TODAY

In 1509, England's King Henry VIII married his first wife, Catherine

In 1770, Captain James Cook, commander of the British ship Endeavour, "discovered" the Great Barrier Reef off Australia by running onto it.

In 1776, the Continental Congress formed a committee to draft a Declaration of Independence

calling for freedom from Britain. In 1919, Sir Barton won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing's first Triple Crown winner.

In 1938, Johnny Vander Meer pitched the first of two consecutive no-hitters as he led the Cincinnati Reds to a 3-0 victory over the Boston Bees. (Four days later, Vander Meer refused to give up a hit to the Brooklyn Dodgers, who lost, 6-0.)

In 1955, in motor racing's worst disaster, more than 80 people were killed during the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France when two of the cars collided and crashed into spectators.

In 1962, three prisoners at Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay staged an escape, leaving the island on a makeshift raft; they were never found or heard from again

In 1985, Karen Ann Quinlan, the comatose patient whose case prompted a historic right-to-die court decision, died in Morris Plains, New Jersey, at age 31.

In 1987, Margaret Thatcher became the first British prime minister in 160 years to win a third consecutive term of office as her Conservatives held on to a reduced majority in Parliament.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that people who commit "hate crimes" motivated by bigotry may be sentenced to extra punishment.

In 2001, Timothy McVeigh, 33, was executed by injection at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168

In 2009, with swine flu reported in more than 70 nations, the World Health Organization declared the first global flu pandemic in 41

In 2020, Louisville, Kentucky, banned the use of "no-knock" warrants and named the new ordinance for Breonna Taylor, who'd been fatally shot by officers who burst into her home. San Francisco's mayor said city police officers would stop responding to non-criminal activities such as disputes between neighbors and reports about homeless people: they would be replaced on those calls by trained, unarmed

Ten years ago: Testimony began in the trial of former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, accused of sexually abusing 10 boys over 15 years. (Sandusky was later convicted and sentenced

to at least 30 years in prison.) Five years ago: Supporters of LGBT rights marched and rallied in the nation's capital and dozens of other U.S. cities, celebrating gains but angry over threats posed by the administration of President Donald Trump.

One year ago: Group of Seven leaders gathered for a seaside summit in England, bringing pledges to share at least 1 billion coronavirus vaccine shots with struggling countries; half would come from the United States.

Today's birthdays: International Motorsports Hall of Famer Jackie Stewart is 83. Singer Joey Dee is 82. Actor Roscoe Orman is 78. Actor Adrienne Barbeau is 77. Rock musician Frank Beard (ZZ Top) is 73. Animal rights activist Ingrid Newkirk is 73. Singer Graham Russell (Air Supply) is 72. Rock singer Donnie Van Zant is 70. Actor Peter Bergman is 69. Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana is 66. Actor Hugh Laurie is 63. TV personality Mehmet Oz, M.D., is 62. Actor Peter Dinklage is 53. Actor Joshua Jackson is 44. Americana musician Gabe Witcher (Punch Brothers) is 44. U.S. Olympic and WNBA basketball star Diana Taurasi is 40. Actor Shia LaBeouf is 36

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, June 8, 2022

Megabucks 6-12-31-38-44-48

Lucky Lines

Powerball

22-39-43-62-64

Jackpot: \$1.9 million

2-7-12-16-17-24-26-32

Estimated jackpot: \$57,000

Gasoline prices break record high

Prices creep up to \$5.46 per gallon in La Grande

By ISABELLA CROWLEY

The Observer

LA GRANDE — As the summer travel season shifts into high gear, gas prices continue to set records.

In La Grande on Friday, June 10, fuel prices ranged from \$5.43 to \$5.46 per gallon for regular unleaded gas and \$6.09 to \$6.11 per gallon for diesel.

"People are still fueling up, despite these record-high prices. At some point, drivers may alter their daily driving habits but it hasn't happened yet," said Marie Dodds, public affairs director for AAA Oregon/Idaho, in a press release.

This time last year gas prices averaged \$3.46 per gallon for regular unleaded in Oregon.

AAA of Oregon/Idaho — which tracks local, regional and national fuel prices — the average price for regular unleaded gas in Union County is \$5.45 per gallon as of June 10.

The price in Union County is slightly lower than the average across the state, which is \$5.52 per gallon, but is higher than the current national average of \$4.99 per gallon.

The average price for diesel fuel in Oregon is currently \$6.14 per gallon.



Isabella Crowley/The Observer Skyrocketing gas prices — as displayed at the Chevron on Adams Avenue, La Grande, on Friday, June 10, 2022 — may dash dreams of summer travel. Gas prices continue to set record highs in Oregon with an average price of \$5.52 per gallon for regular unleaded gas and \$6.14 per gallon for diesel across the state.

