

TODAY

In 1765, Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.

In 1832, a mob in Hiram, Ohio, attacked, tarred and feathered Mormon leaders Joseph Smith Jr. and Sidney Rigdon.

In 1882, German scientist Robert Koch announced in Berlin that he had discovered the bacillus responsible for tuberculosis.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill granting future independence to the Philippines.

In 1976, the president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, was deposed by her country's military.

In 1980, one of El Salvador's most respected Roman Catholic Church leaders, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, was shot to death by a sniper as he celebrated Mass in San Salvador.

In 1995, after 20 years, British soldiers stopped routine patrols in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

In 1999, NATO launched air-strikes against Yugoslavia, marking the first time in its 50-year existence that it had ever attacked a sovereign country. Thirty-nine people were killed when fire erupted in the Mont Blanc tunnel in France and burned for two days.

In 2010, keeping a promise he'd made to anti-abortion Democratic lawmakers to assure passage of his historic health care legislation, President Barack Obama signed an executive order against using federal funds to pay for elective abortions covered by private insurance.

In 2015, Germanwings Flight 9525, an Airbus A320, crashed into the French Alps, killing all 150 people on board; investigators said the jetliner was deliberately downed by the 27-year-old co-pilot, Andreas Lubitz.

In 2016, a U.N. war crimes court convicted former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic of genocide and nine other charges for orchestrating a campaign of terror that left 100,000 people dead during the 1992-95 war in Bosnia; Karadzic was sentenced to 40 years in prison. (The sentence was later increased to life in prison.)

In 2020, the International Olympic Committee announced that the Summer Olympics in Tokyo would be postponed until 2021 because of the coronavirus.

Ten years ago: Former Vice President Dick Cheney, with a long history of cardiovascular problems, underwent a heart transplant at a Virginia hospital.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump and GOP leaders yanked their bill to repeal "Obamacare" off the House floor when it became clear the measure would fail badly.

One year ago: The Senate confirmed former Pennsylvania Health Secretary Rachel Levine to be the nation's assistant secretary of health; Levine was the first openly transgender federal official to win Senate confirmation.

Today's Birthdays: Fashion and costume designer Bob Mackie is 83. Former Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire is 75. Rock musician Lee Oskar is 74. Singer Nick Lowe is 73. Rock musician Dougie Thomson (Supertramp) is 71. Fashion designer Tommy Hilffiger is 71. Actor Robert Carradine is 68. Former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer is 66. Actor Kelly LeBrock is 62. TV personality Star Jones is 60. Actor Peter Jacobson is 57. Rock singer-musician Sharon Corr (The Corrs) is 52. Actor Lara Flynn Boyle is 52. Actor Jim Parsons is 49. Christian rock musician Chad Butler (Switchfoot) is 48. Actor Alyson Hannigan is 48. Former NFL quarterback Peyton Manning is 46. Actor Amanda Brugel (TV: "The Handmaid's Tale") is 45. Actor Jessica Chastain is 45. Actor Philip Winchester (TV: "Strike Back") is 41. Dancer Val Chmerkovskiy is 36. Actor Keisha Castle-Hughes is 32.

CORRECTION

In the page A2 story "Lathrop sentenced to jail, probation, restitution," published Thursday, March 17, the names of Mick and Jeff Lathrop were incorrect. Also, the judge did order a substance abuse evaluation and recommended a mental health evaluation.

LOTTERY

Monday, March 21, 2022

Megabucks

15-32-38-39-41-46

Estimated jackpot: \$3.2 million

Lucky Lines

4-6-10-16-19-24-26-29

Estimated jackpot: \$38,000

Win for Life

8-60-66-75

Pick 4

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

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

7 p.m.: 9-7-3-6

10 p.m.: 1-8-9-4

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Mega Millions

8-15-21-27-61

Mega Ball: 8

Megaplier: 3

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Lucky Lines

4-6-9-14-17-23-26-32

Estimated jackpot: \$39,000

Pick 4

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

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

7 p.m.: 5-8-3-4

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

Local thrift store elevates its services

Community Kindness of Eastern Oregon expands business into two-story operation

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Things are moving up at La Grande thrift store Community Kindness of Eastern Oregon.

The store, located on 1315 Adams Ave., recently concluded an upstairs expansion that added 6,600 square feet of space for the store to expand. With a whole new look and added room for services and donation intake, the store is ramping up operations to serve as a focal point for the La Grande community.

"What we want to do is really establish ourselves as a hub to help people," said Liz Meyer, who runs the store alongside her husband Grant Meyer. "We decided to go for it. How could we not, for the community? We were getting a bit crowded, we need to make people feel more relaxed and have a nice atmosphere and get more stock out."

Community Kindness of Eastern Oregon underwent the expansion this winter, officially opening up the new area to the public in early March.

The added space allows the thrift store to create an extensive clothing area, while anything from dishes, electronics, records and furniture can still be found in the downstairs area.

