

TODAY

In 1862, Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

In 1915, jazz singer-songwriter Billie Holiday, also known as “Lady Day,” was born in Philadelphia.

In 1922, the Teapot Dome scandal had its beginnings as Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall signed a secret deal to lease U.S. Navy petroleum reserves in Wyoming and California to his friends, oilmen Harry F. Sinclair and Edward L. Doheny, in exchange for cash gifts.

In 1945, during World War II, American planes intercepted and effectively destroyed a Japanese fleet, which included the battleship Yamato, that was headed to Okinawa on a suicide mission.

In 1949, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical “South Pacific” opened on Broadway.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower held a news conference in which he spoke of the importance of containing the spread of communism in Indochina, saying, “You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly.” (This became known as the “domino theory,” although Eisenhower did not use that term.)

In 1957, shortly after midnight, the last of New York’s electric trolleys completed its final run from Queens to Manhattan.

In 1959, a referendum in Oklahoma repealed the state’s ban on alcoholic beverages.

In 1962, nearly 1,200 Cuban exiles tried by Cuba for their roles in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion were convicted of treason.

In 1966, the U.S. Navy recovered a hydrogen bomb that the U.S. Air Force had lost in the Mediterranean Sea off Spain following a B-52 crash.

In 1994, civil war erupted in Rwanda, a day after a mysterious plane crash claimed the lives of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi; in the months that followed, hundreds of thousands of minority Tutsi and Hutu moderates were slaughtered by Hutu extremists.

In 2020, acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly resigned after lambasting the officer he’d fired as the captain of the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which had been stricken by a coronavirus outbreak; James McPherson was appointed as acting Navy secretary.

Ten years ago: A massive avalanche engulfed a Pakistani military complex in a mountain battleground close to the Indian border; all 140 people on the base died. CBS newsman Mike Wallace, 93, died in New Canaan, Connecticut.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump concluded his two-day summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) at Mar-a-Lago in Florida, saying he had developed an “outstanding” relationship with the Chinese leader. Gov. Jerry Brown declared an end to California’s historic drought emergency imposed in 2014.

One year ago: Former NFL player Phillip Adams fatally shot six people in Rock Hill, South Carolina, including a prominent doctor, his wife and their two grandchildren, before killing himself. The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department said investigators found that golfer Tiger Woods had been driving at more than 80 miles an hour — nearly twice the posted speed limit — when he lost control of an SUV in February; the wreck left Woods seriously injured.

Today’s birthdays: Country singer Bobby Bare is 87. R&B singer Charlie Thomas (The Drifters) is 85. Former California Gov. Jerry Brown is 84. Movie director Francis Ford Coppola is 83. Actor Roberta Shore is 79. Singer Patricia Bennett (The Chiffons) is 75. Singer John Oates is 74. Actor Jackie Chan is 68. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Tony Dorsett is 68. Actor Russell Crowe is 58. Former football player-turned-analyst Tiki Barber is 47. Actor Heather Burns is 47. Christian rock singer-musician John Cooper (Skillet) is 47. Actor Kevin Alejandro is 46. Retired baseball infielder Adrian Beltre is 43. Actor Sian Clifford is 40. Rock musician Ben McKee (Imagine Dragons) is 37. Actor Ed Speleers is 34.

LOTTERY

Monday, April 4, 2022**Megabucks**

5-7-11-28-41-48

Estimated jackpot: \$3.8 million

Lucky Lines

4-7-12-16-19-22-25-29

Estimated jackpot: \$15,000

Win for Life

12-38-66-71

Pick 4

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

4 p.m.: 1-2-7-3

7 p.m.: 6-2-0-2

10 p.m.: 1-7-9-5

Tuesday, April 5, 2022**Mega Millions**

22-43-60-63-64

Mega Ball: 18

Megaplier: 2

Estimated jackpot: \$94 million

Lucky Lines

1-5-10-16-20-21-26-29

Estimated jackpot: \$16,000

Pick 4

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

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

7 p.m.: 1-2-3-8

10 p.m.: 7-5-8-8

An ‘upstanding individual’

OSP Sgt. Marcus McDowell spent majority of his career in Union, Wallowa counties

By RONALD BOND

Wallowa County Chieftain

LA GRANDE — Members of the Oregon State Police are reeling after the sudden loss of one of their own last week.

Sgt. Marcus McDowell, 48, was found dead in his patrol vehicle in front of his Joseph home Tuesday, March 29, of a single gunshot wound to the head.

“It’s devastated our region,” retired OSP patrol Sgt. Kyle Hove said. “He has friends all over, not just Union County (and) Wallowa County. He has friends in Baker, Umatilla (counties) — he has worked the whole state.”

An investigation determined the gunshot wound to be self-inflicted. OSP stated McDowell was on duty at the time of his death.

