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INSIDE



MINERS JUBILEE RETURNS TO BAKER CITY GO!



Ronnie Allen/Contributed Photo

A \$1 bill is one of the items included in the time capsule of a 1906 Oregon Trail marker on Thursday, June 30, 2022, in La Grande.

A message placed for the future

New time capsule sealed within 1906 Oregon Trail marker on Walnut Street in La Grande

By DICK MASON
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A piece of paper currency may be the talk of La Grande a century from now.

A \$1 bill was placed in a new time capsule at 110 Walnut St. on Thursday, June 30, with other items in the time capsule space of the stone marker first installed by Oregon Trail pioneer Ezra Meeker in 1906.

The marker is the same one opened on June 23 and found to be empty before a crowd of about 150 people. Many had thought the time capsule space in the marker would have contents dating back to 1906 because Meeker mentioned it in his journals.

The \$1 bill was put in the marker's time capsule space along with an Oregon Trail brochure, a copy of the Overland Journal (a quarterly publication of the Oregon-California Association) plus items that are or recently have been integral parts of our daily lives, including two face masks, a COVID-19 home test kit and an iPhone.

Most of the new materials in the time capsule were placed in a protective bag. Now they must withstand the touch of Father Time's corrosive hand.

"We do not want it opened for 100 years," said Ronnie Allen, of La Grande, an Oregon Trail historian who helped lead the effort to have the new time capsule items placed within the stone marker.

Dale Counsell, of La Grande, who also helped Allen set up the new time capsule project, said a sealant was applied to the area where the stone marker was attached to its foundation. The sealant should help protect the contents of the time capsule.

The stone marker is among at least 35 Meeker set up along the Oregon Trail during the three journeys he made across the United States to promote efforts to preserve the overland route. It was one of three Meeker put up in Union County. The two others were

See, Capsule/Page A3



Eastern Oregon University/Contributed Photo

Mike Daugherty, left, dean of students, presents Peggy Anderson with a plaque commemorating the dedication of Eastern Oregon University's new softball field in 2008 in Anderson's honor. Anji Weissenfluh, EOU's women's basketball coach, is at right.

Opening doors

Peggy Anderson's role in reaching gender equity at EOU will be honored in October

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University athletic director Anji Weissenfluh said Title IX was woven into the culture at the university long before she arrived in La Grande.

"I have been fortunate in my time at Eastern," she said. "My predecessors, Peggy Anderson and Rob Cashell, have been building it for decades. I think Eastern is a leader in gender equity. Eastern has been at the forefront in making sure everything was equitable from locker rooms to facilities and sports. I have been able to continue that."

EOU will hold a Title IX celebration Thursday, Oct. 22, during its homecoming celebration. At that time, they will honor Anderson.

"We are excited to celebrate Anderson and her impact on women's sports," said Weissenfluh, who has seen lacrosse and wrestling added to the women's sports lineup over the past few years. "She is going to come back and we are going to celebrate her and what she did at Eastern. She coached a lot of sports and added sports."

Anderson, 81, who resides in Vancouver, Washington, said she is excited to go back to La Grande.

"I want to encourage people my age or older to come," she said. "We are the pioneers. Title IX opened the door in a number of areas, but there is still work to do."

Title IX, which was crafted by Oregon Rep. Edith Green and Hawaii Rep. Patsy Mink, marked its 50th anniversary last month. The document is just 37 words, but they are powerful: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

A long history

Things have changed a lot in the past 50 years, mostly for the good,

when it comes to women's athletics.

According to a recent report, co-authored by Dr. Courtney Flowers, a sports management professor at Texas Southern University, 3 million more high school girls have opportunities to participate in sports now than they did before Title IX.

The latest numbers show women make up 44% of all college athletes, compared to 15% before Title IX.

In Oregon, 30,995 female athletes participated in sports during the 2021-22 school year. The numbers do not include band, choir, orchestra or speech and debate.

The amount of female athletes is down from years before, but that is not uncommon, according to Oregon School Activities Association Assistant Executive Director Kyle Stanfield.

"The numbers are provided by the schools," he said. "The data is there for the national federation data. We are cognizant that the numbers are down, but it's cyclical. In a couple of years the numbers may go up."

Oregon has held state championships for girls since 1948, but it wasn't until after Title IX that mainstream sports like basketball and volleyball had a state tournament.

The first Oregon state championship for girls was swimming in 1948. Tennis followed in 1949, track was

See, Equity/Page A3

Local ski scene could return to Tollgate

Umatilla National Forest seeks interested parties to operate and manage Spout Springs Ski Area

By ISABELLA CROWLEY
The Observer

TOLLGATE — For the last six winters, the slopes at Spout Springs have been empty — but that could change in the near future.

The Umatilla National Forest is seeking proposals from interested entities to operate and manage the Spout Springs Ski Area, near Tollgate.

"Spout Springs has been a cornerstone of the local ski scene on the Umatilla National Forest since the 1950s. This is a special place and the Forest Service wants to see the site operating and once again providing recreation opportunities for our communities," said Darcy Weseman, public affairs officer for the Umatilla National Forest.

The site, which had its first public ski season in 1956, is situated in the Blue Mountains of Northeastern

See, Skiing/Page A3



Isabella Crowley/The Observer

Spout Springs Ski Area has been closed since 2016, but the sign for the recreation area still stands along Oregon Route 204 near Tollgate on Saturday, July 9, 2022. The Umatilla National Forest is looking for qualified parties to reopen and manage Spout Springs year-round.



INDEX

Business.....B1
Classified.....B2
Comics.....B5
Crossword....B2
Dear Abby....B6
Horoscope....B2
Lottery.....A2
Obituaries....A5
Opinion.....A4
Spiritual.....A6
Sudoku.....B5
Weather.....B6

WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

Tonight 61 LOW
Mainly clear
Friday 91/58
Sunny and warm

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