

## TODAY

**In 1789**, in an event symbolizing the start of the French Revolution, citizens of Paris stormed the Bastille prison and released the seven prisoners inside.

**In 1798**, Congress passed the Sedition Act, making it a federal crime to publish false, scandalous or malicious writing about the United States government.

**In 1881**, outlaw William H. Bonney Jr., alias “Billy the Kid,” was shot and killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett in Fort Sumner in present-day New Mexico.

**In 1912**, American folk singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie (“This Land Is Your Land”) was born in Okemah, Oklahoma.

**In 1933**, all German political parties, except the Nazi Party, were outlawed.

**In 1945**, Italy formally declared war on Japan, its former Axis partner during World War II.

**In 1976**, Jimmy Carter won the Democratic presidential nomination at the party’s convention in New York.

**In 1980**, the Republican national convention opened in Detroit, where nominee-apparent Ronald Reagan told a welcoming rally he and his supporters were determined to “make America great again.”

**In 2004**, the Senate scuttled a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. (Forty-eight senators voted to advance the measure — 12 short of the 60 needed — and 50 voted to block it).

**In 2009**, disgraced financier Bernard Madoff arrived at the Butner Federal Correctional Complex in North Carolina to begin serving a 150-year sentence for his massive Ponzi scheme. (Madoff died in prison in April 2021.)

**In 2015**, world powers and Iran struck a deal to curb Iran’s nuclear program in exchange for relief from international sanctions.

**In 2016**, terror struck Bastille Day celebrations in the French Riviera city of Nice as a large truck plowed into a festive crowd, killing 86 people in an attack claimed by Islamic State extremists; the driver was shot dead by police.

**In 2020**, researchers reported that the first COVID-19 vaccine tested in the U.S. revved up people’s immune systems as scientists had hoped; the vaccine was developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc. The federal government carried out its first execution in almost two decades, killing by lethal injection Daniel Lewis Lee, who’d been convicted of murdering an Arkansas family in a 1990s plot to build a whites-only nation in the Pacific Northwest.

**Ten years ago:** A suicide bomber blew himself up among guests at a wedding hall in northern Afghanistan, killing 23 people, including a prominent ex-Uzbek warlord turned lawmaker who was the father of the bride.

**Five years ago:** A Russian-American lobbyist said he attended a June 2016 meeting with President Donald Trump’s son that was billed as part of a Russian government effort to help the Republican campaign.

**One year ago:** The U.S. government reported that deaths from drug overdoses had soared to a record 93,000 in 2021 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic; experts said lockdowns and other restrictions had isolated those with drug addictions and made treatment harder to get.

**Today’s birthdays:** Actor Nancy Olson is 94. Former football player and actor Rosey Grier is 90. Actor Vincent Pastore is 76. Music company executive Tommy Mottola is 74. Rock musician Chris Cross (Ultravox) is 70. Actor Jerry Houser is 70. Singer-guitarist Kyle Gass is 62. Actor Jane Lynch is 62. Actor Jackie Earle Haley is 61. Actor Matthew Fox is 56. Rock musician Ellen Reid (Crash Test Dummies) is 56. Rock singer-musician Tanya Donnelly is 56. Former child actor Missy Gold is 52. R&B singer Tameka Cottle (Xscape) is 47.

### 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

### Monday, July 11, 2022

**Megabucks**  
4-10-18-31-37-41  
Estimated jackpot: \$3.3 million

**Lucky Lines**  
4-7-12-13-18-24-28-30  
Estimated jackpot: \$35,000

**Win for Life**  
6-36-52-62

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

**Tuesday, July 12, 2022**

**Mega Millions**  
4-7-10-45-64  
Mega Ball: 12  
Megaplier: 2  
Estimated jackpot: \$480 million

**Lucky Lines**  
4-6-9-14-20-24-27-29  
Estimated jackpot: \$10,000

**Pick 4**  
1 p.m.: 1-9-2-7  
4 p.m.: 5-4-0-4  
7 p.m.: 9-9-9-3  
10 p.m.: 4-1-9-2



Dick Mason/The Observer

Preliminary excavation work is underway at the site of the future Timber Ridge Apartments on Friday, July 8, 2022, in La Grande.

## Apartment construction to begin soon

### Timber Ridge Apartment complex for low income residents will have 82 units

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — A La Grande apartment complex that could help put a dent in Union County’s shortage of affordable housing may be 14 months from becoming a reality.