“Our hearts go out to his family, friends, and co-workers as they cope with this tragic incident,” OSP said in a statement March 31.

Those who worked with McDowell remembered him for his strong work ethic, for his smiling personality, for being a friend, and for caring for those around him during an OSP career that spanned 17-1/2 years.

“He was a wonderful human being,” said La Grande-based East Region Capt. Daniel Conner. “He is going to be sorely missed by everybody for a long time.”

McDowell spent the majority of his career in Union and Wallowa counties, but got his start with OSP Sept. 1, 2004, being initially assigned to the John



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Oregon State Police officers load the casket of Sgt. Marcus McDowell into a hearse outside Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande, on Monday, April 4, 2022.

Day outpost, Conner said. He was later transferred to La Grande and worked out of Northeastern Oregon for the rest of his career.

“Marcus has always been a very motivated and driven state trooper,” Conner, who has been with OSP since 2005 and said he knew McDowell most of his career, said. “He’s got a very good work ethic. He comes to work ready to go, always gives 110%.”

McDowell spent five years as a K-9 handler based in La Grande, and followed that with five years in the Fish and Wildlife division. He also spent time in drug interdiction, where on patrol he would search for vehicles suspected of transporting illegal substances, seeking to disrupt drug trafficking.

“Marcus, he loved his job,” said Hove, who McDowell replaced as patrol sergeant for the La Grande-area in March 2020. “He was a hard worker. He was very productive. He was active in the community. Back when we were doing interdiction and stuff on the freeway, he was so good at his job. He had some incredible sei-

zures of all kinds of different things.”

Patrol Trooper Kainoa Delatori, who worked with McDowell the entirety of his six-year OSP career, and even prior during a stint with La Grande Police, said McDowell was the “resident expert” when it came to drug interdiction work, and someone he would consult often.

“We talked on a daily basis,” Delatori said. “I would pick his brain when it came to work on (interdiction) stuff. We got pretty close the last couple years.”

Delatori also commented on McDowell’s impeccable work ethic, and called him a man with whom you knew where you stood.

“That’s one of the things I respect most out of Marcus,” Delatori said of McDowell’s work. “After that long, a lot of people get burned out or they fade off. (But) he had the most stops in the office month in and month out. One thing I really looked up to him (for) is his work ethic. He would actually put in the work.”

Hove described McDowell as the person called on when an extra

hand was needed on a scene. He said he was always available, whether early in the morning or late in the evening.

“He’s the guy who would always be at work, always be there. He was the guy you called,” Hove said. “Say you’re working a case, whatever the case may be, Marcus would always stop by and see if you needed any help.”

Delatori, who was one of the OSP troopers to respond to the scene in Joseph, called the loss of his friend a shock.

“It’s something that I pray in the next 20 years of my career I never have to deal with again,” he said.

Conner said in losing McDowell, the OSP is losing an “upstanding individual.”

“We’re losing a great friend, employee, a supervisor, just a mentor in general to others, a leader — Marcus is all of those things,” he said. “More importantly, he’s just a friend. It’s taking a devastating toll on all of us that have worked with him over the years. It’s hard to deal with. It’s very difficult to deal with a loss.”

Riverside Park Easter egg hunt canceled

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Sunrise Rotary Club has announced that its annual Easter egg hunt at Riverside Park will not be conducted this year.

The Easter egg hunt has been canceled, even though COVID-19 rates are now very low and safety protocol restrictions for it have been greatly reduced. The reason for the cancellation is that the Sunrise Rotary Club had to decide by late January whether it

would conduct the event and it was unclear earlier this year what COVID-19 safety rules would still be in place in April.

“We did not know if we would be able to conduct an Easter egg hunt,” said Bill Rosholt, president of the La Grande Sunrise Rotary Club.

Strict state and county rules were still in place in late January as COVID-19 infection rates were spiking in Union County and throughout the state. Today almost all restrictions have been

lifted in Oregon because COVID-19 infection rates have fallen so much.

The Sunrise Rotary Club had to make the decision in late January because that was its deadline for ordering plastic egg shells in order to get them in time to prepare them for Easter. The eggs would have been filled with candy by members of La Grande High School’s National Honor Society chapter.

The rotary club, which started putting on the Easter egg hunt 27 years

ago, normally purchases between 5,000 and 6,000 plastic egg shells each year for the event, Rosholt said.

The Sunrise Rotary Club’s Easter egg hunt at Riverside Park was also canceled in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rosholt believes there is a good chance the La Grande Sunrise Rotary Club will be able to restart its Easter tradition in 2023.

“We hope to have the Easter egg hunt next year,” he said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Vendors gather ahead of farmers market season

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — Northeastern Oregon farmers markets are building momentum as the market season looms.

