

TODAY

In 1471, King Henry VI of England died in the Tower of London at age 49.

In 1542, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto died while searching for gold along the Mississippi River.

In 1881, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross.

In 1924, in a case that drew much notoriety, 14-year-old Bobby Franks was murdered in a "thrill killing" carried out by University of Chicago students Nathan Leopold Jr. and Richard Loeb (Bobby's cousin).

In 1927, Charles A. Lindbergh landed his Spirit of St. Louis monoplane near Paris, completing the first solo airplane flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 33-1/2 hours.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean as she landed in Northern Ireland, about 15 hours after leaving Newfoundland.

In 1941, a German U-boat sank the American merchant steamship SS Robin Moor in the South Atlantic after the ship's passengers and crew were allowed to board lifeboats.

In 1955, Chuck Berry recorded his first single, "Maybellene," for Chess Records in Chicago.

In 1972, Michelangelo's Pieta, on display at the Vatican, was damaged by a hammer-wielding man who shouted he was Jesus Christ.

In 1979, former San Francisco City Supervisor Dan White was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the slayings of Mayor George Moscone and openly gay Supervisor Harvey Milk; outrage over the verdict sparked rioting. (White was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison; he ended up serving five years and took his own life in 1985.)

In 1991, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated during national elections by a suicide bomber.

In 2000, death claimed actor Sir John Gielgud at age 96 and author Dame Barbara Cartland at age 98.

In 2020, President Donald Trump visited a Ford Motor Co. plant outside Detroit that had been repurposed to manufacture ventilators; he did not publicly wear a face mask but said he had worn one while out of public view. A Michigan judge sided with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in a challenge by Republican lawmakers to her authority to order sweeping restrictions during the coronavirus outbreak.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama and other world leaders meeting in Chicago locked in place an Afghanistan exit path that would keep their troops fighting there for two more years.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump, visiting Riyadh, implored Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries to extinguish "Islamic extremism" emanating from the region. North Korea fired a solid-fuel ballistic missile, saying the test was hailed as perfect by leader Kim Jong Un.

One year ago: Thousands of Palestinians rallied after a cease-fire took effect in the latest Gaza war; the 11 days of fighting left more than 250 people dead, the vast majority Palestinians, and brought widespread destruction to the Gaza Strip. President Joe Biden said there had been no shift in his commitment to Israel's security, but that a two-state solution that includes a state for Palestinians remained "the only answer" to that conflict.

Today's Birthdays: R&B singer Ron Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 81. Musician Bill Champlin is 75. Singer Leo Sayer is 74. Actor Carol Potter is 74. Former Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., is 71. Actor Mr. T is 70. Music producer Stan Lynch is 67. Actor Judge Reinhold is 65. Actor-director Nick Cassavetes is 63. Actor Lisa Edelstein is 56. Actor Fairuza Balk is 48. Actor Sunkrish Bala is 38. Actor Ashlie Brillault is 35. Country singer Cody Johnson is 35. Actor Scott Leavenworth is 32. Actor Sarah Ramos is 31.

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

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Megabucks

1-3-18-20-31-34

Jackpot: \$1 million

Lucky Lines

3-7-11-14-17-21-26-32

Estimated jackpot: \$36,000

Powerball

40-41-58-64-65

Powerball: 17

Power Play: 3

Jackpot: \$117 million

Win for Life

11-28-47-73

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 6-4-7-8

4 p.m.: 9-8-5-3

7 p.m.: 3-3-7-6

10 p.m.: 7-6-1-9

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Lucky Lines

2-6-11-15-19-23-27-32

Jackpot: \$37,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 5-7-8-6

4 p.m.: 9-2-3-7

7 p.m.: 7-9-2-8

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

Academic presentation focuses on latest biosensor technology

EOU Professor of Chemistry Anna Cavinato to present May 26

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University's faculty academic presentation program, Colloquium, finishes out the year with a look at research in microfluidic devices and aquaculture biosensor development.

Professor of Chemistry Anna Cavinato will present Thursday, May 26, from 4-5 p.m. in Ackerman 210 the findings from her 2021 research sabbatical in microfluidics and the development of an electrochemical biosensor for aquaculture applications. The event, the final Colloquium of the season, is free and open to the public.

"The presentation will highlight the research that I previously did on aptamers and then how I utilized the aptamers for the development of an electrochemical, microfluidic sensor for the detection of bacteria in water," Cavinato said.

