

TODAY

In 1792, Congress passed the Coinage Act, which authorized establishment of the U.S. Mint.

In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, because of advancing Union forces.

In 1912, the just-completed RMS Titanic left Belfast to begin its sea trials eight days before the start of its ill-fated maiden voyage.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy." (Congress declared war four days later.)

In 1982, several thousand troops from Argentina seized the disputed Falkland Islands, located in the south Atlantic, from Britain. (Britain seized the islands back the following June.)

In 1986, four American passengers, including an 8-month-old girl, her mother and her grandmother, were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from Rome to Athens, Greece.

In 1992, mob boss John Gotti was convicted in New York of murder and racketeering; he was later sentenced to life, and died in prison.

In 1995, after a work stoppage lasting nearly eight months, baseball owners accepted the players' union offer to play without a contract.

In 2002, Israel seized control of Bethlehem; Palestinian gunmen forced their way into the Church of the Nativity, the traditional birthplace of Jesus, where they began a 39-day standoff.

In 2003, during the Iraq War, American forces fought their way to within sight of the Baghdad skyline.

In 2007, in its first case on climate change, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency*, ruled 5-4 that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases were air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

In 2020, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases worldwide passed the 1 million mark, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The captain of a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier facing a coronavirus outbreak was fired after widely distributing a memo pleading for help; Navy Secretary Thomas Modly said Capt. Brett Crozier had demonstrated "poor judgment" in a crisis. (Modly himself would resign days later after facing a backlash over his harsh criticism of Crozier in remarks to the ship's crew.)

Ten years ago: The U.S. Supreme Court ruled, 5-4, that jailers may perform invasive strip searches on people arrested even for minor offenses. Kentucky won its eighth men's national NCAA basketball title, holding off Kansas for a 67-59 victory.

Five years ago: Jason Aldean was named entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards held in Las Vegas. A'ja Wilson scored 23 points to help coach Dawn Staley and South Carolina win their first women's NCAA championship with a 67-55 victory over Mississippi State.

One year ago: In his first call to the president of Ukraine, President Joe Biden underscored U.S. support for that country, amid reports of Russian troop movements on Ukraine's eastern border. A U.S. Capitol police officer, William Evans, was killed when a man rammed a car into officers at a barricade outside the Capitol building and then emerged with a knife; authorities shot the suspect, who died at a hospital.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sharon Acker is 87. Actor Dame Penelope Keith is 82. Actor Linda Hunt is 77. Singer Emmylou Harris is 75. Actor Sam Anderson is 75. Social critic and author Camille Paglia is 75. Actor Pamela Reed is 73. Rock musician Dave Robinson (The Cars) is 73. Actor Christopher Meloni is 61. Country singer Billy Dean is 60. Actor Clark Gregg is 60. Actor Roselyn Sanchez is 49. Country singer Jill King is 47. Actor Pedro Pascal is 47. Actor Adam Rodriguez is 47. Actor Michael Fassbender is 45. Rock musician Jesse Carmichael (Maroon 5) is 43. Actor Bethany Joy Lenz is 41. Country singer Chris Janson is 36.

LHS Wind Ensemble prepares for state

Members rely on repetition, teamwork to hone performance

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A local concert band is set to perform at the statewide level.

The La Grande High School Wind Ensemble, fresh off winning the Greater Oregon League band festival, is heading to compete at the OSAA Class 4A State competition in Corvallis on Thursday, May 12. The group took home top marks at the district competition, advancing to the state championship for the first time in many of the participants' prep careers.

With numerous sections to coordinate, the band members focus on preparation and teamwork to perform at their best.

"A lot of hours go into practice, thinking about it, listening to songs and all the preparation," sophomore trumpet player Shiloh Lynch said. "We listen to each other and, as peers, try to help each other out."

The Greater Oregon League district competition took place at La Grande High School on March 18. The Tigers competed against Ontario and Milton-Freewater, while also hosting the 3A, 2A and 1A schools to qualify separately for their own state competitions.

Three judges grade the performances based on a combined score that takes into account quality, balance, blend, technique and how in tune the band is. La Grande scored a 79, 80 and 82 to haul in first-place overall.

"It was really interesting to be a part of and a good experience to see different bands and how they direct and play," junior euphonium player Alyssa Moy said. "With winning, that was also really fun because we put in months



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Alyssa Moy plays the euphonium during band practice at La Grande High School on Thursday, March 31, 2022. The LHS Wind Ensemble will travel to Oregon State University to compete at the 4A state competition on May 12.