Market supporters and returning and prospective vendors are invited to planning meetings for the Enterprise’s Wallowa County Farmers Market and for the La Grande Farmers Market. Vendors include but are not limited to farmers, gardeners, crafters and artists.

A symposium for Wallowa County Farmers Market vendors begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 16, at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise. The event, which was canceled the past two years, will feature vendors discussing topics such as appealing booth displays, customer relations, marketing, advertising and networking.

It will also be an opportunity for attendees to meet Jessica Bogard, the new market manager. She will go over new information, policies, procedures and more. Members of the board of directors will also be on hand to answer questions.

A potluck brunch is part of the event, and participants are asked to bring a bunch item. Coffee and tea will be available. The symposium is free and open to the public.

The 2022 Wallowa County Farmers Market opens Saturday, May

28, and runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. Learn more on the market’s Facebook page and at www.wallowacountyfarmersmarket.com.

La Grande Farmers Market

La Grande Farmers Market’s annual meeting is planned for Saturday, April 9, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Cook Memorial Library.

The free gathering is open to all and will include a potluck. Bringing a dish to share is encouraged but not required.

The annual meeting is a time to learn more about the market, its staff and its board members, to ask questions and get support in navigating what it means to be a vendor at LGFM. Discussions will cover topics such as COVID-19 updates, pricing, guidelines and spot reservations.

Saturday, May 21, is the first day of the 2022 season. The La Grande Farmers Market is held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon and Saturdays from 3-6 p.m. Visit www.lagrangefarmersmarket.org or the market’s Facebook page for more details.

ODFW to host listening sessions ahead of 2023-25 budget

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is looking for feedback ahead of drafting its 2023-25 budget.

The agency is set to host a listening session for each region of the state. The Northeast Region virtual session is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, at 5 p.m.

The public session will include a timeline for public feedback, overview of the budget, recommended new services and future project plans.

The public feedback during the sessions will impact the latest draft of the agency’s future budget plan — the draft will be presented for approval to the Fish and Wildlife Commission in a meeting on June 17.

The agency is looking for input on how to better promote the participation of underserved populations — such as Black, Indigenous and people of color — in outdoor recreation and conservation.

In a press release, ODFW noted the planned budget does not include a proposed fee increase for recreational hunting or fishing licenses, meaning the agency will have gone almost a full decade without asking for an additional fee increase.

Following approval of the 2023-25 budget, the plans head to the 2023 Oregon State Legislature for adoption.

Access to the proposed budget and the link to the April 14 session is available at www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2022/04_Apr040122.asp.

—The Observer

Price tag on Wallowa Lake Dam soars

By BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The price tag on the proposed refurbishing of the Wallowa Lake Dam has jumped to about \$21 million, said Dan Butterfield, president of the Wallowa Lake Irrigation District, leaving the stakeholders wondering where the extra money will come from.

The district, which owns the dam, hopes to break ground on the project in the fall of 2023, after the irrigation season ends that September. The Legislature added \$14 million in state lottery funds to its budget last year for the project that was originally estimated to cost about \$16 million.

Now the district and the other stakeholders have to figure where to find the additional money.

“We’re going to wait to make sure we have the funding lined up before we start. We’re not spending any money until we get the \$14 (million),” Butterfield said. “We’re going to wait and make sure we have our money before we get started.”

He said the district board has agreed to hold off spending until it actually receives the lottery money and determines how to make up the difference.

Seeking extra funding

The major stakeholders of the dam include the irrigation district, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Nez Perce Tribe’s Department of Fisheries Resources Management and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Minor stakeholders also are involved, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has jurisdiction over bull trout, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

A spokesperson for Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, shed a little light on the funding issue.

“First, we brought the larger stakeholder group together to talk about progress on all projects within the Wallowa Basin that relate to fish passage or irrigation efficiency,” said Ann Rava, Hansell’s legislative assistant. “The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announced that they will be able to contribute \$1.25 million toward design and engineering work for both the Wallowa Lake Dam fish passage and the fish passage for the Consolidated Ditch. The Wallowa County Soil and Water Conservation District shared that they will be going after some federal funds related to a downstream project.”

Fish passage

One of the major issues in designing the dam is what kind of fish passage there will be. Butterfield said no agreement on that issue has been arrived at by the stakeholders yet.

Wallowa County native Mort McMullen, the engineer on the project, said a fish passage to allow both upstream and downstream migration of fish is being worked into the project.

It will be determined by the stakeholders based on the plans his firm comes up with.

The fish passage is a crucial element of the dam’s new design. In fact, state law requires the inclusion of a satisfactory fish passage in the dam, according to Jim Harbeck, field office supervisor of the Nez Perce Tribes Department of Fisheries Resources Management.

Jeff Yanke, a watershed manager with the ODFW, said in August it’s up to the engineer to select a type of passage.

“We’ve been talking concepts and it’s up to them to pick one,” he said.