Cavinato's recent research experience in microfluidics is a continuation of her previous work in studying small artificial DNA strands, called



Eastern Oregon University/Contributed Photo

Eastern Oregon University Professor of Chemistry Anna Cavinato will present Thursday, May 26, from 4-5 p.m. in Ackerman 210 the findings from her 2021 research sabbatical in microfluidics and the development of an electrochemical biosensor for aquaculture applications. The EOU Colloquium, the last in this year's series, is free and open to the public.

aptamers, and how they can be utilized to recognize a specific biomarker that signals the presence of the bacterium responsible for bacterial kidney disease in salmon. She is currently developing a microfluidic-based biosensor to detect the presence of Renibacterium salmoninarum.

"Aptamers are used as an alternative to antibodies in assays, and so for many years I've worked on identifying aptamers that bind to an extracellular protein on

the surface of Renibacterium salmoninarum, which causes bacterial kidney disease in salmon," Cavinato said.

During her sabbatical, Cavinato took part in research at Colorado State University under Professor Chuck Henry studying microfluidic platforms that use colorimetric or electrochemical detection methods. She also worked with university graduate students learning how to fabricate disposable devices that could be utilized in the

development of the bacterial sensors.

"There was a lot of learning involved and it was wonderful to immerse myself in research and be a student all over again. It was very exciting to be able to learn something completely new," she said. "In the lab where I was, they were applying microfluidics to COVID detection, so they were very busy working on microfluidic devices, both electrochemical and colorimetric."

Work session to discuss historic district standards

Aim is to provide clarity in application process

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande City Council and Landmarks Advisory Commission are set to meet for a joint session to discuss proposed historic district standards.

The work session will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, May 23, with livestreaming available on the city's Facebook page.

The work session will serve as an informal discussion between council members and the Landmarks Advisory regarding an updated draft of historic

district standards following analysis and recommendations from consultants Peter Meijer Architect and Minor Planning & Design. The meeting will not result in any decisions or direct action taken, with no vote prior to adjournment. There will be no public comment section. The meeting will serve as a conference for council members to discuss the draft with the planning commission.

The city's original historic standards were written in 1999, with many of the standards phrased as recommendations or suggestions. The guidelines were changed to standards in 2009, but a significant amount of the verbiage requires amending. The update is designed to solidify the standards and

allow for a more user-friendly application process for historic district applicants.

During the February 2021 city council regular session, the council authorized the planning division to seek out a Certified Local Government Grant in order to hire a consultant to gather public input, provide recommendations and take part in the rewriting of La Grande's historic district standards.

The planning commission was awarded the grant in 2022, with a projected budget of \$20,000 being broken into \$10,000 from grant funding and \$10,000 from the city.

Portland-based Peter Meijer Architect began the public input process in October 2021 with a public walking tour of the historic

district. The consultants held public meetings, walk-throughs and conducted interviews with property owners, contractors and past historic landmarks applicants.

The consultants' draft of new standards, which city council members will view during the work session, includes a differentiation between historic buildings, non-historic buildings and alleys. The draft includes standards for existing buildings, new or non-historic buildings, work visible from the street and work not visible from the street.

Following the work session, the next step for the drafted update to the historic district standards will be adoption by the city council.

NEWS BRIEFS

La Grande Planning Commission seeks new volunteer members

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Planning Commission is looking for new volunteer members.

The commission primarily involves working with the city of La Grande and the city council in promoting the development of new housing in La Grande — the planning commission works on codes changes to promote this trend.

Additionally, members of the commission work on approval of subdivisions and land use projects in the city and conduct design reviews.

Members also work on comprehensive plan amendments, zoning, public road dedications, street naming and ordinance adoptions related to land use and development issues.

Residents of La Grande or those who live within the city's urban growth boundary are encouraged to become a volunteer member of the planning commission. Commission members serve a four-year term.

The planning commission includes five total positions, two of which are currently vacant. Members are scheduled to meet one a month on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at La Grande City Hall.

More information on the planning commission positions and applications to join are available on the La Grande city website, www.cityoflagrande.org. La Grande Community Development Director Mike Boquist can also be reached at 541-962-1307 for more information.

Vernonia man faces charges of strangulation, harassment

LA GRANDE — A Vernonia man faces charges of strangulation, felony assault, menacing, harassment and possession of methamphetamine after Oregon State Police arrested him Saturday, May 14.

