

**TODAY**

**In 1828**, the first edition of Noah Webster's "American Dictionary of the English Language" was published.

**In 1865**, President Abraham Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth during a performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre in Washington.

**In 1902**, James Cash Penney opened his first store, The Golden Rule, in Kemmerer, Wyoming.

**In 1912**, the British liner RMS Titanic collided with an iceberg in the North Atlantic at 11:40 p.m. ship's time and began sinking. (The ship went under two hours and 40 minutes later with the loss of 1,514 lives.)

**In 1910**, President William Howard Taft became the first U.S. chief executive to throw the ceremonial first pitch at a baseball game as the Washington Senators beat the Philadelphia Athletics 3-0.

**In 1935**, the "Black Sunday" dust storm descended upon the central Plains, turning a sunny afternoon into total darkness.

**In 1949**, the "Wilhelmstrasse Trial" in Nuremberg ended with 19 former Nazi Foreign Office officials sentenced by an American tribunal to prison terms ranging from four to 25 years.

**In 1960**, Tamla Records and Motown Records, founded by Berry Gordy Jr., were incorporated as Motown Record Corp.

**In 1981**, the first test flight of America's first operational space shuttle, the Columbia, ended successfully with a landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

**In 1994**, two U.S. Air Force F-15 warplanes mistakenly shot down two U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopters over northern Iraq, killing 26 people, including 15 Americans.

**In 1999**, NATO mistakenly bombed a convoy of ethnic Albanian refugees; Yugoslav officials said 75 people were killed.

**In 2007**, riot police beat and detained protesters as thousands defied an official ban and attempted to stage a rally in Moscow against Russian President Vladimir Putin's government.

**In 2020**, President Donald Trump announced that he was cutting off U.S. payments to the U.N. health agency, the World Health Organization; Trump said it had not done enough to stop the coronavirus from spreading.

**Ten years ago:** In Belfast, Northern Ireland, where the RMS Titanic was built, thousands attended a choral requiem at the Anglican St. Anne's Cathedral or a nationally televised concert at the city's Waterfront Hall to mark the 100th anniversary of the ship's sinking.

**Five years ago:** Former NFL star Aaron Hernandez, already serving a life sentence for a 2013 murder, was acquitted in Boston in a 2012 double slaying prosecutors said was fueled by his anger over a drink spilled at a nightclub. (Five days later, Hernandez hanged himself in his prison cell.)

**One year ago:** President Joe Biden said he would withdraw the 2,500 remaining U.S. troops from Afghanistan, with the drawdown to begin by May 1; that date had been the deadline for full withdrawal under a peace agreement that the Trump administration reached with the Taliban in 2020. Bernard Madoff, the infamous architect of an epic securities swindle, died at a federal prison in North Carolina; he was 82.

**Today's birthdays:** Country singer Loretta Lynn is 90. Actor Julie Christie is 82. Retired MLB All-Star Pete Rose is 81. Rock musician Ritchie Blackmore is 77. Actor Peter Capaldi is 64. Actor Brad Garrett is 62. Rock singer-musician John Bell (Widespread Panic) is 60. Actor Robert Clendenin is 58. Actor Catherine Dent is 57. Actor Lloyd Owen is 56. Baseball Hall of Famer Greg Maddux is 56. Rock musician Barrett Martin is 55. Actor Anthony Michael Hall is 54. Actor Adrien Brody is 49. Classical singer David Miller (Il Divo) is 49. Rapper Da Brat is 48. Actor Antwon Tanner is 47. Actor Sarah Michelle Gellar is 45. Actor-producer Rob McElhenney is 45. Roots singer JD McPherson is 45. Actor Claire Coffee is 42. Actor Christian Alexander is 32. Actor Nick Krause is 30. Actor Vivien Cardone is 29. Actor Graham Phillips is 29. Actor Skyler Samuels is 28. Actor Abigail Breslin is 26.

