 7-9-9-4
7 p.m.: 3-4-2-1
10 p.m.: 4-0-2-2