

TODAY

In 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain issued an edict expelling Jews from Spanish soil, except those willing to convert to Christianity.

In 1814, Paris was occupied by a coalition of Russian, Prussian and Austrian forces; the surrender of the French capital forced the abdication of Emperor Napoleon.

In 1917, the United States took formal possession of the Virgin Islands from Denmark.

In 1931, Notre Dame college football coach Knute Rockne, 43, was killed in the crash of a TWA plane in Bazaar, Kansas.

In 1968, at the conclusion of a nationally broadcast address on Vietnam, President Lyndon B. Johnson stunned listeners by declaring, "I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your President."

In 1993, actor Brandon Lee, 28, was accidentally shot to death during the filming of a movie in Wilmington, North Carolina, when he was hit by a bullet fragment that had become lodged inside a prop gun.

In 1995, baseball players agreed to end their 232-day strike after a judge granted a preliminary injunction against club owners.

In 2004, four American civilian contractors were killed in Fallujah, Iraq; frenzied crowds dragged the burned, mutilated bodies and strung two of them from a bridge.

In 2005, Terri Schiavo (SHY'-voh), 41, died at a hospice in Pinellas Park, Florida, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed in a wrenching right-to-die court fight.

In 2009, Benjamin Netanyahu took office as Israel's new prime minister after the Knesset approved his government.

In 2019, rapper Nipsey Hussle was fatally shot outside the clothing store he had founded to help rebuild his troubled South Los Angeles neighborhood; he was 33.

In 2020, Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan officially stepped down from duties as members of the royal family.

Ten years ago: Hundreds of world landmarks from Berlin's Brandenburg Gate to the Great Wall of China went dark as part of Earth Hour, a global effort to highlight climate change. Britney Griner was named The Associated Press' women's college basketball Player of the Year, the first Baylor player to win the award.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump signed a pair of executive orders focused on reducing the U.S. trade deficit; the first order gave the Commerce Department 90 days to assemble a report on the factors behind the trade deficit, while the second sought to increase collection of duties on imports.

One year ago: President Joe Biden outlined a huge \$2.3 trillion plan to reengineer the nation's infrastructure. (Biden would sign a \$1 trillion infrastructure measure into law in November 2021.) The Pentagon swept away Trump-era policies that largely banned transgender people from serving in the military. Pfizer announced that its COVID-19 vaccine was safe and strongly protective in kids as young as 12. The government reported that the COVID-19 pandemic pushed total U.S. deaths in 2020 beyond 3.3 million, the nation's highest annual death toll; the coronavirus was listed as the third leading cause of death in 2020, after heart disease and cancer.

Today's Birthdays: Actor William Daniels is 95. Actor Richard Chamberlain is 88. Actor Shirley Jones is 88. Musician Herb Alpert is 87. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., is 82. Former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., is 82. Actor Christopher Walken is 79. Comedian Gabe Kaplan is 78. Rock musician Mick Ralphs (Bad Company; Mott the Hoople) is 78. Former Vice President Al Gore is 75. Author David Eisenhower is 74. Actor Rhea Perlman is 74. Actor Robbie Coltrane is 72. Actor Ed Marinaro is 72. Rock musician Angus Young (AC/DC) is 67. Actor Ewan McGregor is 51. Actor Erica Tazel is 47. Actor Judi Shekoni is 44. Actor Brian Tyree Henry (TV: "Atlanta" Stage: "Book of Mormon") is 40. Actor Melissa Ordway is 39. Jazz musician Christian Scott is 39. Pop musician Jack Antonoff (fun.) is 38.

Annual parade ready to roll

Ag-Timber Parade salutes agriculture, timber industries in Union County

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

ISLAND CITY — A popular Union County spring parade is set to roll again in less than two months.

Organizers of the annual Ag-Timber Parade have announced that this year's parade will be conducted Friday, May 20, in Island City. Parade participants will line up for the event at 5 p.m. on D Street, and the parade will begin at 6 p.m., running east along Island Avenue and before turning south on McAlister Road and running to Buchanan Lane. People in the parade will be asked to refrain from throwing candy from any moving vehicle or equipment. This rule will be in place to keep parade viewers safe, especially small children, according to event organizers.

