

THE OBSERVER

SERVING UNION AND WALLOWA COUNTIES SINCE 1896

June 18, 2022

WEEKEND EDITION

lagrandeobserver.com | \$1.50

COVID cases on the rise in Union County

Recent uptick may be greater than reported due to at-home testing

By ISABELLA CROWLEY
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Coronavirus cases are once again on the rise in Union County.

During May a total of 105 coronavirus cases were reported in Union County, the Center for Human Development, La Grande, announced. This month, 59 cases have been reported as of Wednesday, June 14.

The uptick has CHD worried. Large gatherings can be a concern when cases are increasing. People who are attending large events should think about steps to protect themselves and their families. The Center for Human Development recommends wearing a mask while attending large, indoor gatherings and maintaining 6 feet of distance when possible.

However, according to the public health team at the Center for Human Development, there is not currently a single set of criteria that would trigger more mandates. Instead, the agency examines each situation and determines the appropriate response.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classifies Union County's COVID-19 community level at medium.

That means the CDC recommends anyone who is at high risk for severe illness should consult their health care providers about masking and other appropriate precautions. Anyone who is experiencing symptoms should get tested.

Resources are available for anyone who tests positive. CHD provides "wraparound services" that include delivering groceries, food boxes, at-home

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The Jerry Gildemeister Collection

Shown here in 1919, the manmade Goodbrod Lake in Union was gone by the 1950s, but not forgotten by all.

A nearly forgotten legacy

Remembering A.J. Goodbrod and his namesake lake near Union



DICK MASON
ANSWER MAN

IF YOU GO

Steve Wadner, a researcher and volunteer at the Union County Museum, will present "The Mystery and the History of Goodbrod Lake" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 21. The free Third Thursday lecture on A.J. Goodbrod and the lake he built in Union in the late 1800s is open to the public and held at the Little White Church building on Main Street in Union. Learn more at www.ucmuseumoregon.com.

UNION — Denny Langford fondly recalls his rollicking experiences with friends at Union's Goodbrod Lake while he was growing up in the 1940s.

"When I was in fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade I had a ball down there," said Langford, who has lived in Union almost all his life.

Langford and his friends particularly enjoyed paddling wooden rafts to Goodbrod Lake's two small islands. There they caught water snakes and crawdads.

"The islands were full of them. We just had a big time," he said. "It was a fun place."

The 2.5-acre, 5-foot-deep



Langford

man-made lake, which was about a quarter mile south of the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center on the west edge of Union, vanished in the 1950s, Langford said.

Today, however, the lake's story is resurfacing and so is the intriguing tale of the man who created it.

Long forgotten information about Goodbrod Lake and its namesake, A.J. Goodbrod, are coming to light with the help



Dick Mason/The Observer

Steve Wadner examines a guest register from Union's Centennial Hotel on Thursday, June 16, 2022. Wadner used the registers while conducting research on A.J. Goodbrod, who operated the hotel from about 1887 to 1891.

Union resident Steve Wadner, a Union County Museum volunteer who has done extensive research on both the man and the lake he built. Wadner will give a presentation on his findings at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 21, at the Little White Church building on Main Street in Union.

Goodbrod Lake's story dates back to the early 1890s when Goodbrod created the lake over a three-year span from 1892 to 1894. The site's features included a dance hall and the presence of an old cannon that may have come

from England, Wadner said.

The lake was in a picturesque setting, according to a story about Goodbrod in the Feb. 21, 1909, Oregon Sunday Journal.

"He has built a lake on his place which is one of the most beautiful in Eastern Oregon," the article said.

Small boats were available at the site that people could rent, Langford said. He noted that they were gone by the late 1940s. In addition to being a recreation hotspot, the lake had

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State parks commission tours Wallowa Lake

Talks events center, access; hears public comments

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — Getting back to normal after the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission held its first meeting in person and they came to Wallowa County this week to do so.

"This is the first time

they've seen each other face-to-face in two years," Chris Havel, deputy director and commission spokesperson, said of the trip to Wallowa County.

Havel said the members of the commission chose Wallowa County to bid farewell to outgoing Commissioner Lisa Dawson, of Enterprise, whose term ended with the last meeting. They plan to hold their next meeting on the coast and before that wanted to take a trip to Northeastern Oregon. The commission meets five times a year, Havel said.

"For the people who have never been here before, we tend to hear the same thing, which is 'Wow' and 'This is a part of Oregon I've always wanted to see,'" he said.

Agency Director Lisa Sumption expressed her pleasure with Wallowa County after the meeting.

"You have some of the most incredible scenery and humans here," she said.

Seeing the sights

The commission members started their gathering

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Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Mac Freeborn, left, manager of Wallowa Lake State Park, shows members of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission a parcel of land Tuesday, June 14, 2022, that the commission is considering for purchase.



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Issue 73
2 sections, 14 pages
La Grande, Oregon

Email story ideas to news@lagrandeobserver.com.
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