In addition to the expan-



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Liz Meyer, co-owner of Community Kindness, says the thrift store's newly renovated upstairs serves as a way to offer clothes to a wide variety of customers from casual wear to wedding dresses.

sive new clothing area, the space now includes two dressing rooms, a backroom for preparing the clothing and a meeting room for employees and board members. The added upstairs area increased the store's clothing capacity significantly, allowing for a variety of brands, clothing types and even unique items like wedding dresses.

In a large thrift store, the intake of donations can be an overwhelming task. The new backroom area now helps Meyer and the staff meticulously organize the items through the process of donation, cleaning, cataloging and shelving for sale. Every item in the new upstairs clothing area is itemized and color blocked for convenience to the customer.

"You have to be organized for it to be right," Meyer said.

Meyer initially expressed concern over ADA accessibility in adding an upstairs section, but the staff came up with a solution that makes

the shopping experience easier for any customer in Community Kindness of Eastern Oregon. The thrift store uses a tablet that lists the shop's inventory, and personal shoppers pick out clothes from the upstairs section for customers.

"I want it to be nice for people," Meyer said. "It's been a really rough three years for people."

The renovation process involved a group effort, as local entities made a difference in the process. Carpet One Floor and Home donated and installed the carpeting on the new staircase, while former businesses Bealls and The Peanut Gallery donated shelves and racks that adorn the upstairs floor. The renovation involved in-house work as well as volunteer work and contractors.

Founded in 2019, Community Kindness of Eastern Oregon Thrift store is the main fundraiser for the Community Kindness organization. Since

that point, Meyer and the staff have placed a large emphasis on giving back to the community. The store's manager hopes to continue sponsoring local organizations, churches, care facilities, schools and everything in between.

"This is my contribution to my community, which accepted me 21 years ago," Meyer said. "People come in and smile. They love it. If I can make people happy and smile, that is what I always want to do."

Meyer is originally from England, which is made evident by the store's British flags adorning the exterior and the shelf full of candies and food items from her home country. Since joining on at the thrift store, Meyer has placed an emphasis on serving as a community centerpiece that gives back.

The store's manager works roughly 60 to 70 hours per week, strictly on a volunteer basis. Meyer credits a steady flow of hard-working volunteers in bringing Community Kindness of Eastern Oregon to where it is now.

"I absolutely love what I do. I couldn't imagine doing anything else," Meyer said. "If we can make a difference in someone's life, then this is what we're going to do."

Upon completion of the expansion project, Community Kindness of Eastern Oregon is currently back on its regular schedule and open to the public.

"It's a very generous community," she said. "I couldn't do this without them. It's a community teamwork experience."

Wallowa bike playground adds \$1,000 to coffers

By BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — Fundraising efforts toward the planned bicycle playground at Wallowa have reached about two-thirds of the needed money, after youths sold about \$1,000 worth of tickets in a drawing for a barbecue grill.

A drawing for the grill was held Thursday, March 17, at the site of the future playground at Wallowa School. Todd Pederson, of Wallowa, was the winner of the Traeger wood-fired grill valued at \$900, according to Ron Pickens, who is spearheading the project. The grill was donated by Ace Hardware in Enterprise.

He said the expected budget for the playground is about \$235,000.

Annette Moeller's sixth grade class at Wallowa Middle School had the honor of drawing the winner, with class member Gavin Schaeffer earning the right to actually draw the ticket. Pickens said the selection of Moeller's class was entirely random.

"We're just trying to spread the love," he said,



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa Middle School sixth grader Gavin Schaeffer draws the winner for a barbecue grill raffled off as part of the fundraising efforts to pay for the new bicycle playground to be built in the field behind the kids at the school. Todd Pederson of Wallowa won the grill. Ron Pickens, of Building Healthy Families, who is spearheading the project, holds the bucket of tickets.

adding that all the Wallowa students had the opportunity to participate in the fundraising efforts.

Together, the class shouted, "Thank you Wallowa County."

Next on the project's fundraising drive is a Wallowa School Piggy Bank Coin Drive. That will run from March 28 to April 15. Plastic jugs decorated as piggy banks will be placed

in various locations around the county to take donations for the project, Pickens said.

"The winning class gets a pizza party at the end," he said, as well as a sponsorship plaque on a piece of playground equipment.

The kindergarten class from Wallowa Elementary School will have its "piggy bank" at the Wallowa Public Library, the first grade's bank will be at

M. Crow in Lostine, second-grade donations will be taken at Goebel's in Wallowa, third-grade donations can be taken at Wallowa County Grain Growers in Enterprise, fourth-graders can donate at ACE Hardware in Enterprise, the fifth-grade bank will be at the Wallowa Mountain Bar and Grill in Wallowa and the sixth-grade bank will be at Wallowa Food City.