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Band director Alex Justice leads student musicians through practice at La Grande High School on Thursday, March 31, 2022. The high school's wind ensemble, which consists of 26 members, most upperclassmen, won the district championship in March.

of learning our music and seeing how we can perform musically."

The ensemble includes 26 musicians. Most of the group are upperclassmen, with freshmen and sophomores working their way up through tryouts to join the band.

Alex Justice, La Grande's high school and middle school band director, leads the way for the wind ensemble in his second year at the helm. Justice noted that the band ramped up its preparation for the district competition at the conclusion of winter break, when the group started learning their routine.

With the COVID-19

pandemic impacting previous years' state competitions, La Grande students are eager to be surrounded by the state's top bands.

"Because it's state, we'll get to see way more bands and how they play," Moy said. "We'll see how they experience their band."

Ten schools are set to compete in the 4A competition, and every other classification also competes at Oregon State University on the same day. LHS most recently won a state title in 2007.

"Historically the group has been very successful," Justice said.

In the buildup to La Grande's strong

showing at the district competition and the ensuing state championship, band members noted that repetition, hard work and teamwork go a long way in perfecting the group's sound.

"Every rehearsal is unique in its own way, because everybody can make a note longer or make a note get louder," Moy said. "It's really about fine-tuning it and playing it over and over again. It's a huge cycle of repetitiveness."

Lynch noted that breaking up into instrument-specific groups helps the ensemble hone their sound and make small adjustments that can have a noticeable difference on the overall performance. The band practices daily, working to continue improving the routine ahead of its biggest competition of the year.

The La Grande High School Wind Ensemble will host a concert at the high school on May 9, prior to traveling to Corvallis for the state competition. For the concert the band will be playing the same routine that won first place at the district competition, which will also be performed at the state championship.

La Grande council tackles economic development

Strategic plan includes goals, objectives and activities for 2 fiscal years

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande City Council is set to meet in person for its monthly regular session at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6.

The meeting entails three items on the consent agenda, one public hearing and two items of new business.

The council will consider approval of the economic development strategy for 2022-24, which will be presented by Economic Development Director Timothy Bishop. The proposed strategy plan lays out goals, objectives and activities for the next two fiscal years regarding economic development in La Grande.

The La Grande Urban Renewal

HOW TO ATTEND

The La Grande City Council April regular session will be held in person and is open to the public at City Hall, 1000 Adams Ave. The council meeting can also be viewed on the city's Charter Communications channel 180 or the La Grande Alive website and Facebook page. Public comments can be submitted to rstrope@cityoflagrande.org or by calling 541-962-1309.

Agency and city council previously met on March 14 in a work session to review the proposed strategy — the session went over implementation of the plan and answered questions from those involved. The full strategy plan is available on the city's website.

The second item of new business is considering approval of a personal services contract for a compensation survey and pay equity analysis for represented employees. The city would pay a total cost of \$18,500 to hire a consulting firm to conduct a

compensation survey.

Council members discussed the issue of retaining employees, particularly in public safety and difficult-to-fill positions, at the 2022 council retreat.

The staff decided that a professional compensation survey is necessary in order to address the areas of recruiting, retention and pay equity.

The council will vote on the approval of an Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission license application for La Grande Poker Room on Fir Street in downtown La Grande. The poker room opened its doors in early February and is looking to add alcoholic beverages to its list of services.

The consent agenda also includes the consideration of approval for a Memorandum of Understanding between La Grande and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 924 for the use of a paramedic education program for new hires.

NEWS BRIEFS

OTEC announces winners of trade, lineman school scholarships

BAKER CITY — Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative in a press release announced the recipients of this year's trade and lineman scholarships.

Skyler Perkins, of Cove, was awarded a \$2,500 OTEC scholarship to attend trade school. Ronald Borello, of Baker City, Harli Grove and Harrison Holt, both of John Day, Maverick Miller, of Canyon City, and Audrey Walker, of Seneca, also received a \$2,500 OTEC scholarship.

Elijah Banister, Justin Eskew and Shawn Rasmussen, all from Baker City, were awarded a \$5,000 OTEC scholarship to pursue careers as linemen.

Scholarship winners are selected from a pool of candidates from OTEC's service territory in Baker, Grant, Harney and Union coun-

ties. Scholarship funds come from unclaimed capital credits.

