

TODAY

In 1778, American forces entered Philadelphia as the British withdrew during the Revolutionary War.

In 1812, the War of 1812 began as the United States Congress approved, and President James Madison signed, a declaration of war against Britain.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte met defeat at Waterloo as British and Prussian troops defeated the French in Belgium.

In 1940, during World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill urged his countrymen to conduct themselves in a manner that would prompt future generations to say, "This was their finest hour." Charles de Gaulle delivered a speech on the BBC in which he rallied his countrymen after the fall of France to Nazi Germany.

In 1971, Southwest Airlines began operations, with flights between Dallas and San Antonio, and Dallas and Houston.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter and Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev signed the SALT II strategic arms limitation treaty in Vienna.

In 1983, astronaut Sally K. Ride became America's first woman in space as she and four colleagues blasted off aboard the space shuttle Challenger on a six-day mission.

In 1986, 25 people were killed when a twin-engine plane and helicopter carrying sightseers collided over the Grand Canyon.

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Georgia v. McCollum*, ruled that criminal defendants could not use race as a basis for excluding potential jurors from their trials.

In 2003, baseball Hall-of-Famer Larry Doby, who broke the American League's color barrier in 1947, died in Montclair, New Jersey, at age 79.

In 2010, death row inmate Ronnie Lee Gardner died in a barrage of bullets as Utah carried out its first firing squad execution in 14 years. (Gardner had been sentenced to death for fatally shooting attorney Michael Burdell during a failed escape attempt from a Salt Lake City courthouse.)

In 2011, Clarence Clemons, the saxophone player for the E Street Band who was one of the key influences in Bruce Springsteen's life and music, died in Florida at age 69.

In 2020, the Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, rejected President Donald Trump's effort to end legal protections for 650,000 young immigrants.

Ten years ago: Former baseball star Roger Clemens was acquitted in Washington, D.C. on all charges that he'd obstructed and lied to Congress when he denied using performance-enhancing drugs.

Five years ago: Charleena Lyles, a 30-year-old Black mother of four, was shot and killed by two white Seattle police officers after she called 911 to report a burglary; authorities said Lyles had pulled a knife on the officers.

One year ago: Iranians voted in a presidential election that would bring a landslide victory to the country's hard-line judiciary chief, Ebrahim Raisi, the protégé of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei; Raisi had already been sanctioned by the U.S., partly over his involvement in the mass execution of thousands of political prisoners in 1988.

Today's birthdays: Sir Paul McCartney is 80. Actor Constance McCashin is 75. Actor Linda Thorson is 75. Actor Isabella Rossellini is 70. Actor Carol Kane is 70. Actor Brian Benben is 66. Actor Andrea Evans is 65. Rock musician Dizzy Reed (Guns N' Roses) is 59. Figure skater Kurt Browning is 56. R&B singer Nathan Morris (Boyz II Men) is 51. Actor Mara Hobel is 51. Singer-songwriter Ray LaMontagne is 49. Rapper Silk the Shocker is 47. Actor Alana de la Garza is 46. Country singer Blake Shelton is 46. Rock musician Steven Chen (Airborne Toxic Event) is 44. Actor David Giuntoli is 42. Drummer Josh Dun (Twenty One Pilots) is 34. Actor Renee Olstead 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

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Megabucks

12-21-28-37-40-46

Jackpot: \$22 million

Lucky Lines

3-7-11-13-17-24-27-31

Estimated jackpot: \$64,000

Powerball

19-28-41-42-51

Powerball: 7

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$279 million

Win for Life

28-65-66-69

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 0-7-5-6

4 p.m.: 6-4-0-7

7 p.m.: 2-0-0-7

10 p.m.: 4-3-2-2

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Lucky Lines

4-8-9-15-19-22-28-29

Jackpot: \$10,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 0-4-5-5

4 p.m.: 0-7-8-8

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

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

Raising elder abuse awareness

Community Connection of Northeast Oregon focuses on topic on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

By **ISABELLA CROWLEY**

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Community Connection of Northeast Oregon spent a day shining a light on an important topic — elder abuse.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was Wednesday, June 15, and Community Connection helped raise awareness using informative placements in its senior centers in Baker, Grant, Union and Wallowa counties, according to Kathy Ganung, the senior service manager. The organization also ran World Elder Abuse Awareness Day themed bingo games.

"This is our first year participating and raising awareness, but it will become a yearly occurrence," she said.

The team at Northeast Public Transportation — a service of Community Connection that provides bus rides throughout Baker, Union and Wallowa counties — all wore purple shirts or purple lapel pins for the day, Ganung said. Posters and brochures were also available on the buses.

