

TODAY

In 1859, the opera "Faust" by Charles Gounod premiered in Paris.

In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling.

In 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered men between the ages of 45 and 64, inclusive, to register for non-military duty.

In 1977, the series finale of "Mary Tyler Moore" aired on CBS-TV, ending the situation comedy's seven-season run.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid a sex and money scandal involving Jessica Hahn, a former church secretary.

In 1991, Polish President Lech Walesa arrived in Washington for his first state visit to the United States.

In 1995, after a 21-month hiatus, Michael Jordan returned to professional basketball with his former team, the Chicago Bulls.

In 1997, artist Willem de Kooning, considered one of the 20th century's greatest painters, died in East Hampton, New York, at age 92.

In 2003, President George W. Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq. (Because of the time difference, it was early March 20 in Iraq.)

In 2007, a methane gas explosion in a Siberian coal mine killed 110 workers.

In 2013, Pope Francis officially began his ministry as the 266th pope, receiving the ring symbolizing the papacy and a wool stole exemplifying his role as shepherd of his 1.2-billion strong flock during a Mass at the Vatican.

In 2020, President Donald Trump focused attention on a malaria drug, chloroquine, as a possible coronavirus treatment; the FDA issued a statement saying that there were "no FDA-approved therapeutics" to treat COVID-19.

Ten years ago: An assailant on a motorbike opened fire with two handguns in front of a Jewish school in the southern French city of Toulouse, killing a rabbi, his two young sons and a girl. (The gunman, French-born Mohammed Merah, was killed in a gunfight with police after a 32-hour standoff at his apartment; he had also killed three French paratroopers.) The Justice Department announced it had begun an investigation into the fatal shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Florida by a neighborhood watch captain, George Zimmerman. (No federal civil rights charges were filed; Zimmerman was acquitted of second-degree murder after claiming self-defense.)

Five years ago: Author-columnist Jimmy Breslin, the legendary street-smart chronicler of wise guys and underdogs, died at his Manhattan home at age 87.

One year ago: President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris visited Atlanta, days after a white gunman killed eight people, most of them Asian American women, in the Atlanta area. The United States accused China of committing "genocide and crimes against humanity" against Uyghur Muslims and other minorities; China accused the U.S. of discrimination "and even savage murder of people of African and Asian descent." Four men described as leaders of the far-right Proud Boys were indicted on charges stemming from the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol. (The four remain jailed and are awaiting trial.) The U.S. cleared President Joe Biden's goal of injecting 100 million coronavirus shots, more than a month before his target date of his 100th day in office.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Renee Taylor is 89. Actor Ursula Andress is 86. Singer Clarence "Frogman" Henry is 85. Singer Ruth Pointer (The Pointer Sisters) is 76. Actor Glenn Close is 75. Actor Bruce Willis is 67. Actor-comedian Mary Scheer is 59. Playwright Neil LaBute is 59. Actor Connor Trinneer is 53. Rock musician Gert Bettens (K's Choice) is 52. Rapper Bun B is 49. Rock musician Zach Lind (Jimmy Eat World) is 46. Actor Virginia Williams is 44. Actor Abby Brammell is 43. MLB pitcher Clayton Kershaw is 34. Actor Craig Lamar Traylor is 33. Actor Philip Bolden is 27.

LOTTERY

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Megabucks

3-14-21-35-41-48

Jackpot: \$3 million

Lucky Lines

2-7-12-13-19-24-25-29

Estimated jackpot: \$33,000

Powerball

3-28-34-35-58

Powerball: 17

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$147 million

Win for Life

36-38-41-44

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 2-0-5-1

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

7 p.m.: 2-5-1-4

10 p.m.: 3-2-0-1

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Lucky Lines

1-8-9-15-17-21-25-29

Jackpot: \$34,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 1-0-8-9

4 p.m.: 1-9-5-3

7 p.m.: 2-0-8-4

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

Tacos and teaching moments

La Grande students get real-world look at dining business from corporate chef

By **DICK MASON**

The Observer

LA GRANDE — High school and middle school students in the La Grande School District treated their classmates to a taste of the South Pacific the past week.

La Grande High School and La Grande Middle School students were served Hawaiian tacos during lunches prepared by their classmates under the direction of Chris Murray, the corporate chef of Taher, Inc., the food service firm the La Grande School District contracts with to help provide its meals.

Murray, who is from Minnesota, made his third visit to the La Grande School District as guest chef. Each time he introduces students to dishes they likely were unfamiliar with. Murray, during his last visit in February 2020, helped students prepare Vietnamese entrees.

