

TODAY

In 1789, President-elect George Washington left Mount Vernon, Virginia, for his inauguration in New York.

In 1889, comedian and movie director Charles Chaplin was born in London.

In 1945, In his first speech to Congress, President Harry S. Truman pledged to carry out the war and peace policies of his late predecessor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1947, the cargo ship Grandcamp, carrying ammonium nitrate, blew up in the harbor in Texas City, Texas; a nearby ship, the High Flyer, which was carrying ammonium nitrate and sulfur, caught fire and exploded the following day; the blasts and fires killed nearly 600 people.

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in which the civil rights activist responded to a group of local clergymen who had criticized him for leading street protests; King defended his tactics, writing, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

In 1972, Apollo 16 blasted off on a voyage to the moon with astronauts John W. Young, Charles M. Duke Jr. and Ken Mattingly on board.

In 1977, Alex Haley, author of the best-seller "Roots," visited the Gambian village of Juffure, where, he believed, his ancestor Kunte Kinte was captured as a slave in 1767.

In 1996, Britain's Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah, the Duchess of York, announced they were in the process of divorcing.

In 2003, Michael Jordan played his last NBA game with the Washington Wizards, who lost to the Philadelphia 76ers, 107-87.

In 2007, in one of America's worst school attacks, a college senior killed 32 people on the campus of Virginia Tech before taking his own life.

In 2010, the U.S. government accused Wall Street's most powerful firm of fraud, saying Goldman Sachs & Co. had sold mortgage investments without telling buyers the securities were crafted with input from a client who was betting on them to fail. (In July 2010, Goldman agreed to pay \$550 million in a settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission, but did not admit wrongdoing.)

In 2020, the Trump administration gutted an Obama-era rule that compelled the country's coal plants to cut back emissions of mercury and other human health hazards.

Ten years ago: A trial began in Oslo, Norway, for Anders Breivik, charged with killing 77 people in a bomb and gun rampage in July 2011. (Breivik was found guilty of terrorism and premeditated murder and given a 21-year prison sentence.)

Five years ago: U.S. officials said a North Korean medium-range missile exploded seconds after launch, a high-profile failure that came hours before U.S. Vice President Mike Pence arrived in South Korea for a visit at the start of a 10-day trip to Asia.

One year ago: Jon Ryan Schaffer, a member of the far-right Oath Keepers militia group and a heavy metal guitarist, became the first defendant to plead guilty to federal charges in connection with the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland revoked a series of Trump-era orders that promoted fossil fuel development on public lands and waters, and issued a new order that prioritized climate change in agency decisions.

Today's Birthdays: Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI is 95. Singer Bobby Vinton is 87. Denmark's Queen Margrethe II is 82. Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is 75. Former Massachusetts first lady Ann Romney is 73. NFL coach Bill Belichick is 70. Rock singer and former politician Peter Garrett is 69. Actor Ellen Barkin is 68. Actor Michel Gill is 62. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is 60. Rock musician Jason Scheff (Chicago) is 60. Singer Jimmy Osmond is 59. Rock singer David Pirner (Soul Asylum) is 58. Actor-comedian Martin Lawrence is 57. Actor Jon Cryer is 57. Actor Peter Billingsley is 51. Actor Lukas Haas is 46. Actor-singer Kelli O'Hara is 46. Actor Claire Foy (TV: "The Crown") is 38.

LOTTERY

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Megabucks

6-19-29-45-47-48

Jackpot: \$4.2 million

Lucky Lines

4-8-9-15-17-23-25-30

Estimated jackpot: \$24,000

Powerball

14-16-41-63-68

Powerball: 26

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$325 million

Win for Life

3-5-15-20

Pick 4

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

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

7 p.m.: 2-9-9-7

10 p.m.: 0-3-5-9

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Lucky Lines

1-5-11-14-18-22-28-31

Jackpot: \$25,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 9-7-8-0

4 p.m.: 9-3-4-5

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

10 p.m.: 5-7-1-2

Snow doesn't solve issues

A snowy week in mid-April won't be enough to reverse rapid melt-off or drought

By ALEXWITTWER

EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — Despite the sudden and unexpected April snowstorms, snowpack levels aren't quite back on track to where they need to be.