The parade, which salutes Union County's agriculture and timber industries, has been conducted for at least three decades. It has taken place in Island City since 2013 and before that it was conducted in La Grande for about 20 years. The only time the parade has been canceled in the past three decades was in 2020 when it



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group, File

An eager child remains safely reined in during the Ag-Timber Parade on Island Avenue in Island City on Friday, May 21, 2021. The parade brought out hundreds of spectators and dozens of participants.



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group, File

Spectators look on from Island Avenue in Island City during the Ag-Timber Parade Friday, May 21, 2021.

was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each year the hour-long parade showcases fire engines, log trucks, vintage cars and farm equipment. Union County Search and Rescue and the Union County Sheriff's

Office will be providing traffic control at this year's parade. The grand marshal of this year's parade will be Bowman Trucking, of La Grande, according to event organizers. Oregon Women in

WANT TO BE IN THE PARADE?

To obtain an entry form for the 2022 Ag-Timber Parade, call 541-962-2069 or email tsherman@woodgrain.com.

Timber is again sponsoring the parade. The statewide nonprofit organization is committed to raising awareness about the importance of proper forest management and the products that come from Oregon's timberlands.

Oregon Women in Timber has been sponsoring the parade for 23 years, said Tiffany Sherman of OWIT. Awards will be given for best entries in the agriculture, timber and commercial categories.

OSP sergeant dies of gunshot wound in Joseph

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — An Oregon State Police sergeant was found dead in his patrol car Tuesday, March 29, of a single gunshot wound to the head, according to a press release from Wallowa County Sheriff Joel Fish.

Fish and WCSO Deputy Paul Pagano responded to a 3:41 p.m. call of a possible medical emergency at the residence of OSP Sgt. Marcus McDowell on North College Street in Joseph.

When Fish and Pagano arrived, they found McDowell unconscious in his patrol car in the driveway. After the officers made a forced entry into McDowell's vehicle, they found him to be dead of a gunshot wound.

Fish said it is not yet known if McDowell's death was self-inflicted or if foul play was involved. "The final determination will be by the state medical examiner," he said March 30.

Fish said McDowell had been an OSP trooper for 17 years, previously working in the La Grande area patrolling Wallowa and Union counties. The sheriff said McDowell has lived in Joseph "many



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Oregon State Police troopers walk up to a Wallowa County Sheriff's Office pickup Tuesday, March 29, 2022, as part of an investigation into a shooting death at a residence on North College Street in Joseph.

years" and has family in the area.

Units from Enterprise Ambulance and the Joseph Fire Department also responded, as did three Enterprise Police Department officers, a total of three WCSO units and three OSP troopers. North College Street between East Joseph Avenue and East Williams Avenue was blocked to traffic while the investigation was underway.

"Thank you to our partner agencies for their assistance, compassion and professionalism during this tragic time," OSP Superintendent Terri Davie said. "Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

A patrol unit from the Enterprise Police Department helps block off North College Street in Joseph the afternoon of Tuesday, March 29, 2022, while officers from the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office, the Oregon State Police and the EPD investigate a shooting death at a residence.

out to the family, friends, coworkers and responding emergency personnel."

Assistance in the investigation is being provided

by officers and investigators from the EPD, the Pendleton Police Department, OSP and the Crime Lab.

LOTTERY

Monday, March 28, 2022 Megabucks
3-12-17-20-36-37
Estimated jackpot: \$3.5 million
Lucky Lines
2-5-9-15-19-24-26-29
Estimated jackpot: \$45,000
Win for Life
1-40-59-74
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 7-5-6-7
4 p.m.: 5-9-0-2
7 p.m.: 4-9-8-1
10 p.m.: 0-2-0-0
Tuesday, March 29, 2022 Mega Millions
7-22-36-45-47
Mega Ball: 12
Megaplier: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$70 million
Lucky Lines
3-6-9-16-19-24-28-29
Estimated jackpot: \$46,000
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 9-0-6-4
4 p.m.: 2-4-9-5
7 p.m.: 1-5-8-3
10 p.m.: 3-8-4-9

NEWS BRIEFS

Joseph plans budget meeting April 6

JOSEPH — The Joseph City Council will hold a budget meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, at the Joseph Community Events Center. The meeting is a work session to discuss the budget for 2022-23. To attend the meeting via Zoom, log on to <https://bit.ly/38fDGIV>. The webinar ID is 881 3875 4137 and the passcode is 269827. The public also is welcome to attend the meeting in person. The city's new website is online at www.josephoregon.org and anyone can access the electronic agendas and print them from there. All agendas will show on the "Agenda" tab found at the top of the page, but the most recent agendas will also show on the "News" tab at the top of the page. Supporting doc-

uments also are available with the agendas.

