

**TODAY**

**In 1614**, Indian Chief Powhatan's daughter Pocahontas married Englishman John Rolfe, a widower, in the Virginia Colony.

**In 1621**, the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth Colony in present-day Massachusetts on a monthlong return trip to England.

**In 1764**, Britain's Parliament passed The American Revenue Act of 1764, also known as the Sugar Act.

**In 1887**, in Tuscumbia, Alabama, teacher Anne Sullivan achieved a breakthrough as her 6-year-old deaf-blind pupil, Helen Keller, learned the meaning of the word "water" as spelled out in the Manual Alphabet.

**In 1976**, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes died in Houston at age 70.

**In 1986**, two American servicemen and a Turkish woman were killed in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque, an incident that prompted a U.S. air raid on Libya more than a week later.

**In 1987**, Fox Broadcasting Co. made its prime-time TV debut by airing the situation comedy "Married with Children" followed by "The Tracey Ullman Show," then repeating both premiere episodes two more times in the same evening.

**In 1991**, former Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, his daughter Marian and 21 other people were killed in a commuter plane crash near Brunswick, Georgia.

**In 2008**, actor Charlton Heston, big-screen hero and later leader of the National Rifle Association, died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 84.

**In 2010**, an explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine near Charleston, West Virginia, killed 29 workers. In a televised rescue, 115 Chinese coal miners were freed after spending eight days trapped in a flooded mine, surviving an accident that had killed 38.

**In 2016**, UConn won an unprecedented fourth straight women's national championship, capping another perfect season by routing Syracuse 82-51.

**In 2019**, inspecting a refurbished section of fencing at the Mexican border in California, President Donald Trump declared that "our country is full," and that illegal crossings must be stopped.

**Ten years ago:** President Barack Obama signed bipartisan jobs legislation intended to help small businesses and make it easier for startups to raise capital.

**Five years ago:** President Donald Trump declared that a deadly chemical attack in Syria the day before had crossed "many, many lines" and abruptly changed his views of Syrian President Bashar Assad, but he refused to say what the U.S. might do in response. A senior U.S. defense official said a North Korean missile test ended in failure when the rocket spun out of control and plunged into the ocean in a fiery crash. YouTube TV, Google's new streaming package of about 40 television channels, made its debut.

**One year ago:** Baylor defeated Gonzaga 86-70 in the championship game of the NCAA basketball tournament in Indianapolis, ending Gonzaga's hopes for an undefeated season.

**Today's Birthdays:** Movie producer Roger Corman is 96. Country singer Tommy Cash is 82. Actor Michael Moriarty is 81. Pop singer Allan Clarke (The Hollies) is 80. Writer-director Peter Greenaway is 80. Actor Max Gail is 79. Actor Jane Asher is 76. Singer Agnetha Faltskog (ABBA) is 72. Singer-songwriter Peter Case is 68. Hip-hop artist/actor Christopher "Kid" Reid is 58. Rock musician Mike McCready (Pearl Jam) is 56. Singer Paula Cole is 54. Actor Krista Allen is 51. Actor Victoria Hamilton is 51. Rapper-producer Pharrell Williams is 49. Actor Sterling K. Brown is 46. Actor Hayley Atwell is 40.



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Officers with the Oregon State Police carry the flag-draped casket of Sgt. Marcus McDowell out of Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande, on Monday, April 4, 2022.

# OSP sergeant's death ruled suicide

## Trooper found in driveway of his Joseph home

By ZANE SPARLING  
The Oregonian

ENTERPRISE — The death of an Oregon State Police sergeant who was found dead in his patrol car Tuesday, March 29, killed himself while on duty, authorities said.

The suicide of Sgt. Marcus J. McDowell, who was discovered in the driveway of his home in Joseph with a single gunshot wound to the head, has left the entire agency "grief stricken," state police said in an announcement Thursday.

"Our hearts go out to his family, friends, and co-workers as they cope with this tragic incident," the state police statement said. "He was respected by

all and especially those he has worked so closely with throughout the years."

Wallowa County Sheriff Joel Fish said he and one of the county's two other deputies discovered McDowell's body about 3:40 p.m. March 29.

The sheriff asked the Pendleton Police Department to help investigate the scene because those officers, located more than 120 miles away, aren't part of the Joseph community,

where "everybody knows everybody," he said.

"Everybody goes to the church or Safeway together. That's what makes it difficult," Fish said. "Something like this affects the whole community."

Fish declined to release details of the ongoing investigation, but said McDowell, 48, had "made notice" of his suicide.