Bradley Alan Olson, 42, was arrested on two outstanding warrants charging him with a total of two counts of strangulation; one count of possession of between 2 and less than 10 grams of methamphetamine; fourth-degree assault, a Class C felony; menacing; and harassment.

None of the charges were related to anything the arresting OSP trooper observed, according to state police.

Olson was arrested after state police received a report of a man who abandoned a motorcycle on Interstate 84 near a westbound off-ramp east of La Grande. State police contacted Olson, who had walked to the Flying J Travel Center, and then did an investigation and discovered the warrants for his arrest.

OSP took Olson into custody without incident and booked him into the Union County Jail, La Grande, and bail was set at \$69,000.

Olson's motorcycle was not towed but a family member was contacted to arrange for its recovery.

Island City man killed in motorcycle crash

BAKER CITY — An Island City man died when he lost control of the motorcycle he was riding while exiting Interstate 84 in Baker City on Tuesday, May 17.

John Dale Atwood, 73, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The accident happened around 4:24 p.m., according to an Oregon

State Police report.

Atwood was riding westbound on the freeway when he took the offramp at Exit 304, the Campbell Street interchange.

"For unknown reasons," Atwood lost control of the 2011 Harley-Davidson and crashed into a guardrail, according to the OSP report. He was thrown from the motorcycle, which continued down the offramp.

Union County accepting applications for funding events, attractions

LA GRANDE — Union County is currently accepting applications for funding community events or attractions designed to increase economic growth and impact tourism within Union County.

Funding for the program is available through county-collected transient tax funds.

Applications are being accepted for the fiscal year ending June 30, as well as for the upcoming fiscal year of July 1 through June 30, 2023. This application period will be the only available opportunity to apply for these funds for events and attractions held through June 30, 2023.

This program is administered by the Union County Administrative Office with funding recommendations provided by the Transient Tax Advisory Committee. Final approval of awards will be made by the Union County Board of Commissioners.

Applications are available on the county website, www.union-county.org, or may be picked up at the County Administrative Office at 1106 K Ave., La Grande. Completed applications will be accepted at the county office through Friday, June 10, at 4 p.m.

—The Observer

Wallowa County OK's road district

By BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa County Board of Commissioners voted Wednesday, May 18, to take advantage of a new law approved by the Oregon Legislature that allows counties to direct the state Department of Revenue to deposit money that ordinarily would go into the county Road Fund into the Road Service District instead.

The funds in question are Secure Rural Schools money under which 25% is apportioned to schools — the Education Service District — and 75% to the Road Department. It comes from federal funds received as payment in lieu of taxes counties have received since the federal government changed its policy on timber harvest in the 1990s and came up with a formula to replace the timber money on federal lands within counties.

"It dropped the stumpage fee to almost nothing,"

Board Chairwoman Susan Roberts said of the policy changes. "It went from \$3 million to about \$50,000. So they came up with this formula, this Secure Rural Schools that went through, that would pay for trees they weren't cutting anymore, which took away almost all the income. Then they decided that formula would give it to places that weren't getting huge amounts of money. They did it on a population basis, too. Although Wallowa County has a lot more federal land than (for example) Union County, they get more money because they have a bigger population. It's convoluted."

Commissioner John Hillock agreed.

"It's very convoluted," he said. "Lane County gets the most in the whole state because they've got more people, although we may have more acres (of federal timberland)."

Commissioner Todd Nash said the whole "convoluted" problem could've been avoided.

"We could've foregone all of this by just having an agreement with the feds that they no longer subtract that payment, but they're not willing to do that," he said. "We've got to jump through the hoops to make it happen."

Hillock said he believes no other Oregon counties have yet taken advantage of the new law. He noted that counties in other states have set up road service districts for the SRS money.

"That's because their state allows it and ours did not, but now it does," Roberts said.

The matter must first go before voters. The commissioners and their legal team have work to do before putting it on the November ballot. This elicited concern from the commissioners.

"It's going to be one of those things that is going to be really difficult for people to understand," Nash said. "The bottom line is we'll have a half million dollars in our general fund that we didn't have before, and it doesn't do harm to our Road Department. It's a win."

Roberts said that under the new district — for which the commissioners would be the board — nothing would change in how the Road Department operates or is funded.

"What it's going to do is put a little more than a half million dollars (in PILT money) in the general fund, which will allow us to fully staff the sheriff's office and that would continue each year rather than us losing half of that money due to that formula," Roberts said.