Cove City Council to discuss Cherry Fair live music during April meeting

COVE — The Cove City Council will meet for its monthly meeting, discussing two items of new business and two items on the consent agenda, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5 at Cove City Hall.

Following the general public comment section, councilors will vote on prior council minutes and the approval of bills to be paid by the city.

There are two items on the new business section, which the council will consider after the correspondence section. Councilors will vote on a one-year extension request by Mace Caldwell, who is looking to renew a permit for the Rose Meadow Subdivision.

Additionally, the Cove Drive-In is requesting a \$300 donation in order to host live music at this summer's Cherry Fair in Cove. Amber Parks, the Cove Drive-In owner, will represent the business during the new business section.

Also at the meeting, the council will discuss the appointment of new budget committee members, as well as look ahead at tentatively scheduled budget hearings on May 10 and June 7. Reports from the mayor and city recorder and a final public comment section will close out the April regular session.

Public comments can be submitted via email to cityadmin@cityofcove.org before 6:45 p.m. on April 5. Attendees can watch the meeting virtually at www.gotomeet.me/CityofCove or listen in by dialing 1-877-309-2073 (access code 566-891-733).

—The Observer

Fund awards over \$12K to local farmers

By ANN BLOOM
For EO Media Group

WALLOWA COUNTY — Beth Gibans had a vision.

She envisioned a community with sustainable food systems and an abundance of organic produce and healthy food. If she were alive today, she would have seen a part of that vision achieved as four businesses were among the first recipients of the Beth Gibans Memorial Producer Fund Award, named after Gibans who died of cancer in June.

For more than two decades, Gibans provided organic produce to members of the Wallowa County community through her farm, Backyard Gardens, and her catering business. She was generous with her knowledge and passion for healthy food and sustainable farming practices. She believed that local food production is essential to the health and well-being of a community.

Gibans was instrumental in establishing the Wallowa County Farmers Market, served as a board member and was a regular vendor at the market. She was a mentor and friend to many, as well as a founding board member of Slow Food Wallowas, according to Lynne Curry, a member of Slow Food Wallowas.

In honor of Gibans' work, Slow Food Wallowas solicited applications last fall for projects that demonstrated an ability to increase their capacity to produce and distribute more local food. The four winners were announced on Gibans' birthday, Jan. 22.

Slow Food Wallowas distributed \$12,731 among the four winners for their projects.

"We planned to award \$5,000 with this grant, but the quality of these applications compelled us to increase that limit," Curry said.

The winners and their projects are:

- Nic Hackney, Evergreen Family Farm. The co-owner with partner, Sarah Fischer, is installing a handline irrigation system for their small organic farm in La Grande. They also plan to be regular vendors at the Wallowa County Farmers Market.

- Ali Lyons and Christian Niece, Backyard Gardens. As the new owners of Gibans' organic produce business, the couple is repurposing a horse trailer to use as a mobile walk-in-cooler with attached wash station to manage farming on a variety of properties.

- Kristy Athens, Genuine Wallowa County Provisions. Athens used the grant money to purchase equipment for processing SNAP benefit payments, the federal nutrition assistance program for low-income individuals and families, which will allow more people to access her online grocery store.

- Jessica Bass and Adam McGrath, Lazy Mule Farm. Powered with draft animals, this new certified organic farm is growing garlic, salad mix, herbs, strawberries and flowers for commercial sales. The grant has allowed them to purchase a greenhouse and a custom pack shed building to increase their efficiency and workflow.

Slow Food Wallowas has a history of helping local producers expand and develop their operations through its grant program, which started 10 years ago with a \$3,000 grant to the Magic Garden.

"Since then, Slow Food Wallowas has directed about \$23,000 directly into local food production thanks to the ongoing donations from private individuals," Curry said.

LOTTERY

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Megabucks

4-19-22-37-44-46

Jackpot: \$3.6 million

Lucky Lines

1-7-9-13-20-23-26-30

Estimated jackpot: \$10,000

Powerball

3-7-21-31-37

Powerball: 11

Power Play: 3

Jackpot: \$222 million

Win for Life

10-26-54-75

Pick 4

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

4 p.m.: 6-5-6-8

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

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

Thursday, April 1, 2022

Lucky Lines

2-5-9-14-18-24-27-29

Jackpot: \$11,000

Pick 4

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

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

7 p.m.: 5-6-3-3

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