McDowell, a 17-year OSP veteran, was set to go to trial over divorce pro-



McDowell

**HELP IS AVAILABLE**

Confidential help for those experiencing thoughts of self-harm is available for free at all times. Contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: call 1-800-273-8255 or text "273TALK" to 839863.

*"It's just important to keep checking on your family and friends' mental health."*

— Joel Fish, Wallowa County Sheriff

ceedings with his wife of 24 years in May, court records show.

The sheriff declined to comment if the divorce played any part in the suicide.

"In the end, who really knows," he said.

McDowell had worked in the Patrol and Fish & Wildlife divisions over the years and as a police dog handler around John Day and La Grande, and currently served as the supervisor for state troopers in Union and Wallowa counties, according to Fish.

Oregon State Police Superintendent Terri Davie said the agency's Critical Incident Response Team was offering peer

support to fellow troopers in mourning.

"Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to the family, friends, coworkers and responding emergency personnel," Davie said in a statement.

Fish said the death was reverberating through the close-knit town of just under 1,000 people.

"It's just important to keep checking on your family and friends' mental health. You go to the dentist, you go to the doctor, but you don't necessarily go to get checked at a counselor," he said. "We need to do away with the stigma of doing that."

# Commissioners to discuss Union cleanup day

## UC Board of Commissioners will meet April 6 in La Grande

By DICK MASON  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Union's upcoming cleanup day will be among the subjects discussed when the Union County Board of Commissioners meets Wednesday, April 6.

The meeting will start at 9 a.m. in the board of commissioners meeting room on the east end of the Joseph Building, 1106 K Ave., La Grande, and is open to the public.

Doug Wiggins, Union's city administrator, will be in attendance to discuss the

city's cleanup day, which is set to run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 14. Wiggins will answer questions about the cleanup day and ask for advice in seeking matching funding for the event from the county, according to a staff report from Union County.

All garbage, refuse and recyclables with the exception of general household trash, tires or household waste will be collected at the cleanup day. The city of Union is working with the Union Garbage Service to organize the effort.

Action items the county commissioners will consider include a proposal to adopt a resolution updating the Union County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

A draft of an updated plan was developed in 2021 by Union County Emergency Services and the local NHMP Steering Committee. The plan identifies hazards, vulnerabilities and risks facing Union County and identifies and prioritizes local actions that can be taken to reduce these risks.

The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is a tool that can be used to reduce the impacts of natural hazards and disasters such as earthquakes, flooding and severe weather events.

The draft plan of the Union County NHMP was made available to the public for review in 2021 and no public comments on it were received, according to a Union County staff

report.

The Union County NHMP was submitted to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management and then to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for final review on Nov. 8, 2021.

The plan has since been approved by both agencies pending adoption by the Union County Board of Commissioners.

To listen to the April 6 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](https://www.us02web.zoom.us/j/81420006863).

Written comments for the meeting may be submitted via email to [amoore@union-county.org](mailto:amoore@union-county.org) by 5 p.m. April 5.

# Chilly weather will get warmer as week progresses

## A high-pressure system will trigger a warming trend

By DICK MASON  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Snow, chilly temperatures and windy conditions are in the immediate forecast for the Grande Ronde and Wallowa valleys and Meacham.

However, these conditions will be followed by a warming trend for the rest of the week, according to the National Weather Service office in Pendleton.

The National Weather Service is forecasting a

20% chance of snow in La Grande and Enterprise the morning of Tuesday, April 5, before 11 a.m.

The chance of snow in Meacham, about 4 miles north of the Union County border, will be 40% on April 5 in the morning and afternoon.

Winds in the 16 to 21 mph range are projected for the La Grande, Enterprise and Meacham areas with gusts reaching up to 30 mph.

La Grande is forecast to have a high of 43 degrees and a low of 25 degrees April 5, while Enterprise is projected to have a high of 38 degrees and a low of 19 degrees. Meacham's April 5 forecast is a high of 39 degrees and a low of 21 degrees.

The chilly conditions will be the result of a cold air mass coming in from the north Pacific Ocean, said Jim Smith, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Pendleton.

The weather in Northeastern Oregon is expected to warm up and become calmer after April 5 because of a ridge of high pressure that will start building over the region.

"High pressure is associated with benign weather," Smith said.

La Grande is projected to have a high temperature of 55 degrees on Wednesday, April 6; 65 degrees on Thursday, April 7; and 63 degrees on Friday April 8. Low

temperatures will be 35 degrees on April 6, 44 degrees on April 7, and 36 degrees on April 8.

