

## TODAY

In 1838, Britain's Queen Victoria was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1863, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln appointed Maj. Gen. George G. Meade the new commander of the Army of the Potomac, following the resignation of Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker.

In 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Sophie, were shot to death in Sarajevo by Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip — an act that sparked World War I.

In 1919, the Treaty of Versailles was signed in France, ending the First World War.

In 1939, Pan American Airways began regular trans-Atlantic air service with a flight that departed New York for Marseilles, France.

In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Alien Registration Act, also known as the Smith Act, which required adult foreigners residing in the U.S. to be registered and fingerprinted.

In 1950, North Korean forces captured Seoul, the capital of South Korea.

In 1978, the Supreme Court ordered the University of California-Davis Medical School to admit Allan Bakke, a white man who argued he'd been a victim of reverse racial discrimination.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton became the first chief executive in U.S. history to set up a personal legal defense fund and ask Americans to contribute to it.

In 2000, seven months after he was cast adrift in the Florida Straits, Elian Gonzalez was returned to his native Cuba.

In 2010, the Supreme Court ruled, 5-4, that Americans had the right to own a gun for self-defense anywhere they lived.

In 2013, the four plaintiffs in the U.S. Supreme Court case that overturned California's same-sex marriage ban tied the knot, just hours after a federal appeals court freed gay couples to obtain marriage licenses in the state for the first time in 4-1/2 years.

In 2019, avowed white supremacist James Alex Fields, who deliberately drove his car into a crowd of counterprotesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, killing a young woman and injuring dozens, apologized to his victims before being sentenced to life in prison on federal hate crime charges.

**Today's birthdays:** Comedian-movie director Mel Brooks is 96. Comedian-impressionist John Byner is 85. Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta is 84. Rock musician Dave Knights (Procul Harum) is 77. Actor Bruce Davison is 76. Actor Kathy Bates is 74. Actor Alice Krige is 68. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer John Elway is 62. Jazz singer Tierney Sutton is 59. Actor Jessica Hecht is 57. Rock musician Saul Davies (James) is 57. Actor Mary Stuart Masterson is 56. Actor John Cusack is 56. Actor Gil Bellows is 55. Actor-singer Danielle Brisebois is 53. Actor Tichina Arnold is 53. Actor Steve Burton is 52. Entrepreneur Elon Musk is 51. Actor Alessandro Nivola is 50. Actor Camille Guaty is 46. Rock musician Tim Nordwind (OK Go) is 46. Rock musician Mark Stoermer (The Killers) is 45. Country singer Big Vinny Hickerson (Trailer Choir) is 39. Country singer Kellie Pickler is 36. Jamaican Olympic track star Elaine Thompson-Herah is 30.

## 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, June 24, 2022

## MegaMillions

1-7-11-25-56  
MegaBall: 14  
Megaplier: 2  
Jackpot: \$328 million

## Lucky Lines

1-5-12-14-17-24-27-30  
Jackpot: \$18,000

## Pick 4

1 p.m.: 6-3-9-5  
4 p.m.: 7-0-6-7  
7 p.m.: 8-2-3-8  
10 p.m.: 4-9-0-9

## Saturday, June 25, 2022

## Powerball

6-12-20-27-32  
Powerball: 4  
Power Play: 3  
Jackpot: \$346 million

## Megabucks

8-17-18-24-29-36  
Jackpot: \$2.6 million

## Lucky Lines

4-7-12-16-17-24-27-29  
Jackpot: \$19,000

## Pick 4

1 p.m.: 7-7-7-2  
4 p.m.: 5-2-9-9  
7 p.m.: 4-5-8-5  
10 p.m.: 3-4-9-7

## Win for Life

7-37-43-68

## Sunday, June 26, 2022

## Lucky Lines

3-5-10-16-19-24-25-29  
Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

## Pick 4

1 p.m.: 3-8-2-7  
4 p.m.: 4-6-6-0  
7 p.m.: 7-6-4-2  
10 p.m.: 4-7-5-7

# Union County celebrates Fourth of July holiday

## Start the day celebrating in Imbler, end it with fireworks in Union

By DICK MASON

The Observer

UNION COUNTY — Local residents will have no shortage of Fourth of July activities to choose from this year, culminating with the annual fireworks show at Buffalo Peak Golf Course in Union.