**LOTTERY**

**Monday, April 11, 2022**  
**Megabucks**  
 2-7-8-31-37-48  
 Estimated jackpot: \$4.1 million  
**Lucky Lines**  
 1-5-11-15-18-24-25-29  
 Estimated jackpot: \$22,000  
**Win for Life**  
 1-22-59-71  
**Pick 4**  
 1 p.m.: 1-5-7-9  
 4 p.m.: 7-2-5-9  
 7 p.m.: 4-6-9-6  
 10 p.m.: 5-4-2-9  
**Tuesday, April 12, 2022**  
**Mega Millions**  
 2-8-14-20-31  
 Mega Ball: 17  
 Megaplier: 2  
 Estimated jackpot: \$20 million  
**Lucky Lines**  
 3-7-11-16-17-24-26-29  
 Estimated jackpot: \$23,000  
**Pick 4**  
 1 p.m.: 1-8-8-7  
 4 p.m.: 2-9-2-8  
 7 p.m.: 6-4-1-0  
 10 p.m.: 1-9-6-2



Dick Mason/The Observer, File

Members of the La Grande Public Works Department do prep work on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, on Second Street for a project to replace a water main and upgrade the road.

**City: Street and road improvements a top priority**

Budget adjustments would allow for more spending

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**  
 The Observer

LA GRANDE — The city of La Grande is eyeing a key area of concern ahead of its budget adoption for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

The city is looking to address road maintenance and infrastructure, a project that has often faced funding challenges in the past. During the

La Grande City Council's annual retreat on Jan. 25, the council emphasized increased funding for street and road infrastructure as a top priority.

At the city council meeting on April 6, La Grande City Manager Robert Strope presented a memorandum stating the city's intent to assign approximately \$473,818 in one-time funding for streets and roads in the upcoming 2022-23 fiscal year budget.



Strope

The additional funding in the proposed budget comes from two allocations geared toward funding maintenance of city streets.

The first proposal from the city manager involves shifting 25% of unallocated funds in the city's general fund into unrestricted dollars for road infrastructure — this adjustment would bring in \$116,064 to the street and road budget.

The remaining \$357,754 would come from the estimated amount in the city's general fund from an Urban Renewal Agency levy that would be transferred to

the street and road budget. The under levy would not impact the Urban Renewal Agency's economic development programs or capital project funding.

The Parking, Traffic Safety and Street Maintenance Advisory Committee has been working to target long-term goals for improving La Grande's streets.

The two changes to the budget will be decided as part of the city's fiscal year budget approval and adoption process and will go in front of the city council on April 18 in a joint work session.

**Umatilla National Forest to begin spring burning**

By **SHEILA HAGAR**  
 Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

PENDLETON — Fire management officials on the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests are starting spring prescribed burning to reduce the risk of severe wildfire.

A news release from the Umatilla National Forest said frequent and low-intensity fire is essential for healthy forests, and prescribed burning reduces the risk of intense wildfire caused by excessive fuel buildup.

Prescribed burning is effective for removing excessive brush, shrubs, and trees, while also encouraging growth of native vegetation.

As well, the spring burning improves overall forest health and enhances habitat for elk, deer and other wildlife, officials said.

This is done only under controlled conditions. Wind speed and direction, temperatures, humidity and fuel mois-



Contributed Photo

Spring prescribed burning will soon begin in the Blue Mountains, according to a Friday, April 8, 2022, announcement from the U.S. Forest service.

ture are taken into consideration before Forest Service staff begin a prescribed burn operation.

Each one represents years of planning and preparation to ensure

burn operations meet conditions for success.

Potential smoke impact is determined prior to each burn, officials said.

All burns will be monitored until a season-ending

rain or snow occurs.

For more information, visit the Blue Mountain Prescribed Fire Council blog at [www.bluemtn-prescribedfire.blogspot.com](http://www.bluemtn-prescribedfire.blogspot.com).

**More April snow is in the forecast**

Dry weather is projected for Easter Sunday

By **DICK MASON**  
 The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Grande Ronde and Wallowa valleys and the Meacham area will continue receiving early spring snow through Saturday, April 16, but Easter Sunday, April 17, will be clear of any precipitation, according to the National Weather Service.

According to forecasters, La Grande will have a 50% chance of receiving snow during the morning and afternoon of Thursday, April 14, a chance of receiving snow the evening of Friday, April 15, and a chance of receiving snow the morning of Saturday, April 16.