Preliminary excavation work is beginning for the \$38.2 million, 82-unit Timber Ridge Apartments on a 4.79-acre lot on East Q Avenue between 26th and 27th streets. Work on installing the foundation will begin about Monday, July 25, according to Sarah Parker, the executive director of Northeast Oregon Housing Authority, which will own and manage Timber Ridge Apartments.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the project is set for Tuesday, Aug. 23, at a time to be announced, Parker said. The goal is to have the apartment complex completed by September 2023. One factor that could delay completion of the project would be supply issues preventing materials arriving in a timely manner, Parker said.

Paul Anderes, a member of the

Union County Board of Commissioners, is excited about the project.

“This will take some pressure off the local housing market,” he said. “This is a step in the right direction, but there is clearly still a lot of work to do.”

Anderes said Timber Ridge will be in a good location.

“It will be near a lot of services,” the commissioner said, noting that health care and banking services are among those nearby.

Timber Ridge Apartments will be built by Hunt Capital Partners, of Encino, California, in collaboration with the Northeast Oregon Housing Authority, and Community Development Partners Oregon, LLC, of Portland.

Hunt Capital Partners is the tax credit syndication division of Hunt Companies, Inc. Hunt Capital Partners’ specialties include the sponsorship of federal and state low-income housing, according to a press release from Maize Marketing in Woodland Hill, California.

Northeast Oregon Housing Authority will be the owner and property manager of Timber Ridge Apartments, and Community Development Partners is serving as Timber Ridge’s developer. Portland-based Bremik Construction is the general contractor and Ink Built Architecture, also of Portland, is the project’s architect.

The apartment units will be available to households earning at or below 60% of the region’s median income, according to the press release.

Timber Ridge’s features will include an 8,000-square-foot community building that will have a large gathering space for community meals and social events. The community building will also offer residents office and study spaces, a classroom and an early childhood education center, where the Eastern Oregon University Head Start program will provide preschool instruction.

Once completed, Timber Ridge Apartments will provide 34 one-bedroom units, 26 two-bedroom units, 20 three-bedroom units and two four-bedroom units.

A total of \$15.7 million of the project will be funded by federal tax credits provided to Community Development Partners through the federal government’s Low Income Housing Tax Credit program.

The start of the construction of Timber Ridge Apartments has been delayed about a year by a number of factors including the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting supply chain issues and inflation, Parker said. She now feels good about the project’s prospects.

“This is super exciting,” she said. “It has been quite an adventure getting here.”

## Elgin city administrator position could change

### Elgin City Council authorized three resolutions for the November 2022 ballot

By ISABELLA CROWLEY

The Observer

ELGIN — The Elgin City Council voted unanimously to authorize three resolutions to be added to the ballot for the upcoming election, which means Elgin residents will have final say over whether the resolutions pass

in November.

Two of the resolutions center around the role of the city administrator. One resolution amends the city charter to make the city administrator a hired position rather than an elected official. If the resolution passes, the administrator would be appointed by the city council. The second resolution seeks to amend the charter to combine the city recorder and city administrator into a single role.

The city administrator position will be up for election in November. If a resident decides to run for city administrator, both the resolution to

make the role a hired position and the individual running for city administrator would be on the ballot.

All present members of the city council voted unanimously to add both resolutions to the ballot. Councilor Rocky Burgess was not in attendance.

The city council also voted unanimously to authorize adding a resolution to the ballot that would allow electors to pay a \$50 fee rather than collecting 20 signatures to appear on a ballot.

All three resolutions will be decided by voters in the November 2022 election.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Joseph City Council hires new city administrator

JOSEPH — The city of Joseph has a new administrator with the hiring of Dan Larman during the Thursday, July 7, city council meeting.

Larman’s hiring brings to a close a situation ongoing since April 2021 when former Administrator Larry Braden resigned citing claims of harassment that prevented him from doing his job.

Larman, who moved from Elgin in March, has been working with interim Administrator Brock Eckstein since then.

The hiring came after a recent interview of four applicants for the job. Eckstein said via Zoom that one of those applicants decided to take a job elsewhere and the council opted for Larman. He was voted in on a unanimous decision.

The council has yet to negotiate a permanent contract with Larman. In the meantime, Eckstein recommended Larman be compensated under the current provisions for a city administrator.