The Fourth of July slate features popular traditional events plus new ones including a performance that may spark discussions about an old unsolved mystery in Union.

Festivities will kick off with the annual Imbler Fourth of July Parade, which begins at noon at Seventh Street and travels south down Ruckman Avenue (also Highway 82) to the end of town. The lineup for the parade will start at 11 a.m.

The Imbler Christian Church, 440 Ruckman Ave., will host its annual picnic for the public following the parade. Free hot dogs, watermelon, chips, ice cream and soda will be served.

The focus will then turn to Union, where vendors, for the first time in recent memory, will be selling local crafts and foods on the Fourth of July. The vendors will operate on a portion of Main Street and inside the Little White Church on the south side of Union City Hall from 4-9 p.m. Vendors will be able to set up for no charge, and anyone interested in having a vendor table should call Hugh Johnson at 541-786-6731. Johnson and Sarah Hartley are the co-organizers of the pre-fireworks activities in Union, which are being put on by Union Main Street.

People coming to downtown Union will also have a chance to visit the Union County Museum, 331 S. Main Street, which will be open from noon to 5 p.m. Downtown visitors will also have a chance to attend an antique car show from 4-9 p.m. on Center Street.

The Union Lions Club will also be adding to the downtown July Fourth fun by providing rides on the kiddie train, which is pulled by a small vehicle.

At 5 p.m. there will be a reen-



The Observer, File

Hundreds of spectators watch fireworks light up the night sky at Buffalo Peak Golf Course in Union Sunday, July 4, 2021.

actment of an attempted bank robbery that took place in Union in October of 1900. The reenactment will be in front of the Union County Museum, which once housed the bank where the robbery attempt was made.

Johnson said three men broke into the bank and then cut a hole through the concrete wall of its vault. The men then unsuccessfully attempted to blow open the safe with nitroglycerine, an explosive liquid. They set off a blast that blew a hole in one of the bank's walls and shattered one of its windows but did not open the safe.

The men ran out immediately after the unsuccessful blast attempt with nothing.

"They probably worried that they woke people up and thought they would get caught," Johnson said.

The would-be robbers, who

were seen by one person running away from the bank, were never arrested and their identities remain a mystery, Johnson said.

The reenactment, which will take between 15 and 20 minutes, will be performed by Union County residents who volunteered to participate. People will be able to watch the reenactment across the street from the Union County Museum.

This year's Thunder at the Peak fireworks show will begin around 9:45-10 p.m. at Buffalo Peak Golf Course. Should the golf course draw a large crowd, people will be encouraged to go to a field directly north of the Union High School football field to watch the fireworks. Parking will be available at the site.

The fireworks show will be put on by the Union Chamber of Commerce.

## County to vote on law enforcement contract

### Contract was approved June 20 by the Elgin City Council

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Union County Board of Commissioners is set to vote on the ratification of a new six-year law enforcement services contract between the Union County Sheriff's Office and the city of Elgin.

The board will vote on the ratification of the contract when it meets on Wednesday, June 29, at 8:30 a.m. in the east meeting room at the Joseph Building, 1106 K Ave., La Grande.

The Elgin City Council approved the contract on June 21. The city council did so after voting against a proposed contract to retain the services of the Union County Sheriff's office in May. The council intended to reestablish Elgin's police department to replace the enhanced law enforcement services Elgin has been receiving from the Union



Dick Mason/The Observer

Morris Capers, a Union County Sheriff's deputy, makes a call on his radio on Friday, May 20, 2022, while on patrol in Elgin.

County Sheriff's Office for about 10 years.

Under the terms of the contract the city of Elgin approved June 21, the city would pay Union County \$315,400 in 2022-23 for law enforcement services, \$337,603 in 2023-24 and \$350,771 in 2024-25 during the first three years of the new contract.

