

TODAY

In 1844, Samuel F.B. Morse transmitted the message "What hath God wrought" from Washington to Baltimore as he formally opened America's first telegraph line.

In 1935, the first major league baseball game to be played at night took place at Cincinnati's Crosley Field as the Reds beat the Philadelphia Phillies, 2-1.

In 1937, in a set of rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Social Security Act of 1935.

In 1941, the German battleship Bismarck sank the British battle cruiser HMS Hood in the North Atlantic, killing all but three of the 1,418 men on board.

In 1961, a group of Freedom Riders was arrested after arriving at a bus terminal in Jackson, Mississippi, charged with breaching the peace for entering white-designated areas. (They ended up serving 60 days in jail.)

In 1962, astronaut Scott Carpenter became the second American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Aurora 7.

In 1974, American jazz composer and bandleader Duke Ellington, 75, died in New York.

In 1976, Britain and France opened trans-Atlantic Concorde supersonic transport service to Washington.

In 1980, Iran rejected a call by the World Court in The Hague to release the American hostages.

In 1994, four Islamic fundamentalists convicted of bombing New York's World Trade Center in 1993 were each sentenced to 240 years in prison.

In 1995, former British Prime Minister Harold Wilson died in London at age 79.

In 2006, "An Inconvenient Truth," a documentary about former Vice President Al Gore's campaign against global warming, went into limited release.

In 2011, Oprah Winfrey taped the final episode of her long-running talk show.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama doubled down on criticism of rival Mitt Romney's background as a venture capitalist, telling a rally at the Iowa State Fairgrounds there might be value in such experience but "not in the White House."

Five years ago: Setting past differences and rude comments aside, President Donald Trump and Pope Francis put a determinedly positive face on their first meeting at the Vatican.

One year ago: Tennessee became the latest state to ban teachers from talking about certain aspects of race and racism in public schools.

Today's birthdays: Actor-comedian-impressionist Stanley Baxter is 96. Jazz musician Archie Shepp is 85. Comedian Tommy Chong is 84. Singer Bob Dylan is 81. Actor Gary Burghoff is 79. Singer Patti LaBelle is 78. Actor Priscilla Presley is 77. Country singer Mike Reid is 75. Actor Jim Broadbent is 73. Actor Alfred Molina is 69. Singer Rosanne Cash is 67. Actor Cliff Parisi is 62. Actor Kristin Scott Thomas is 62. Rock musician Vivian Trimble is 59. Actor John C. Reilly is 57. Actor Dana Ashbrook is 55. Actor Eric Close is 55. Actor Carl Payne is 53. Rock musician Rich Robinson is 53. Former MLB pitcher Bartolo Colon is 49. Actor Billy L. Sullivan is 42. Actor-rapper Jerod Mixon (aka Big Tymie) is 41. Rock musician Cody Hanson (Hinder) is 40. Dancer-choirographer-singer Mark Ballas is 36. Country singer Billy Gilman is 34. Rapper/producer G-Eazy is 33.

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

Friday, May 20, 2022

Megamillions
33-40-59-60-69
Megaball: 22
Megaplier: 3
Jackpot: \$143 million

Lucky Lines
3-6-12-13-17-24-28-32
Jackpot: \$38,000

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 2-9-8-1
4 p.m.: 6-7-1-9
7 p.m.: 1-2-9-7
10 p.m.: 9-3-7-1

Saturday, May 21, 2022

Powerball
14-15-25-52-58
Powerball: 11
Power Play: 2
Jackpot: \$125 million

Megabucks
10-17-25-28-33-45
Jackpot: \$1.1 million

Lucky Lines
3-5-11-16-17-22-27-30
Jackpot: \$39,000

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 6-3-7-6
4 p.m.: 1-1-1-6
7 p.m.: 9-9-6-1
10 p.m.: 4-6-5-9

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Lucky Lines
4-6-11-16-18-21-27-32
Estimated jackpot: \$40,000

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 4-1-0-0
4 p.m.: 9-7-0-8
7 p.m.: 9-4-9-7
10 p.m.: 9-1-0-1

Cove graduates 21 seniors



Cove High School graduated 21 seniors on Saturday, May 21, 2022, during an in-person ceremony at the school's football field. It was smiles all around as students received their diplomas, right, and the students tossed their caps into the air, above, after officially graduating. The class of 21 students earned numerous awards for academics, athletics and extracurricular activities, together garnering roughly \$270,000 in scholarships and aid for future training and studies.



Photos by Davis Carbaugh/The Observer

Memorial Day events set in Union, Wallowa counties

EO Media Group

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — The spotlight will again be on La Grande and Summerville this Memorial Day weekend in Union County.

Annual events commemorating Memorial Day on Monday, May 30, will be conducted at Grandview Cemetery, La Grande, at 11 a.m. and at Summerville Cemetery at 8 a.m.

The Summerville ceremony will feature the raising of the American flag by a pair of local veterans, John Martin and Burl Pugh. The raising of the colors will be accompanied by live music.

Those who will be present at the raising of the colors include members of the Imbler Rural Fire Department and the Patriot Guard Riders, an organization whose members attend the funerals of veterans and first responders at the invitation of the deceased's families.

The Summerville ceremony is annually attended by between 100 and 120 people, according to Martin, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps and helps lead the Memorial Day event.

At La Grande's Grandview Cemetery, veterans will be saluted with the Avenue of Flags. Those appearing at the program will include Roger Cochran, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, who will officiate, and La Grande High School's A Cappella Choir performing the National Anthem.

The flag will be raised by members of Boy Scouts of America, according to John Craig, finance officer for American Legion Post 43, which puts on the Avenue of Flags.

