

TODAY

In 1780, during the Revolutionary War, the besieged city of Charleston, South Carolina, surrendered to British forces.

In 1932, the body of Charles Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was found in a wooded area near Hopewell, New Jersey.

In 1933, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration were established to provide help for the needy and farmers.

In 1943, during World War II, Axis forces in North Africa surrendered. The two-week Trident Conference, headed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, opened in Washington.

In 1958, the United States and Canada signed an agreement to create the North American Air Defense Command (later the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD).

In 1975, the White House announced the new Cambodian government had seized an American merchant ship, the Mayaguez, in international waters. (U.S. Marines gained control of the ship three days after its seizure, not knowing the 39 civilian members of the crew had already been released by Cambodia.)

In 1986, the military action-drama film "Top Gun," starring Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis and released by Paramount Pictures, had its world premiere in New York.

In 2008, a devastating 7.9 magnitude earthquake in China's Sichuan province left more than 87,000 people dead or missing.

Ten years ago: Miami's LeBron James became the eighth player in NBA history to receive the MVP award three times.

Five years ago: Dozens of countries were hit with a huge cyber-extortion attack that locked up computers and held users' files for ransom at a multitude of hospitals, companies and government agencies.

One year ago: Israel pressed ahead with a fierce military offensive in the Gaza Strip, killing as many as 10 senior Hamas military figures and toppling two high-rise towers housing Hamas facilities; the Islamic militant group showed no signs of backing down, and fired hundreds of rockets at Israeli cities. Republicans dumped Rep. Liz Cheney from her House leadership post for her persistent repudiation of Donald Trump's election falsehoods, underscoring the hold that Trump retained on his party. The nation's largest fuel pipeline restarted operations, days after it was forced to shut down by a gang of hackers. Jay-Z, Foo Fighters and the Go-Go's were elected to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame their first time on the ballot, leading a class that also included Tina Turner, Carole King and Todd Rundgren.

Today's birthdays: Composer Burt Bacharach is 94. Actor Millie Perkins is 86. R&B singer Jayotis Washington is 81. Country singer Billy Swan is 80. Actor Linda Danon is 79. Actor Lindsay Crouse is 74. Singer-musician Steve Winwood is 74. Actor Gabriel Byrne is 72. Actor Bruce Boxleitner is 72. Singer Billy Squier is 72. Blues singer-musician Guy Davis is 70. Country singer Kix Brooks is 67. Actor Kim Greist is 64. Rock musician Eric Singer (KISS) is 64. Actor Ving Rhames is 63. Rock musician Billy Duffy is 61. Actor Emilio Estevez is 60. Actor April Grace is 60. Actor Vanessa A. Williams is 59. TV personality/chef Carla Hall is 58. Actor Stephen Baldwin is 56. Actor Scott Schwartz is 54. Actor Kim Fields is 53. Actor Samantha Mathis is 52. Actor Jamie Luner is 51. Actor Christian Campbell is 50. Actor Rhea Seehorn is 50. Actor Mackenzie Astin is 49. Country musician Matt Mangano (The Zac Brown Band) is 46. Actor Rebecca Herbst is 45. Actor Malin Akerman is 44. Actor Jason Biggs is 44. Actor Rami Malek is 41. Actor-singer Clare Bowen is 38. Actor Emily VanCamp is 36. Actor Malcolm David Kelley is 30. Actor Sulivan Sweeten is 27.



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

Stars with initials of Union County Adult Treatment Court graduates are displayed at the Union County Courthouse on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. The Union County Adult Treatment Court Alumni Association is hosting an illumination walk at Max Square, La Grande, on May 14, raising awareness of recovery efforts and successes in the county.

Shining a light on substance abuse

Union County Adult Treatment Court graduates raise awareness of recovery efforts

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A local drug abuse recovery program is helping shine a light on the pressing issue of overdoses in Union County.

The Union County Adult Treatment Court Alumni Association, a program through the Union County judicial system for recovered substance addicts, is organizing a recovery walk and night of illumination at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 14. The group is aiming to spread awareness of recovery options available, as well as honor those who have lost their lives during the increase of overdoses in Union County in 2022.

"We're trying to get the word out there," Union County Treatment Court Coordinator Kylee Ingerson said. "We really do have a strong recovery community here. We just want to show them that we see them and stand in solidarity with them."