"We want to expose kids to new food from throughout the world," Murray said. "You can explore cultures through food."

The Hawaiian tacos served over the past week featured pork belly, something Murray said he chose to "warm people up in the middle of winter."

Murray spent hours teaching students about the art of cooking during his visit. He said he strives to boost the culinary skills of students for a practical reason during his sessions in La Grande.

"It is a life skill. If you can cook you can get a job almost anywhere in the world," he said.

A key to becoming a successful cook is knowing how to cut effectively, he said, which is why Murray always focuses on teaching students knife skills at the start of his instructional sessions.

"One of the reasons we start with



Taher/Contributed Photo

Professional chef Chris Murray shows students how to sear pineapple wedges during a cooking class at La Grande High School on Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

knives is that we want to emphasize safety," Murray said.

The corporate chef, whose job takes him throughout the world, always enjoys his visits to La Grande.

"This is one of my favorite places to come," he said. "It is beautiful and the people are great."

LHS junior Mason De Jong credits Murray with being an outstanding teacher.

"He makes it fun and very easy to learn," he said.

De Jong is a student in one of Rhonda Calhoon's food and travel class at LHS. The students in these classes prepared and served the Hawaiian tacos for LHS students on Wednesday, March 16.

At La Grande Middle School 33 of its students prepared and served Hawaiian tacos at lunch under Murray's direction on Thursday, March 17.

Calhoon said that as a corporate

chef, Murray travels around the world finding recipes that he later re-creates. She said this was important for students to see, explaining being a chef doesn't necessarily mean only working in a restaurant.

Heather Torres, who also works for Taher, Inc., and is the director of the school district's food service program, said Murray "is fun and energetic."

Torres also said Murray is outstanding at communicating with students.

Calhoon agreed, praising the chef's ability to explain to students the importance of the concepts he was teaching.

"He did a good job of answering the whys," she said.

Calhoon said it was a particular delight to have Murray visit her classes because it has been a long time since guests were allowed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This makes it more exciting for the students," she said.

County gives Elgin Opera House complex a boost

Commissioners approve funding for signs, awnings

By **DICK MASON**

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Friends of the Opera House in Elgin received a boost from the Union County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, March 16.

The board of commissioners voted to provide the organization with \$8,738 for updating three signs and replacing two awnings for the Elgin Opera House complex's second

building, on Alder Street about two blocks south of the opera house itself. The money, which the Friends of the Opera House applied for, will be provided from Union County's Transitory Tax Discretionary Fund. The transitory tax is also known as Union County's motel tax.

The \$8,738 will cover 65% of the project's total cost of \$13,443, according to information provided to Union County by Kathy Bonney, executive assistant of the nonprofit Friends of the Opera House.

"We are super excited," Bonney said.

The awnings will replace those at the entrance of the Hale Turner Little Theatre at 831 Alder St. The existing awnings have deteriorated because of bad weather, Bonney said.

The updated signs "will allow visitors to locate our Alder Street venue with ease and convenience," Bonney said.

The Alder Street building also includes a dance studio and will soon have a second stage, the Jewel Theatre, which will be completed in one to two months, Bonney said.

The Friends of the Opera

House were gifted the Alder Street building in 2015. The building had previously been a restaurant and lounge but had been vacant for a number of years.

Bonney said with the completion of the Jewel Theatre, the Friends of the Opera House will be in a position to put on more productions.

"We could feasibly host multiple shows each weekend," Bonney said. "This location will allow us to produce our dream of a regional Shakespearean Festival this summer."

The festival is slated for June 17-26.

County OKs workforce housing in amended zone

By **BILL BRADSHAW**

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Wallowa County has updated its rural service zone to allow a new type of workforce residential development with the approval Wednesday, March 16, of an amendment to its Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The Wallowa County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing to approve two amendments to the Comprehensive Plan during the board's regular meeting. One amended Goal 9, Economy of the Area, by updating the Economic Opportunity Analysis. The other amended the rural service zone, to support the findings of that analysis.

"The short of this is you had a rural service zone where a dwelling was an outright use," Commission Chairwoman Susan Roberts said.

That made it primarily a residential zone, instead of a zone to support economic development. Planning Director Franz Goebel noted that the Economic Opportunity Analysis stressed both a severe lack of workforce housing and a need for more commercial uses allowed. This amendment includes a provision to help address these needs.