“I appreciate the chance to throw my hat in the ring and I’m looking forward to working with everybody and helping out where I can,” Larman said to the council. “We’ve got a lot of projects on board and I’m ready to get going.”

In another position change, Public Works Director Levi Tickner is stepping into a role primarily as operator of the water and sewer plants while Michael Harshfield takes on the other duties Tickner has overseen.

Mayor Lisa Collier thanked Tickner for continuing the tradition of hanging posters of this year’s high school graduates downtown.

“I think that’s so cool and despite COVID, it’s something we need to keep going,” she said.

### Stabbing July 8 leaves Hermiston man dead

HELLS CANYON OVERLOOK — A 64-year-old Hermiston man was stabbed to death at the Hells Canyon Overlook in southeastern Wallowa County on Friday, July 8, according to a press release from the Wallowa County Sheriff’s Office.

Dan Ridling got into an altercation with an Albany man in the parking lot and was stabbed in the torso, Sheriff Joel Fish said July 11. He died at the scene. Fish said the weapon used was a fixed-blade sheathed knife similar to a hunting knife.

The Oregon State Police Major Crimes Unit was requested and responded to assist with the investigation, the release stated. The 911 call requesting medical assistance was made at 11:36 a.m.

The man who is believed to have done the stabbing cooperated with the investigation, Fish said. Ridling’s wife also was interviewed.

Officials are awaiting the results of an autopsy before making any decision on charges. As a result, Fish declined to identify the Albany man.

“Once we get it all done, it’ll go to the grand jury,” Fish said. “He’s not been charged with anything.”

Fish stated in the release that there are no known threats to the public following the incident.

### Bear killed in collision with car on Interstate 84

UNION COUNTY — A driver and his passenger were not injured when their vehicle hit and killed a bear about 15 miles west of La Grande on Interstate 84, according to the Oregon State Police.

The incident occurred just before midnight in an eastbound lane of I-84 on Saturday, July 9, when a gray Toyota Tacoma driven by Zach Lee Deiter, 23, collided with a bear that had run onto the roadway near milepost 246.

The crash caused extensive damage to the front right side of the vehicle, which was towed from the scene.

—EO Media Group

# Work group mulling drones

### Drone regulation proving to be time-consuming process

By JACK PARRY

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — For the last 100 years state parks in Oregon have been an attraction to view various plant life, bodies of water and animal species.

However, a newer addition to state parks is something that Oregonians couldn’t have foreseen even a few decades ago, drones piercing the skies.

There are no regulations on drone flight, takeoff or landing within state parks. The parks can only make airborne regulations during certain mating seasons.

“When raptors are nesting and doing their breeding, they don’t allow drones into the park whatsoever,” said Ashley O’Toole, a drone flier and the owner of Sky High Imaging, LLC, a La Grande company that provides drone imaging services.

Just because people are free to fly drones through parks doesn’t mean they are free from controversy.

So when a work group convened by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department put together a proposal for drone regulations in state parks at the end of 2021 and asked for public input, it didn’t take long to receive backlash.

The proposal stated that drones would be allowed to take off anywhere unless otherwise specified. The vagueness of the law prodded people to ask Chris Havel, associate director at the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, if their worst fears were possible.

“Either we’re going to have a cloud of drones over every park, or a wildlife desert in every park,” he said.

While the backlash was coming from drone supporters and protestors, Havel noted that most of the worries came from natural resource supporters, who were underrepresented on the work group.

“Eighty percent of the concern was from people who thought they were going to hurt birds, hurt other wildlife and chase off deer,” Havel said.

While the associate director sees drone usage as a contentious topic for the parks, O’Toole believes the public has been easing its concern recently. Even though people were nervous when drones were new, he believes that technological innovations like GPS, collision warning systems and the prevalence of drones have taken the pressure off the issue.

“I think the general opinion of drones has gone from not liking them to maybe just apathetic, not having an opinion at all really,” he said.

After the criticism, the Parks and Recreation Department decided to pause the rulemaking, look to form a new work group with more representation from environmentalists, and create a map and criteria for places where drones can take off and land in state parks.

Havel says this rulemaking process has been difficult for a few main reasons, one being the difference in the landscapes of parks throughout the state creating issues for statewide regulations.

“The environment isn’t the same across the state, the way people use parks is not the same across the state, so why would the rules be the same across the state?” he said.