The payments the city of Elgin will make during the final three years of the contract will be dependent on the cost of living increases granted to Union County's sheriff's deputies. The increases will be negotiated by the Union County Sheriff's Office with the Union County Law Enforcement Association.

Increases greater than 4% for materials and services would be negotiated between the city and Union County.

In another action item the board of commissioners on June 29 will vote on whether to approve recommendations of Union County's Transient Tax Advisory Committee. The committee met earlier this month to make its recommendations for grants that would be paid from the country's transient tax, also known as its motel tax.

The Transient Tax Advisory Committee is recommending that the Union County Fair Association receive a grant of more than \$26,000 for a bleacher replacement project. Other recommendations include the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show receiving a total of \$45,000 for phases one and two of its exterior lighting project, \$6,500 for the 2022 Eastern Oregon Film Festival, \$3,000 for the city of Union's Fireworks Committee for this year's Fourth of July celebration and more than \$2,200 for the Union County Chamber of Commerce for its crop tour video project.

## 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 is on the agenda for 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.

—EO Media Group

# Wallowa County teacher caps career

## Lorri Birkmaier Fischer says farewell to Enterprise Elementary after 38 years

By JACK PARRY

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Lorri Birkmaier Fischer first walked into Enterprise Elementary School as a young girl with a knack for reading and writing. She liked school so much she would teach her younger brother, Tommy, lessons of her choice when she had the chance.

After graduating from Eastern Oregon University with a degree in elementary education and a reading endorsement in 1981, Fischer would return to Enterprise Elementary as an educator in 1984. The principal at the time, Bob Eddy, gave her quite simple instructions to start.

"He threw me into a room and said, 'Teach.'"

Now, 38 years later, Fischer is putting down the chalk and eraser following a career teaching students from fourth through eighth grade. It was a decision based on the need to be there more for her family — her two daughters and four grandchildren.

"I always say that you are replaceable at work, but irreplaceable within your family," she said.

Throughout her career, Fischer prided herself on lesson plans that made it fun for students to learn.

Her classes have shot themed movies about the 100-year anniversary of the school and Lewis and Clark to name a couple. Most recently, she brought her fifth grade class to the Wallowa County Museum in Joseph to donate an antique dress and a stack of old Wallowa County Chieftains along with her daughter, Aliyse Shetler, and her kindergarten class from Joseph.

She thought that big projects like these were the secret to teaching some of her kids.

"They would be doing what you want them to do, but yet they didn't really feel like it was hard work because it was fun," she explained.

And it's this style of learning that may cause her to resonate with the students in Enterprise, even when they've gotten older.

"One girl said to me from junior high the other day, 'Mrs. Fischer, you're leaving us, how can you leave us?'"

For Fischer, who prides herself on having a reading endorsement, literature is near and dear to her heart. She remembered what she would tell her students about how to perfect the craft of writing.

"It's like making a necklace and every word is a stone, a precious gem that you're stringing," she said. "And you've got to make sure you pick each one carefully."

Through all of her years putting effort into educating her students as well as growing up in the school system, Fischer has recognized how much importance a public school can hold in a small town like Enterprise.

"The community, the town revolves around the school," she proclaimed.

Tom Crane, the superintendent of the Enterprise School District, taught fourth grade at Enterprise Elementary with Fischer at the beginning of his career. He recounted how in every interview he's had as an administrator, he's waited for the teacher to say they love working with kids, attributing this to the devotion displayed by his former co-teacher.

When describing Fischer in one word, he emphasized how much his colleague cares.

"Passionate, because her whole life is about helping kids," he said.

Fischer choked up when talking about this aspect of the job, explaining how important it is for a teacher to put the effort in.

"Every grade, you're that piece," she said. "When you're that person in their life, you have to make the puzzle complete so when they're done they have a full picture."

Having been at the school as a student when they just started using computers to leaving the school as a teacher when the whole classroom has laptops, Fischer sees the coming years of education in her hometown as a slightly different version of the fundamentals.

"I think that the future will just be similar to what it is now, kids learning and teachers teaching."



Fischer