Ingerson noted that

the county's treatment court alumni association was up and running just before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic but the shutdowns limited the group's outreach. With virus case counts low and events returning, the group is aiming to highlight success stories of the treatment program and spread awareness of what resources are available in the community.

"What we wanted to do was get out into the community and let them know about our program," Ingerson said. "I don't think people know about us, and I don't think people know that we are a resource for individuals in the criminal justice system who are struggling with substance abuse disorder."

The Union County Adult Treatment Court Alumni Association includes graduates of the treatment court program, a joint effort that includes the judicial system, parole and probation, the District Attorney's Office and treatment agencies. Since

MORE INFORMATION

The May 14 event will include an illumination ceremony at Max Square with candles on sale for \$5 each. All are welcome to attend. Graduates and current members of the treatment court program will take part in the illumination at Max Square and participate in a recovery walk along Adams Avenue. Graduates sold mason jars with candles to local businesses over the last month, which will be lit during the walk through downtown.

its establishment in 2001, Union County has seen 191 graduates of the program.

The 18-month program is primarily grant funded, offering services and setting requirements to help those struggling with substance abuse get back on their feet. Conditions for graduation include reaching a minimum of sobriety days, taking part in outpatient treatment, participating in community care support meetings, holding a job and paying off treatment court fees.

"It's a pretty intense outpatient process. It's more than just your normal probation," Ingerson said. "Once they graduate, a lot of them have already turned their lives around so significantly."

According to Ingerson, within three years after graduation from the program, 71% of the pro-

gram's graduates have not reentered the criminal justice system. She noted that graduates have gone on to successful careers in the community, from nurses and counselors to business owners.

The illumination event is the group's first fundraiser, aiming to expand the potential for more outreach and counseling events. Candle sales and general donations will go back into the program's future outreach efforts.

Ingerson noted that in the midst of an uptick of overdoses in Union County, raising awareness in the community is of the utmost importance.

"Our general public needs to know that fentanyl is here, it's killing people," Ingerson said. "I think it's extremely important to spread awareness."

Eastern names Seimears as interim provost

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University has announced its interim provost following an internal search that included interviews, forums and feedback.

EOU President Tom Insko named Matt Seimears as interim provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Seimears, who has served as Dean of the College of Education at EOU since March 2019, will officially assume his new role July 1.

"Dr. Seimears will be

working with faculty and staff within the College of Education regarding this change and next steps in leadership of the college," Insko said. "I greatly appreciate the work of the search committee and the thoughtfulness of members of the university community who have participated in the search process."

Seimears came to EOU from Emporia State University in Kansas where he was professor of STEM and science education and associate chair of the Elementary Education/Early Childhood Unified/Special Education Depart-

ment. Seimears has also taught at the high school and community college levels and coached high school and college wrestling.

During his tenure at EOU, Seimears has actively engaged with local and regional school districts, regional educator networks, and statewide teacher education associations. He has worked to create and enhance programs to recruit, train and retain teachers in rural and urban communities.

"I am thankful for this opportunity to step into a new leadership role with EOU," Seimears said. "We have an incredible team in academic affairs who will

be invaluable to me as we work together over the next year to help students accomplish their goals of a university education."

Provost Sarah Witte will retire at the end of June after more than 30 years of service to the university and eight years in the provost's office.

"Sarah's greatest impact has been her unwavering commitment to imparting knowledge to and serving students," Insko said.

Seimears will serve in the interim position during the 2022-23 academic year while the university conducts a nationwide search for its next provost.

CORRECTIONS
The Observer works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-963-3161.

LOTTERY

Monday, May 9, 2022
Megabucks
7-13-15-21-32-43
Estimated jackpot: \$5.3 million
Lucky Lines
4-6-10-14-18-22-25-30
Estimated jackpot: \$27,000
Win for Life
39-40-47-67
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 6-7-0-6
4 p.m.: 8-8-8-2
7 p.m.: 8-6-1-4
10 p.m.: 9-2-2-1
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
Mega Millions
15-19-20-61-70
Mega Ball: 9
Megaplier: 3
Estimated jackpot: \$99 million
Lucky Lines
3-8-10-13-20-24-28-32
Estimated jackpot: \$28,000
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 2-8-4-5
4 p.m.: 9-4-0-7
7 p.m.: 0-7-4-2
10 p.m.: 3-3-1-5

Pancake breakfast will return at Hog Wild Days

The Observer

ISLAND CITY — After a three-year hiatus, the annual La Grande Rural Fire Pancake Breakfast is set to be held during Hog Wild Days once again in Island City.