The Economic Goal 9 update was deemed necessary following the 2019 Legislature's approval of Senate Bill 2 relating to employment opportuni-



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

ties in Eastern Oregon, according to the Legislature's website. The bill allows listed Eastern Oregon counties that undertake economic opportunity analysis to designate up to 50 acres outside urban growth boundaries for industrial and other employment uses notwithstanding statewide planning goals related to agriculture, forest use or urbanization. The bill excludes high-value farmland and requires county coordination with the state forester and nearby cities.

The county commissioners addressed the next step by amending the rural service zone to allow more comprehensive commercial uses including workforce housing. During their discussion March 16, the commissioners agreed there are properties near Joseph, Wallowa and Enterprise that might benefit from the

uses allowed in the newly amended zone.

Commissioner Todd Nash recused himself from discussion and voting upon the new ordinances. He said that because of property he owns in the county, there's the potential for a conflict of interest. Commissioner John Hillock said he also owns a "small piece of property that could potentially be affected by this zone, but it's completely developed," so he saw no conflict of interest for himself.

The changes

"The rural service zone is presently an option for any nonresource zoned property and will continue to be," Goebel explained to the commissioners. "To utilize the rural service zone, a landowner would first apply through the public hearing process for a zone change. If approved, zone permits would be required prior to any development."

But in amending the old rural service zone, the Planning Commission wanted to be more specific as to what uses are allowed. Goebel said the commission wanted to make sure the zone is focused on commercial uses and that it does not "become a de facto residential zone. It was a commercial zone; it just wasn't very fleshed out in the types of commercial and light industrial uses."

During the public comment portion of the hearing, Joseph resident Milley O'Callaghan asked if grazing and timber harvest would be allowed in the new version of the rural service zone and if bed-and-breakfasts would be allowed.

"Timber and grazing uses are still allowed in this zone," Goebel said, but added that no short-term rentals or bed-and-breakfasts would be.

He emphasized that the old version of the rural service zone has been viewable on the county's website for several years and the amended version has been available in the Planning Office for a couple of months for the public to review.

"This amendment will not affect any existing property owners upon approval," Goebel said.

Property owners still need to apply for a zone change prior to taking advantage of proposed allowable uses.

Enterprise may have to return ARPA funds

By **BILL BRADSHAW**

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Some of the federal American Rescue Plan Act funds the city of Enterprise is to receive may have to be returned, the city council was told during its meeting Monday, March 14.

The city resolved at its Feb. 14 meeting to distribute the \$443,000 it has received under the American Rescue Plan Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, on March 14 the city's administrator, Lacey McQuead, announced the possibility that some of the funds may have to be returned. City attorney Wyatt Baum agreed that losing the funds is a possibility, so McQuead said none of the funds will be spent until the expected second round of funding is received. She said the next round is expected in July or August and is to total \$221,795.

She said after the meeting that there was a notice sent out regarding a "claw-back plan" that could possibly rescind recently allocated funds.

"However, it doesn't sound like Oregon is a part of the rescinding funds discussion, as it was not on the list of 30 states this could impact," McQuead said in an email.

Fire Chief Paul Karvoski said there is a concern over rising prices, and the list of funding requests he had previously made likely will go up.

After a discussion by the council, it was agreed the ARPA Committee will review recommendations made, make adjustments and revisit the issue at the next council meeting.

Housing study

In another matter, Katy Nesbitt, the county's director of natural resources and economic development, presented a housing study completed by Zack Cahill, of Eastern Oregon University, that had been simplified by the county housing committee. Nesbitt explained the results of the study, focusing on how the city of Enterprise can help.

Sara Miller, of the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District, spoke on the benefit of having city staff and its Planning Commission actively involved in the process to improve the housing shortage.

McQuead told the council that the city currently has two representatives — herself and John Lawrence — serving on the group two Workforce Housing Team. The city also has received \$50,000 for a Technical Assistance Grant from the state Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Of that amount, \$25,000 will be allocated to helping find solutions with the workforce housing and middle-income housing shortage and \$25,000 will be allocated to an economic analysis study, both of which will be part of the city comprehensive plan.

Pump track

The council also heard from Angela Mart, president of the Wallowa Mountains Bicycle Club, which is promoting the construction of a pump track on city property. Mart and the club's vice president, Zeb Burke, visited a proposed site near the city well and agreed to move forward with the next step, the application for a conditional use permit. McQuead said she would email an application to Mart and review with Baum the requirements for the city moving ahead with the project.