Snow has been falling since early this week, breaking records across the state for the latest snowfall in Oregon's history with 1.6 inches falling April 11 on parts of the Portland-metro area, according to the National Weather Service in Portland.

And while snow isn't unheard of this far into spring in the Blue Mountains — the latest snowfall recorded at Pendleton was April 20, 1963, according to the National Weather Service — it is a hopeful sign for a region still gripped by drought. However, the recent snowfall might not be enough to put municipalities and agriculturalists at ease.

Scott Oviatt, a hydrologist and snow survey supervisor at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service for Oregon, said while the recent addition to the snowpack is welcomed, it won't fix the rapid melt-off that started in late March.

"We've started the process, and it's really not going to stop," he said. "We're adding to the snowpack, of course, adding



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

A dusting of snow covers the mountain range near Cove and Mount Fanny on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. Early April snowstorms won't be enough to rectify the region's dwindling snowpack levels, according to snow survey experts.

water content to it, but eventually it's going to warm up, and it will melt out rapidly."

The snowpack had been at healthy, above-average levels for January and February before rapidly declining in March — between March 22-31, the Grande Ronde Valley region lost nearly 25% of its snowpack. Many parts of the state, including the southeast region encompassing Harney, Grant and Malheur counties, have experienced drastically reduced snow water equivalent levels, having dropped below 40% of the median value for early April.

The current water content in the snowpack for the Grande Ronde-Burnt-Powder-Imnaha region remains at 76% of median as of April 12, while the Umatilla-Walla Walla-Willow region is at 93% of median values. Nearly 90% of the state remains under drought conditions as of April 12, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Oviatt said that despite the rapid melt-off, chances of flooding are unlikely as temperatures are forecast to remain below normal until later in April.

Because there isn't enough time for gradual melting of the newly

acquired snow and overnight freezing to take place, snowpack levels won't become as dense, according to Oviatt.

That means what fell over the week will likely melt quickly without the chance to develop glacier-like pockets of moisture content.

"We're almost too late to make up the deficit we have," he said. "This didn't solve our problems. It just delayed it. Obviously the additional water content is good, but I don't think it's going to come out in terms of additional volume that's of use to municipalities and agricultural uses."

VP of Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco to visit

Ian Galloway to meet with students, local business owners at Eastern Oregon University speaking event in La Grande

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University is preparing to host a speaking event on rural economic growth for business and economic students, as well as local businesses and entities.

Ian Galloway, the vice president and regional executive of the Portland branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, is set to visit La Grande for a series of speaking events. Galloway will visit several business and economics

classes at Eastern Oregon University on Monday, April 18, before holding a public meeting on rural economic growth geared toward local businesses and interested individuals.

Galloway will speak at a public gathering of community members at 3 p.m. in Zabel Hall Room 101. Topics at the event will focus on economic growth and federal action in the rural West. Scott McConnell, an economics pro-

fessor and part-owner of Side A Brewing, will be hosting the event.

The Zabel Hall event will be streamed live on YouTube for those who are interested by cannot attend.

Prior to the evening gathering, EOU will host Galloway in the morning for three on-campus speaking events, specific to students in business and economics classes.

Economics professor Peter Maillé teaches two of the classes Galloway will visit.

"To be in a room and have access to his knowledge is a really great opportunity for the students," Maillé said.

The bulk of students in the two economics classes are underclassmen. All

EOU students are invited to take part as well.

McConnell noted that it will be a productive experience for students at the university to engage with a professional in the field, seeing their studies portrayed in a real-world setting.

"It'll be great for students to meet someone working for the Fed, especially doing so in rural communities," he said.

In Galloway's position at the Portland branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, he works with business, banking community and government sectors across Oregon.

He has worked with the Federal Reserve since 2007.



Galloway

OTEC holding annual meeting May 21 at Baker High School

The Observer

BAKER CITY — Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative announced it will hold its annual meeting Saturday, May 21, at 10:30 a.m. at Baker High School, 2500 East St., Baker City.

Board President Wayne Overton and Chief Executive Officer Les Penning will report on the state of the cooperative. Three positions on the OTEC Board of Directors are up

for election.

Election results for Position 7 (Union County), Position 8 (Union County) and Position 9 (Baker County) will be announced during the meeting.