Next year, Community Connection plans to also organize a walk to help raise more awareness, said Ganung.



Isabella Crowley/The Observer

The team at Northeast Oregon Transit — a service of Community Connection Northeast Oregon — all wear purple for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, in La Grande. Posters and brochures were also handed out on buses to help raise awareness.

According to the Oregon Department of Human Services, Adult Protective Services completed 106 abuse investigations of elderly persons or adults with disabilities in community settings in Union County in 2020. There were 46 investigations in Baker County, 42 in Grant County and 32 in Wallowa County.

A total of 10,726 investigations were conducted across the state, and 81% of the alleged victims were 65 years or older.

The Department of Human Services' Administration for Community Living defines elder abuse as any knowing, intentional or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to vulnerable adults older than 60.

This includes phys-

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT ELDER ABUSE

According to the Oregon Department of Justice website, possible elder abuse should be reported through Oregon's toll-free hotline: 1-855-503-SAFE (7233). This is a statewide hotline to report abuse or neglect of any adult or child to the Oregon Department of Human Services. The ODHS website adds that if you suspect someone is in danger, call 911.

ical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse or neglect, according to the National Institution on Aging. Abuse can occur in the older person's home, a family member's home, an assisted living facility or a nursing home.

Financial exploitation — with 4,104 reports — was the most prevalent

abuse allegation received by Adult Protective Services across the state in 2020. Verbal abuse and self-neglect were the next two highest reported, with 2,916 and 2,718 reports, respectively. Physical abuse had the highest substantiation rate, with verbal abuse and financial exploitation a few percentage points behind.

The state has taken steps to address and prevent elder abuse, according to the Oregon Department of Justice. In 2016, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum appointed a statewide prosecutor devoted entirely to elder abuse — making Oregon the third state in the U.S. to do so. Additionally, Rosenblum holds yearly conferences about elder abuse and has worked to ensure the elder abuse unit receives funding.

Union School District budget adds new success coach

Steady enrollment is foundation of positive financial situation

By **DICK MASON**

The Observer

UNION — The Union School District's budget looks solid for 2022-23.

The Union School Board voted 4-0 on Wednesday, June 15, to adopt a total 2022-23 budget of \$11.7 million, one which will allow it to maintain all of its programs and staff plus add a student success coach.

"This very positive. We

are excited," said Union School District Superintendent Carter Wells.

The individual hired for the student success coach position will focus on things such as helping students learn how to respond to emotionally challenging situations in a positive manner.

The Union School District's 2022-23 spending plan is down \$5.9 million from its \$17.6 million total budget for 2021-22.

The reason for the decline is that the 2021-22 budget included about \$750,000 in federal COVID-19 relief funding and money from the \$8 million bond package voters passed in 2019. Union

School District voters approved a \$4 million bond in 2019 for capital construction and maintenance projects. The school district received a \$4 million matching grant from the state after voters approved the bond.

The total budget approved by the school board includes a general fund of \$6.4 million. This is down \$124,000 from the district's 2021-22 general fund spending plan, which included \$750,000 in federal COVID-19 relief funding.

The general fund consists of money from taxes, fees, interest earnings and other sources that can be used for general operation

purposes.

The Union School District's financial position appears solid in part because enrollment has remained steady despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Wells said. Enrollment is critical for public school districts in Oregon, since they receive more than \$8,000 per student from the state.

Wells said a large share of the credit should also go to Mendy Clark, the Union School District's deputy clerk.

"The Union School District would not be in the positive financial situation we are in without her excellent work and skills," Wells said of Clark.

Commissioners endorse ranchers' protection of cattle

Resolution stands by livestock owners against wolves

By **BILL BRADSHAW**

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution Wednesday, June 15, expressing support for local ranchers and their agents in protection of their livestock against attacks by wolves.

The resolution comes on the heels of numerous attacks on livestock by the predators, particularly

the Chesnimnus Pack, of which two were shot in recent weeks. An agent of Crow Creek rancher Tom Birkmaier shot one and a biologist working for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife shot the other.

The resolution, as read into the record, acknowledged the importance of livestock ranching to the culture and economics of the county and stated that wolves threaten the viability of local ranches.

The resolution also said that "state and federal agencies charged with managing wolves have failed to implement effective

management practices to protect domestic livestock."

The measure also called the toll on ranches "unsustainable" and stated that the Oregon Conservation and Management Plan was brokered with diverse stakeholders and addresses effective and responsible management and that the plan is legally binding.