Pickens, a prevention coordinator and alternative school teacher with Building Healthy Families in Enterprise, spearheaded last year's project to refurbish the Enterprise Skate Park. Since then, he became interested in seeing a similar project built in Wallowa, where he lived until recently.

The groundbreaking was originally scheduled for August, but the schedule has been moved up.

"Now we're going to break ground in early July and hope to open in mid-summer," he said.

The project is expected to accommodate bikes, scooters, roller blades and skateboards in a colorful space that kids can play in, Pickens said.

Demo work underway at Cougar Dome

Wallowa High School gymnasium undergoing extensive remodel

By BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — It looked like a bomb went off in the Wallowa High School Cougar Dome on Thursday, March 17, but it was the result of workers getting hard at it in their efforts to demolish and retrofit the structure.

Efforts to replace key portions of the structure began in earnest March 7, Superintendent Tammy Jones said.

"The seismic is about gutting the gym," she said. "They're tearing out the walls and roof."

She pointed out "hinge points" that make the building unstable in case of a seismic event — spots where the walls don't extend from floor to ceiling.

The fault line

The Wallowa School District received a \$2.3 million seismic retrofit grant last year from the Oregon Department of Education. The funds will be used to make the Cougar Dome stable and safe in the event of an earthquake. The grant will fund primarily structural improvements so that the large gym building can serve as public shelter in the event of an earthquake or other disaster.

The school and the town of Wallowa are along the western end of the Wallowa fault, which has uplifted the Wallowa Mountains more than 7,000 feet. It still provides low intensity quakes of Magnitude 2 (M2) to M4 every few years, mostly centered in the Upper Wallowa Valley.

Based on the fault's nearly 40-mile length, geologists have calculated that it could unleash a M6 to M7 quake. Mapping of the fault near Wallowa Lake, which shows detailed ground topography even under heavy forest cover, shows no evidence of major faulting or significant fault scarps in the past 17,000 years. But that's only a short time in geologic cycles.

The current gym was built in 1949, Jones said, to replace an earlier one that had burned. She said she expects the seismic work done by fall. The rest of the gym project will take another year.

"The big part of that is the heating and all that," she said.

As of March 17, taken out were the bleachers, ceiling and lockers.

"There will be a new, 4,200-square-foot entry that will have a community space and where kids can hang out during lunch, new bathrooms, an elevator that will serve all three floors and as a connector," Jones said. "The elevator will provide access to all the floors of the high school."

Community will have access to an exercise facility when students aren't using it, such as during evenings or weekends.

The overall project involves building new walls, a roof, locker rooms, bleachers, adding an exercise room and entryway, a larger gym floor, a laundry room and electrical work.

The seismic retrofit grant was awarded the same year the district approved a \$7 million bond levy and \$4 million grant through the OSCIM Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program.

NEWS BRIEFS

Island City hydrant flushing set to begin

ISLAND CITY — The city of Island City will begin conducting fire hydrant flushing starting Monday, March 28.

The three-week process will conclude April 15.

Flushing will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The flushing is necessary to ensure adequate water volume and pressure for fire suppression and to detect any potential problems in the water system.

If residents experience discoloration or sediment in their water, they should let an outside faucet or a cold-water bathtub faucet run until the water has cleared.

The city advises that residents also check their water before washing clothes.

For more information, call the city of Island City at 541-963-5017.

Baker City man arrested on sex abuse charges

BAKER CITY — A Baker City man was arrested Monday, March 21, on multiple sex crime charges, that were he convicted on all or most counts, could result in a prison sentence of more than 30 years.

Jerry Ray Shaw Jr., 40, was arrested at the Baker City Police Department and taken to the Baker County Jail, according to law enforcement.

Shaw is charged with 10

total counts — four counts of first-degree sodomy, four counts of first-degree sex abuse, and two counts of unlawful first-degree sexual penetration with an object.

Shaw was arraigned on March 22 in Baker County Circuit Court. Baker City attorney Bob Moon was appointed to represent Shaw.

Judge Matt Shircliff set Shaw's bail at \$1 million.

Shaw is scheduled to enter a plea in Baker County Circuit Court on April 14 at 1:30 p.m.

The alleged victim is a juvenile girl, police said. According to court records, Shaw knew the alleged victim. The investigation is continuing.

The alleged abuse happened between Jan. 1, 2012, and Dec. 31, 2015, in Baker City, according

to court documents. The victim was younger than 14 throughout the period, and younger than 12 in some instances.

According to Oregon Revised Statutes, first-degree unlawful sexual penetration involves a victim younger than 12 or a victim who is "incapable of consent by reason of mental incapacitation, physical helplessness or incapability of appraising the nature of the victim's conduct."

First-degree sexual abuse involves a victim who is younger than 14 or is "incapable of consent by reason of mental incapacitation, physical helplessness or incapability of appraising the nature of the victim's conduct."

— EO Media Group