The ceremony will take place amid a sea of at least 165 United States flags on poles along the road at Grandview Cemetery. All are burial flags donated by families of American veterans. The flags will be put up early Saturday, May 28, and will remain up until 3 p.m. May 30.

Portable lights will illuminate the flags at night. A federal resolution,



The Observer, File

Pendra Ogilvie plays "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes during the Avenue of Flags Memorial Day ceremony Monday, May 31, 2021, at Grandview Cemetery, La Grande.

which the American Legion wrote and Congress adopted, requires illumination to identify American flags on display after dark, Craig said.

Members of American Legion Post 43 will be assembling the flags to be displayed at Grandview Cemetery on Friday, May 27, at the American Legion Post 43, 301 Fir St., La Grande. Anyone who would like to assist with the work, which starts at 3 p.m., is welcome to participate, Craig said.

Activities begin May 27 in Wallowa County

Veterans organizations will turn out this weekend to begin Memorial Day activities to honor veterans who have died with ceremonies and decorations at cemeteries within Wallowa County.

On Friday, May 27, members of the Enterprise Veterans of Foreign Wars Post will meet at 9 a.m. at Bramlet Memorial Cemetery off Promise Road north of Wallowa. A gathering at Wallowa Cemetery on Whiskey Creek Road at 10 a.m. is

followed by events at 11 a.m. at Lostine Cemetery on Clark Lane and at noon at Enterprise Cemetery.

At 1 p.m., there will be the Reading of the Fallen at the Wallowa County Courthouse in Enterprise. The names of about 40 members of the military, first responders and auxiliary will be read. Flags will be raised, the national anthem sung and a 21-gun salute will be fired, according to Kim Hutchison, quartermaster of the VFW post.

On Memorial Day — Monday, May 30 — the Enterprise American Legion post will hold small ceremonies at three ceremonies, and the public is urged to attend and honor veterans who have passed, post Commander Jeff Baty said.

The Legion on Monday will be at Alder Slope Cemetery at 10:30 a.m., at Hurricane Creek Cemetery at 11 a.m. and at Prairie Creek Cemetery at noon.

Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, was conceived after the Civil War to decorate the graves of the fallen.

NEWS BRIEF

Umatilla National Forest in need of resource committee members

PENDLETON — The Umatilla National Forest is searching for members to serve on two resource advisory committees.

The organization is looking for nominees to serve on the Southeast Washington or Columbia County Resource Advisory Committees — both groups are key resource advisory committees in the southeastern region of Washington.

Members of the committees work

toward recommending projects in order to improve forest health, watersheds and roads and facilities in the Umatilla National Forest area.

Resource committee members serve a four-year term after being appointed by the secretary of agriculture. Members do not receive compensation for their work, but can be reimbursed for travel to and from meetings.

Members are expected to attend one to two meetings per year, which last roughly three to four hours on average. In order to participate, interested members must be a Wash-

ington resident or live in the vicinity of Asotin, Garfield or Columbia counties. Each committee includes 15 members and is broken down into three categories.

Projects for the committees range from fish passage restoration to construction of walking trails. The committees often work with youth and volunteers in completing projects.

Those interested in applying for the resource committees can fill out and submit a survey at the Forest Service website, www.fs.usda.gov.

—The Observer

Wet weather eases drought conditions

Moisture, cool temperatures help extend snowpack

By JEFF BUDLONG
Wallowa County Chief of Police

WALLOWA COUNTY — Coming off one of the driest and hottest summers in recorded history, Wallowa County and much of Northeastern Oregon has benefited from a recent run of wet, cool weather.

While the central and southern portion of the state still is extremely dry, leading Gov. Kate Brown to use the word "megadrought" in an address last week, Eastern Oregon has seen drought conditions improve. That doesn't mean effects of last year's dry conditions still aren't being felt, and fire season is coming, if not as soon as initially thought.

Cooler, wetter weather in April and to begin May has helped improve conditions in northern portions of Oregon. Wallowa County has areas of moderate, severe and extreme drought, according to the latest drought monitor, released May 17. Most of Umatilla, Morrow and Union counties are abnormally dry — the least severe drought ranking.

Much of the moisture the north has enjoyed eluded central and southern Oregon where a large area of exceptional drought conditions exist.

The combination of moisture and cool temperatures can be seen in the local green up, but more important is the continued presence of the snowpack on the mountains.

"In March, we were seeing the snowpack melting pretty rapidly already," said Marilyn Lohmann, a National Weather Service hydrologist in Pendleton.

With the snowpack at just 70-80% of normal, it was projected to melt between a month to two months early. Fortunately, that is no longer the case.

"The cooler weather has allowed the snowpack to stay in place, and in some cases actually build," Lohmann said. "It will now be melting in a more normal time frame. We should see streamflows last longer into the early summer months, which will help irrigation and just put more moisture back into the soil."

April saw 1.37 inches of moisture and 6.3 inches of snow in Wallowa County, and just over an inch of precipitation and an additional 9 inches of snow in Lostine, Lohmann said. Precipitation over the last 30 days has ranged from 130-200% of normal, making for a significant difference from just 90 days ago.

Forage issue

The combination of cool and wet is a positive, but also it has its downside.

"For forage, that combination doesn't allow it to grow," Wallowa County Commissioner Todd Nash said. "We have seen a really slow progression of forage this year, and grasslands in particular have been very slow to come."

Nash said that puts a lot of pressure on people with livestock who want to get out to pasture, and has led to feeding more hay at a significant financial cost because of the scarcity. This year's hay crop likely won't begin to come to fruition until the middle of June at the earliest because of the slower growing conditions.

That comes on top of last summer's drought that Nash called "the most severe that anyone alive in Wallowa County has ever seen." The combination of overuse a year ago and the slow growth of forage this year continues to put stress on those raising livestock even as moisture has recently returned.