As a result, the commissioners expressed their support of ranchers "in their ability to implement effective and responsible means in the protection of their livestock."

There was no discussion on the matter among

the commissioners, nor was there any public comment. Commissioner Todd Nash, a rancher who drafted the resolution, was absent due to ill health, according to Commission Chair Susan Roberts.

The commissioners also approved a lease agreement for ranchers to graze their cattle on the East Moraine above Wallowa Lake.

Roberts said the Wallowa County Stockgrowers considered five applicants and recommended that 80 head of cattle be allowed to graze. Charles Warnock will take the lead with 40 cattle and Katie Lathrop will graze another 40.

La Grande's Sears store set to close

Sears first opened a store in Union Co. five decades ago

By **DICK MASON**

The Observer

LA GRANDE — La Grande will soon lose a longtime appliance and hardware store.

Sears Hometown Store, 1700 N. Portland St., is set to close in about two weeks. The store's last day of operation will be Thursday, June 23.

The Observer was unable to reach anyone with the Sears Corporation to comment on the closure. However, a Tuesday, May 31, story on CNN's business website by Jordan Valinsky said that approximately 100 Sears Hometown Stores would be closing in the next several weeks. This represents about half of the remaining retail footprint of the franchise. Sears Hometown, Valinsky wrote, had 750 stores in the United States as recently as 2019.

Sears first opened a store in Union County 1972, according to the records of Bob Bull, a Union County historian and author. Sears was first located at 1413 Adams Ave. The store was there until 1980 when two different Sears stores opened at different locations — a Sears product services store at 808 Adams Ave. and a Sears catalog sales store at 216 Chestnut St.

Sears closed its two La Grande stores around 1992 and moved to Island City where it opened a store at 10601 Walton Road. Sears was at its Walton Road location until about 2000 when it moved to its present site.

Bull said he has been impressed with the service Sears has provided him in La Grande. He noted that he once purchased a chain link fence from Sears when it was at 1413 Adams Ave. He recalled that the customer service did not end with the sale — the store arranged to have someone come to his home and install the fence. The man even dug postholes for the fence.

"I did not have to do anything," Bull said.

The present Union La Grande store has been corporately owned for about 1-1/2 years, according to Noah Croy, a sales associate at the store. Prior to that the store had a franchise owner.

A close-out sale is now being conducted at Sears. Croy said that any merchandise not sold by June 23 will be sent to Sears stores in the region. The nearest Sears stores to La Grande are in Pendleton and Ontario.

Shaunie Hamilton, the franchise owner of the Sears Hometown Store in Ontario, said the recent Sears closures are not an indication that the corporation is in trouble. She noted that Sears is closing stores that are not profitable and has opened a number of new stores recently.

"It is like any business, you have to go where the market is," she said.

Sears Hometown locations operate under Sears Hometown and Outlet Stores, Inc., which separated from Sears Holdings Corporation in October 2012. Transformco acquired Sears Holdings after the company filed for bankruptcy in 2018. Its remaining stores are operated primarily in small towns by independent dealers or franchisees of Transformco affiliates. The stores are typically between 6,000 to 8,000 square feet — a fraction of the size of Sears department stores, which were each more than 100,000 square feet — and sell mainly tools and appliances.

IN BRIEF

Public hearing planned at July Joseph council meeting

JOSEPH — A request for a zoning change from commercial to residential and a conditional use permit for a recreational vehicle park at the same address will take place at the Joseph City Council meeting Thursday, July 7.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Joseph Community Events Center.

The zone change and conditional use permit have been requested by John Zurita for 709 N. Main St. Zurita is listed as the property owner on the application.

The matter will be addressed in a public hearing during the council meeting.

The public is welcome to attend in person or via Zoom.

Joseph council to meet on budget, new administrator

JOSEPH — The Joseph City Council plans two special sessions Monday, June 27, concerning the budget for the coming fiscal year and the possible hiring of an employee of the city.

At 5 p.m., in a Zoom-only meeting, the council will vote on the 2022-23 budget and take public comment.

At 5:30 p.m., the council will hold an executive session to "consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual

agent," according to state law governing executive sessions, or to consider records that are exempt from public inspection.

The city is in the process of seeking a permanent city administrator to replace interim administrator Brock Eckstein, who has served since spring of 2021 when former administrator Larry Braden resigned. The executive session will be to discuss the interview process for the administrator's position.

The council will hold an open session after the executive session to take any action it came to a consensus on during the executive session. Public comment will be allowed.

—EO Media Group