ODOT holding meeting in Joseph on sidewalk ramp project

JOSEPH — The Oregon Department of Transportation will host a public open house at 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 4, at the Joseph Community Center, 102 E. First St. The purpose of the meeting is for ODOT to share information and hear public comments regarding its sidewalk ramp project, which is set for this year in downtown Joseph. Anyone interested is encouraged by ODOT to attend. For more information about the project, visit www.tinyurl.com/josephcurbramps: maps, background information and a meeting RSVP are available. Or, con-

tact ODOT Community Affairs Specialist Vicki Moles at 541-620-4527 or vicki.l.moles@odot.oregon.gov.

Weed control workshop scheduled for April 8

NORTH POWDER — A weed control workshop is planned for Friday, April 8, from 1-2:30 p.m. at the North Powder Fire Station, 320 E St., for landowners in Baker and Union counties who are interested in learning how to control broadleaf noxious weeds and invasive annual grasses. More information is available by calling Jeffrey Pettingill at the Baker County Weed Control District, 541-519-0240, or Brian Clapp at the Union County Weed Control District, 541-805-5539.

—EO Media Group

Candidate facing federal indictment visits LG

Reed Christensen participated in Jan. 6 incident at Capitol, seeks to replace Gov. Kate Brown

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Oregon gubernatorial candidate Reed Christensen wants Oregon's vote-by-mail system to be stamped out.

During a campaign talk at the Union County Fairgrounds on Monday, March 28, the Republican from Hillsboro said he believes Oregon



Christensen

must end vote by mail and return to the traditional in-person voting system it had prior to 1997. Christensen said the 2020 presidential election, much of which was conducted via vote by mail across the United States because of the COVID-19 pandemic, revealed this form of voting is at risk of becoming corrupt.

Analysis by a host of media outlets and government agencies, including former President Donald Trump's attorney general, however, have debunked the baseless claims of political corruption, machine tampering and mysterious votes appearing out of nowhere that allowed Joe Biden to steal the election.

Christensen, who worked for 30 years as a process engineer at Intel, a semi-conductor company, before retiring, also said he would like to see all federal lands in Oregon turned over to the state. He said this is a fairness issue. The candidate explained that early in United States history, the federal government owned all land in territories before statehood was granted, after which states gained control of it. He said this is why most states east of the Mississippi River have little federal land.

Christensen said when territories were granted statehood later, the federal government asked that it retain control of significant portions of their land. He said this is not fair to states such as Oregon, which cannot generate revenue from land owned by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management or control how it is managed.

He said he would ultimately like to see all federal land returned not only to states but to their counties. He said he believes this would result in land being managed better locally. He explained that people have a vested interest in properly managing the land they are surrounded by.

Christensen is one of 19 Republican gubernatorial candidates entered in the Tuesday, May 17, Oregon primary. The candidates are seeking to succeed Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, who has served as governor since 2015 and cannot run for reelection because of term limits.

Christensen is under federal indictment for allegedly assaulting a police officer while storming the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. The Oregonian reported that an FBI video on the U.S. Department of Justice website shows Christensen pushing past a barrier in front of the Capitol and grappling with several officers.

Christensen also is accused of engaging in an act of physical violence in a Capitol building and entering or remaining on restricted grounds without lawful authority, among other charges, according to a federal complaint.

The gubernatorial candidate believes that he was simply taking part in a historic event.

"I believe I was participating in the Boston Tea Party 2.0," Christensen said.

He said that he believes that Americans were upset about what they believe was a corrupt election and were expressing their feelings.

"It was entirely appropriate," Christensen said.