The La Grande Rural Fire District will be hosting the pancake breakfast from 6-11 a.m. on Saturday, June 4. The cost for the pancake

breakfast is \$6 for adults and \$4 for kids. The volunteer firefighters will be serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice, coffee and milk.

"We can serve anywhere from 700 to 900 people at this breakfast," said La Grande Rural Fire Capt. Anthony Swales. "The fire department is an integral part of the community, and this event is a

good way to give back."

The funds raised at the event will go to other community outreach programs, including the annual Shop with a Firefighter and delivering meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Shop with a Firefighter Christmas event gives students in need an opportunity to shop for their families and themselves. The meals are

complete — with all the trimmings — and go to select families in the community.

Hog Wild Days and the pancake breakfast were canceled in 2019-2021 due to COVID. Before that, the pancake breakfast had been held every year since 1986.

For more information, contact the fire department at 541-963-6895 or Swales at 541-910-4851.

NEWS BRIEF

Swigert managing Country Financial offices in Baker City, La Grande

BAKER CITY — Baker City's Country Financial insurance office is under new management, as La Grande resident Paul Swigert steps into the open position.

Swigert has been working for Country Financial since 2006 and

worked at the Baker City office from 2009-2010.

Swigert also has worked as an agent in Grant County, where he hired local marketing producers Ad Dad to direct two commercials for his office.

"Fast forward (to now), the Baker office became available again, I put a proposal together for corporate and they accepted it," Swigert said.

"Now I have two offices, one in La Grande, one in Baker.

"We have a great customer service line that helped pick up the slack while no agent was present," he said.

Country Financial's Baker City office is at 2193 Main St. The phone number is 541-524-9930.

—EO Media Group

Park again eyed for pump track

Enterprise council, club alter earlier plans

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The chief proponent of a pump track to be built in Enterprise is again asking the city council to consider property at Enterprise City Park, according to a press release following the Monday, May 9, council meeting.

Angela Mart, president of the Wallowa Mountains Bicycle Club, came back before the council requesting permission to reconsider the property at the park.

Councilor David Elliott recommended allowing for a small parking area on the east side of the property across the river from the park, and allowing the west side and anything beyond the parking area to be used for the track.

City Administrator Lacey McQuead recommended making a proposal showing a site map of the property, considering ways to separate the space from the abutting property owners. She said she would facilitate a meeting with the Public Works Committee, Public Works Director Shawn Young and Mart.

The site by the park was among the first considered for the track in January, but since some of the land is in a riparian zone, other sites were considered. None of those proved acceptable.

Disposal fees

In another matter, the council approved a 20% rate increase in waste disposal services as requested by Brian and Amanda Rahn of Rahn Disposal.

The Rahns requested the increase because of an increase in tipping fees at the Ant Flat Landfill. The county is increasing its rates by 67%. Elliott asked if the 20% increase requested by the Rahns would be sufficient, and they said they believe it will.

Executive session

The council held an executive session to consider information or records exempt from public inspection, as permitted by state law.

Upon reopening the meeting to regular session, the council gave preliminary approval to a library rental agreement pending review by the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District. After the NEOEDD reviews and approves the agreement, it will come back before the council for final review and approval.

Another matter discussed in executive session involved an agreement between the Enterprise Volunteer Fire Department and the city. After review by the fire department, it, too, will come back to the council for final review and approval.

Both executive session actions were submitted by city attorney Wyatt Baum and Lacey McQuead. She asked that they be back before the council for the June council meeting.

Other business

In other business, the council:

- Approved McQuead's request to prepare a letter of support for the implementation of a Regional Main Street Program.
- Police Chief Kevin McQuead announced the resignation of Officer Cody Billman. The city will open the position for entry level/lateral hires, with first review scheduled for June 6.

- Travis Huffman was presented with an award thanking him for his 27 years of service on the Enterprise Volunteer Fire Department.
- Approved McQuead's request to move forward with research funding options for a new electrical vehicle charging station closer to Main Street. The information will be presented at the June meeting.
- Scheduled the next council meeting for June 13.



McQuead