No summer road trips?

While people aren't keen on canceling existing summer travel

plans, a AAA survey indicated that drivers are more likely than not to avoid road trips with gas prices on the rise.

"So far, the pent-up desire to travel as we emerge from the pandemic outweighs record high pump prices for many consumers," Dodds said. "However, a recent survey by AAA reveals that 67% of drivers say they would change their driving habits if gas hit \$4.50 a gallon. That number rises to 75% at \$5 a gallon. The Oregon average has already surpassed \$5, so it remains to be seen if people will change their summer travel plans."

Fuel prices have climbed due to the increasing cost of crude oil — the main ingredient in gasoline and diesel fuel. The price of crude oil has topped \$116 per barrel, and AAA explains prices will remain high due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Russia is one of the top three oil producers in the world and recent bans on Russian oil have led to higher prices.

This coincides with the usual summer price bump. Gasoline needs to be formulated to resist evaporation at higher temperatures during the summer. The summer-blend of fuel is more expensive to produce and typically adds 7 to 10 cents per gallon, according to AAA. The switch to summer blend happens every year and will be complete across the nation by early June.

County discusses border move

Union County commissioners asked to 'work harder' on proposal

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Union County Board of Commissioners is being asked to work harder to get a dialogue started about the possibility of shifting the Idaho border to encompass most of Oregon and form the new state of Greater Idaho.

La Grande's Curt Howell told the board of commissioners on Wednesday, June 8, that it should take steps to bring more attention to the proposal. Howell specifically wants the board to begin working to get legislators at the state and federal level to start talking about the proposal.

"I am here to urge you to simply write a letter to our state and federal representatives to investigate and consider the possibilities of changing where Oregon ends and Idaho begins," Howell told the commissioners.

Following the passage of Measure 31-101 by Union County voters in 2020, the county commissioners are required to meet three times each year to discuss promoting Union County interests relating to the county becoming part of Idaho.

Howell supports the Greater Idaho movement because he said rural Oregon is being increasingly overlooked by the state government.

"What we have witnessed in the past 40 years of power consolidation to the most populated counties or cities is that we citizens of rural Oregon have been mostly left out of any prosperity that seems to be occurring in populated areas," Howell said.

Ken Parsons, of La Grande, who also spoke at the meeting in support of the Greater Idaho movement, said the needs of rural Oregon and Washington are not being addressed. These areas are under-represented, he said, noting that the vast majority of state representatives in Oregon and Washington live within 50 miles of the state capitals of Salem and Olympia, Washington.

Parsons, who grew up in Eastern Washington, said that years ago there was a sense of compatibility between urban and rural Oregon and Washington, but today there is only one of animosity.

Union County Commissioner Donna Beverage told Parsons that she understood how he feels.

"We share your frustration about not always being heard," she said.

Beverage added that the board of commissioners wants to help reduce the rural-urban divide that sparked the start of the Greater Idaho movement.

"We want to fix things which led to this," she told Parsons.

Butte, another Greater Idaho supporter, addressed the commissioners by video and said the county should start exploring what a border change could look

get greater traction, legislators in Oregon and Idaho must begin conducting meetings on it.

state level," he said. Beverage said she is

willing to discuss writing a letter to legislators. However, she said she first would like to get more input from Union County

LG School Board raises teachers' salaries

School board ratifies a two-year contract

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande School District's teachers are set to receive pay increases each of the next two school

The La Grande School Board voted on Wednesday, June 8, to ratify a new two-year contract for its teachers. The contract will provide the school district's teachers with cost of living raises of 3.83% percent in 2022-23 and 2% percent in 2023-24. The new contract also

restructures the salary schedule so that the salaries of first-

year teachers will jump from \$36,961 to \$43,000. "This will

give first-

year teachers an incentive to stay in teaching," Robin Maille, chair of the La Grande School Board, said.

Maille

The restructured salary schedule boosted the number of steps from 10 to 16, increasing the top end of the schedule from \$70,226.87 to \$81,055 and

providing future growth opportunities for many veteran staff who were at the top of the current salary schedule.

"Quite a few of our teachers have topped out on our salary schedule," Maille said.

Prior to the change, veteran teachers were not eligible for annual step increases. Maille said all teachers on step 10 will begin 2022-23 on step 12 or 13 depending primarily on their experience.

The contract will also boost what the school district's teachers receive for health insurance premiums by \$75 a month in 2022-23 and \$50.41 a month in

2023-24. They will receive up to \$1,449 per month for health insurance in 2022-23 and up to \$1,500 a month in 2023-24. "I'm super excited that

we have reached an agreement. A lot of people are very happy with it," Maille said, referring to the district's teachers.