Enterprise also is projected to have a 50% chance of receiving snow throughout the day on April 14 and a 20% chance early in the evening. On April 15, forecasters are giving Enterprise a 30% chance of snow in the evening, and on April 16 Enterprise will have a 70% chance of snow in the morning and afternoon and a 30% chance in the evening.

Projections call for Meacham to have a 60% chance of snow throughout the day on April 14, a chance of snow in the daytime of April 15 and a 50% chance of snow that evening. On April 16, Meacham is expected to have an 80% chance of snow in the afternoon and a 20-30% chance in the evening.

The projected regional snowfall will come on the heels of at least three

straight days of snow in the beginning of the week, which forced the closure of Interstate 84 for more than 12 hours.

Rob Brooks, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Pendleton, said it is a little unusual for Northeastern Oregon to be receiving as much April snow as it has. He attributes this to a series of low-pressure systems, which cause weather disturbances, coming through.

"A series of low-pressure systems are moving through with cold air behind them," Brooks said.

Cold temperatures will prevail in the Grande Ronde and Wallowa valleys and Meacham through Sunday, according to the National Weather Service. April 14-16, La Grande is expected to have highs of 38-44 degrees and lows of

20-31 degrees; Enterprise's highs are projected to be 34-40 degrees and lows to be 14-25 degrees; and Meacham will likely have highs of 16-27 degrees and lows of 16-27 degrees.

Weather will be clear and a bit warmer on Easter Sunday. On April 17, the high in La Grande is forecast to be 47 degrees with a low of 31 degrees; Enterprise is expected to have a high of 43 degrees and a low of 25 degrees; and the high in Meacham should be 43 degrees and the low 28 degrees.

Brooks said drier and warmer Easter Sunday weather is projected because of a ridge of high-pressure that will start building in the region late on April 16. The high-pressure will keep out storms on Sunday, a day too late for Saturday's chilly community Easter egg hunts.

**IN BRIEF**

**Blood drive planned in Enterprise**

ENTERPRISE — Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

That's according to the American Red Cross, which will put on a blood drive in Enterprise on Tuesday, April 19, at the Cloverleaf Hall.

Alicia Hayes, Wallowa County Red Cross coordinator for the blood drive, said all blood types and Rh factors are needed.

Type O is the universal donor, meaning people with all blood types can receive Type O. Type AB is the universal recipient. Types A and B also are needed, as are all types with positive and negative Rh factors.

Hayes said some people who have had health issues or are taking certain medications are not able to donate.

"There's a pretty good screening process," she said.

Tattoos, piercings and recent surgeries also can be limiting.

The blood drive is all-volunteer, Hayes said, meaning no payments are offered for blood. She said there is a "hospitality center" at the Cloverleaf offering cookies and other "goodies."

But she urged people to come for the approximately 15-minute process.

"Even if you're unsure about the process, people can come down and find out about it," she said.

Hayes said those who wish to schedule a donation appointment can call her at 541-663-6096 or go online to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

**La Grande Main Street group to host connection series**

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Main Street Downtown organization is establishing a new resource connection series for local businesses to network and learn about available resources in the region.

The Business-Resource Connection series, a brown-bag style learning event, will take place on the third Wednesday of every month at the Ignite Center, 104 Depot St. The first meeting is scheduled for noon on Wednesday, April 20.

According to a press release from La Grande Main Street Downtown, the series is aiming to point out a wide variety of resources available for local businesses. The La Grande Economic Vitality Committee is hosting the events, with the hopes of highlighting these resources for businesses that may not be aware that business aid is available locally.

The series resembles the Hot Topics hosted by La Grande Main Street Downtown in past years, revamping the format. The monthly meetings will include a different organization presenting business development topics and connections to wealth resources. The Eastern Oregon Visitors Association, WorkSource, La Grande Economic Development Department and more are scheduled to present at upcoming events.

**Wyden hosts virtual town hall for Wallowa County**

ENTERPRISE — U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden is hosting a series of virtual town halls next week, including one for Wallowa County residents.

The Wallowa County town hall is set for 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 20.

A recent press release stated the senator has hosted more than 1,000 town halls during his time in office, and has hosted at least one in each county in Oregon each year.

A Facebook link to the town hall is available at <https://tinyurl.com/m4jfa4ac>. To submit questions, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3vebjnnj>.