All OTEC member-owners are invited to the in-person meeting, and there is no fee to attend. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m., with access to community booths and other activities. The business meeting begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by

a complimentary lunch. There will be music, raffle drawings, activities and booths for adults and children.

Buses will be available for members from Burns, John Day and La Grande who want to attend the meeting in Baker City.

Those interested in a free ride can now register at the following locations: the Senior Citizen's Community Center in John Day, the Harney County Senior Center

in Burns and the Union County Senior Center in La Grande.

Seats are limited and will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

For those member-owners not able to attend, a livestream of the business meeting and the announcement of election results will be available at www.otec.coop and on OTEC's Facebook page, with a recording of the meeting posted online afterward.

EOU, county see stagnant COVID trends

Sustained low numbers at Eastern Oregon University open doors for lowered restrictions

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Counties across Oregon are seeing slight upticks in COVID-19 cases in April compared to March.

Even so, cases remain significantly low in comparison to past surges caused by COVID-19 variants. COVID-19 numbers in Union County have deflated in recent months, with the county totaling just 14 cases between March 13 and April 13.

Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, has not reported a positive COVID-19 test since Feb. 27. On-campus mask mandates were lifted March 12, and the university has seen a handful of students report illnesses, but further testing revealed a common cold or other sickness. The school's 2,808 total tests administered equate to a 10.5% positivity rate through April 13.

"People seem to be dealing well with knowing that masks are welcome, but not required," said Lacy Karpilo, Eastern's vice president of student affairs



"Masks are welcome, but not required."

Physical distancing requirements have gone by the wayside for most of the academic year, but now students are also able to engage in common dorm spaces and university buildings without a mask. However, masks are still required at the Eastern Oregon University health center.

The university is working with the Center for Human Development in regard to booster shot availability. Eastern does not plan to host vaccine clinics on campus in the near future, rather urging any interested individuals to utilize resources available at CHD.

"We're waiting at this point," Karpilo said. "Since CHD has it available and people can go there, we feel that those who need it are able to get it."

As the university phases into a more normal learning environment, officials are also looking forward to bringing back a standard rendition of a storied tradition — graduation. Eastern is planning its end-of-year commencement ceremony at Community Stadium. This year's ceremony will be the first on the field since 2018, as the turf was being replaced in 2019 and COVID-19 altered the formats of the last two graduations.

"It will be in person and we will manage it if there were to be an outbreak or whatnot," Karpilo said. "However we can manage that we will, but we know it's so important for people to be able to have that celebration of success and share that with their loved ones."

For information about joining the Zoom meeting, email EastOregonClimateChange@gmail.com or go to www.eoc3.org.

The Zoom link will be sent out via email on April 18.

—The Observer

NEWS BRIEFS

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest personal-use firewood permits available May 1

LA GRANDE — Starting this May, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will begin offering free personal-use firewood permits.

The permits are limited to 10 cords per household, per year. Interested individuals can acquire permits free of charge at local Forest Service Offices and at local vendors. When acquiring the permits from local businesses, a \$2 processing fee per transaction may be charged.

Locally, firewood permits can be acquired at the district offices in La Grande, Baker City and Joseph. The permits are valid from Sunday, May 1, through Nov. 30. Early fall snowpack and fire danger in the summer can impact the accessibility of fire-

wood permits and wood availability. Commercial-use firewood permits are available at the regular price of \$10 per cord, with a minimum two-cord permit.

The Forest Service recommends checking fire closure areas before collecting firewood. Information on industrial fire precaution levels and public use restrictions can be found on the Wallowa-Whitman website, www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman, or by calling 541-523-1234.

Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition to host virtual information session

BAKER CITY — The Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition will host its monthly informational presentation via Zoom at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 19.

Peter Fargo, a Baker City res-

ident and co-founder of Climate-Vigil.org, is set to give a presentation on his experience at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in November 2021. Fargo observed the UN meeting, in which member nations pledged to work collectively toward reducing emission of greenhouse gases and limiting the rise of the global average temperature.

His speech at the virtual meeting, entitled "Mr. Fargo Goes to Glasgow," will summarize the UN meeting and reflect on impacts on Eastern Oregon.

For information about joining the Zoom meeting, email EastOregonClimateChange@gmail.com or go to www.eoc3.org.

The Zoom link will be sent out via email on April 18.