The school board chair is delighted that the school district is able to give teachers a good contract after their efforts in facing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our teachers have had a tough couple of years," Maille said. "The increases help show that they are valued."

Free summer lunches served to Union County kids

By ISABELLA CROWLEY

LA GRANDE — Children and teenagers in Union County can enjoy weekday lunches at no cost this summer in La Grande and Elgin.

The summer food service program in La Grande is run by Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, which began serving lunches nearly 20 years ago.

"In 2005, we decided there were children in need of good, nutritious lunches during the summer and the program has been running ever since," said Jeff Hensley, assistant director of Community Connection of Northeast Oregon.

This year, the program starts on Monday, June 13, and runs until Aug. 26. Lunches will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. weekdays at the



Dick Mason/The Observer, File

Marissa Johnson and her brother, Braden, in June 2020 step out of the Riveria Activity Center, La Grande, with their free lunches provided by Community Connection of Northeast Oregon.

Riveria Activity Center, 2609 Second St., La Grande

The only weekday the program will not be open is the Fourth of July.

Meals are free to anyone age 18 and younger, regardless of where they live or their family's income level. Adults can eat lunch for \$5 per meal. According to Hensley, the money gen-

erated from adult meals is invested back into the program.

Lunch entrees will be served with vegetables, fruit and milk. The food will be prepared by Sodexo at Eastern Oregon University and delivered to Riveria, where it will be served, explained Hensley. The partnership with

Sodexo began last summer, when the program needed to relocate where meals were being prepared during the final two weeks.

Last summer 5,896 lunches were provided through the food program, which is an average of around 99 meals per day at Riveria.

In Elgin, lunches are available in partnership with the school district. The program starts on June 13 and runs weekdays until Aug. 19, with the exception of July 1 and July 4. Meals are available from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Stella Mayfield Elementary. Lunches will include a hot entree with fruit, vegetables and milk. There also will be a salad bar.

To-go lunches are also available in Elgin. The bagged lunches will be made on request and will include a sandwich, fruit, vegetable and milk.

IN BRIEF

Body of missing Long Creek man found June 8

LONG CREEK — Search crews found the body of a missing Long Creek man on Wednesday, June 8, in a remote area east of Belshaw

Marvin C. Crist, 74, was last seen on May 30 checking out of a motel in La Grande, according to a June 9 press release from the Grant County Sheriff's Office.

Ground search team members located Crist near his vehicle, which had apparently gotten stuck after Crist backed off the road on either May 30 or May 31, Sheriff Todd McKinley said.

McKinley said no foul play is suspected and that Crist's family has been notified.

McKinley thanked the volunteers and personnel who helped locate Crist. Their efforts, McKinley noted, helped bring resolution to Crist's

Lookingglass Creek open to spring Chinook fishing until June 24

LA GRANDE — Lookingglass Creek, a tributary to the Grande Ronde River at Palmer Junction, will be open to fishing for hatchery spring Chinook June 10-24.

The open area is from the mouth upstream to the confluence of Jarboe

Anglers may retain two adipose fin-clipped chinook adults and five adipose fin-clipped jacks per day. Jack salmon are less than 24 inches in length. Anglers do not need to record jack catch on their combined angling tags, but it is illegal to continue fishing for jack chinook once the adult bag limit is met. Unmarked (wild) fish must be

released carefully and unharmed.

The use of bait by Lookingglass Creek anglers is prohibited in order to protect bull trout, a threatened

"There are bull trout in Lookingglass Creek so all angling is restricted to artificial flies and lures," said Joe Lemanski, ODFW District Fish Biologist in La Grande. "Bull trout tend to swallow baited hooks more deeply making it very difficult to remove and therefore they may not survive when released." Anglers should be aware that pri-

vate timberlands open to public access border a majority of the area open to sport fishing, and private residences downstream of the Moses Creek Lane Bridge are not open to public access. Anglers are reminded to respect all private property by picking up trash when leaving and respecting the privacy of nearby residents. Anglers are also reminded to

ensure they have both a Columbia Basin Endorsement and Combined Angling Tag in addition to their fishing license.

— EO Media Group

Matt McCraw, of Powell

like if it were to happen. He stressed that for the Greater Idaho movement to

"It has to happen at the

residents.

Pick 4 1 p.m.: 1-8-5-0 4 p.m.: 7-9-4-7 7 p.m.: 6-4-3-8 10 p.m.: 5-6-1-6

Powerball: 7 Power Play: 4 Jackpot: \$229 million Win for Life 17-36-71-76 Pick 4 1 p.m.: 7-0-7-6 4 p.m.: 3-8-4-8 7 p.m.: 7-7-9-1 10 p.m.: 4-4-4-1

Thursday, June 9, 2022 **Lucky Lines** 2-6-9-14-17-21-25-30 Jackpot: \$58,000