Enterprise's high temperatures are forecast to be 49 degrees on April 6, 60 degrees on April 7, and 63 degrees on April 8. Enterprise's lows during this period are forecast to be 27 degrees on April 6, 36 degrees on April 7, and 29 degrees on April 8.

The National Weather Service is projecting that Meacham will have highs of 54 degrees on April 6, 65 degrees on April 7, and 60 degrees on April 8. Meacham's low are forecast to be 32 degrees on April 6, 40 degrees on April 7, and 30 degrees on April 8.

# Local podcast shines local light

## The Eastern Oregon Connection celebrates small-town community

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Shannon Hartley and Ryan Smith are trying to turn the art of a small-town conversation into a podcast.

The pair of longtime friends are behind The Eastern Oregon Connection, an interview series where Hartley and Smith talk with various community members about their life and times.

"We're celebrating small-town community," Smith said in an interview. "We're having conversations with people to share their stories. It's not necessarily one set of people. These are business owners. They're going to be people involved in charities and local events that are going on that we want to talk about."

The duo have varied professional and personal histories.

Hartley grew up in Pendleton but only recently returned after initially leaving for college. He attended Eastern Oregon University in La Grande before transferring to University of Oregon, where he did a stint cleaning metal-smithing labs. After graduating from college, he stuck in Eugene as an admissions officer for Bushnell University, a small liberal arts college. He worked in marketing for a book publisher and became a real estate agent upon his return to Pendleton.

Smith was born in Pendleton, raised in Salem and returned to Pendleton a few years before graduating high school. He worked at the Pepsi bottling plant in Pendleton during high school and transferred to the plant in La Grande, while attending college at EOU. He graduated with a degree in business and worked in accounting before settling in his job at McLaughlin Landscaping.

When Smith had the idea to start some sort of community podcast, he reached out to Hartley, who had done a sports podcast in the past, so the inquiries originally revolved around equipment and setup.

But Hartley himself had been considering starting some sort of community-minded project, maybe a YouTube video or Instagram post that would also act as a promotional tool for his real estate business.

With their interest aligned, they decided to partner up and The Eastern Oregon Connection was born.

The concept behind the podcast is that people may think they know their neighbors, but when given the chance for locals to unwind over a couple of hours, they may reveal interesting new stories about themselves.

"It's pretty rare even in a small-town community that you actually get to hear someone's story and their thoughts on things for that amount of time," Hartley said.

For their first few guests, Smith and Hartley targeted recognizable names, including Dean Fouquette, former owner of Dean's Pendleton Athletic, and Debbie Kishpaugh, the coach of Rhythmic Mode, the vaunted Pendleton High School dance team. While the first spate of guests has been heavy on Pendletonians, the pair want to extend their reach to interviews with guests from the surrounding area, including Hermiston, Milton-Freewater and La Grande. They'd also like to focus on new business owners in need of a little extra publicity or people behind worthy charitable causes.

"We enjoy getting to know people," he said. "At the heart of things, it's just really a lot of fun, because these are people that we know fairly well, but we are learning so much from each person just by visiting with them."

**LOTTERY**

**Friday, April 1, 2022**

**Megamillions**  
26-42-47-48-63  
Megaball: 21  
Megaplier: 5  
Jackpot: \$81 million

**Lucky Lines**  
3-6-9-15-18-22-26-31  
Jackpot: \$12,000

**Pick 4**  
1 p.m.: 9-8-2-3  
4 p.m.: 6-3-5-0  
7 p.m.: 1-9-5-1  
10 p.m.: 8-2-0-6

**Saturday, April 2, 2022**

**Powerball**  
6-28-47-58-59  
Powerball: 18  
Power Play: 2  
Jackpot: \$231 million

**Megabucks**  
8-18-33-37-39-47  
Jackpot: \$3.7 million

**Lucky Lines**  
4-5-11-16-17-21-26-32  
Jackpot: \$13,000

**Pick 4**  
1 p.m.: 4-7-1-7  
4 p.m.: 4-4-5-0  
7 p.m.: 0-4-1-2  
10 p.m.: 4-0-8-3

**Win for Life**  
18-52-53-72

**Sunday, April 3, 2022**

**Lucky Lines**  
1-6-10-13-20-24-28-29  
Estimated jackpot: \$14,000

**Pick 4**  
1 p.m.: 0-9-4-0  
4 p.m.: 8-6-3-1  
7 p.m.: 9-3-7-1  
10 p.m.: 1-4-3-3