

TODAY

In 1790, a site along the Potomac River was designated the permanent seat of the United States government; the area became Washington, D.C.

In 1862, Flag Officer David G. Farragut became the first rear admiral in the United States Navy.

In 1945, the United States exploded its first experimental atomic bomb in the desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico; the same day, the heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis left Mare Island Naval Shipyard in California on a secret mission to deliver atomic bomb components to Tinian Island in the Marianas.

In 1951, the novel "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger was first published by Little, Brown and Co.

In 1957, Marine Corps Maj. John Glenn set a transcontinental speed record by flying a Vought F8U Crusader jet from California to New York in 3 hours, 23 minutes and 8.4 seconds.

In 1964, as he accepted the Republican presidential nomination in San Francisco, Barry M. Goldwater declared that "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice" and that "moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

In 1969, Apollo 11 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on the first manned mission to the surface of the moon.

In 1980, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan won the Republican presidential nomination at the party's convention in Detroit.

In 1999, John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Bessette, died when their single-engine plane, piloted by Kennedy, plunged into the Atlantic Ocean near Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

In 2004, Martha Stewart was sentenced to five months in prison and five months of home confinement by a federal judge in New York for lying about a stock sale.

In 2008, Florida resident Casey Anthony, whose 2-year-old daughter, Caylee, had been missing a month, was arrested on charges of child neglect, making false official statements and obstructing a criminal investigation. (Casey Anthony was later acquitted at trial of murdering Caylee, whose skeletal remains were found in December 2008; she was convicted of lying to police.)

In 2015, a jury in Centennial, Colorado, convicted James Holmes of 165 counts of murder, attempted murder and other charges in the 2012 Aurora movie theater rampage that left 12 people dead. A gunman unleashed a barrage of fire at a recruiting center and another U.S. military site a few miles apart in Chattanooga, Tennessee, killing four Marines and a sailor before he was shot to death by police; authorities identified the gunman as Kuwaiti-born Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez of Tennessee.

In 2016, Republican presidential nominee-apparent Donald Trump formally introduced his running mate, Mike Pence, during an event in New York, hailing the Indiana governor as his "first choice" and his "partner in the campaign" a day after announcing the selection on Twitter.

Today's birthdays: Soul singer William Bell is 83. International Tennis Hall of Famer Margaret Court is 80. College Football Hall of Famer and football coach Jimmy Johnson is 79. Actor-singer Ruben Blades is 74. Rock composer-musician Stewart Copeland is 70. Playwright Tony Kushner is 66. Actor Faye Grant is 65. Dancer Michael Flatley is 64. Actor Phoebe Cates is 59. Actor-comedian Will Ferrell is 55. Actor Jonathan Adams is 55. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Barry Sanders is 54. Actor Rain Pryor is 53. Actor Corey Feldman is 51. Rock singer Ryan McCombs (Drowning Pool) is 48. Actor Jayma Mays is 43. Retired soccer star Carli Lloyd is 40. Actor Annalynne McCord is 35. Actor Mark Indelicato is 28. Pop singer-musician Luke Hemmings (5 Seconds to Summer) is 26.

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, July 13, 2022

Megabucks

10-22-29-31-38-39
Jackpot: \$3.4 million

Lucky Lines

2-8-12-13-17-22-27-31
Estimated jackpot: \$11,000

Powerball

22-23-36-47-63
Powerball: 2

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$82 million

Win for Life

3-19-21-32

Pick 4

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

Thursday, July 14, 2022

Lucky Lines

4-7-9-13-17-23-28-29
Jackpot: \$12,000

Pick 4

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

La Grande Lit Week kicks off

Pacific Northwest writers flock to event hosted by university

By SHANNON GOLDEN

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University kicks off the inaugural La Grande Lit Week, July 17-23, a project of the university's Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing that will celebrate writers of the Pacific Northwest.

Nick Neely, assistant professor of English and writing at Eastern, hopes the series of events and conversations will connect local residents with aspiring and established writers alike.

"We're trying to turn outward and make sure that we engage with the public," Neely said.

The week-long event gets underway Sunday, June 17, featuring readings and conversations with faculty and visiting writers in La Grande eateries, coffee shops, bars and landmarks — all free and open to the public. Locals can even attend an evening poetry reading at Morgan Lake.

The week's lineup includes winners of the Oregon Book Awards, the Washington State Book Awards and the Pacific Northwest Book Awards as well as authors touring newly released books and EOU's MFA students.

Faculty and writers will teach classes throughout the week that the public can sign up to participate in. These hour-long community classes cover a range of topics such as "Storytelling Science," "Writing Toward Joy" and "Demystifying Historical Fiction." Registration for each class is \$20.

In order to host the week-long project, the



Eastern Oregon University/Contributed Photo, File

Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, is hosting its inaugural La Grande Lit Week, a week-long project of the university's MFA Program in Creative Writing that will celebrate writers of the Pacific Northwest, July 17-23, 2022.

MORE INFORMATION

For a complete schedule of events, visit the La Grande Lit Week webpage, www.eou.edu/mfa/litweek, or scan the QR code. Questions may be directed to Nick Neely, assistant professor of English/writing, at nneely@eou.edu.



LA GRANDE LIT WEEK CLASS SCHEDULE

EOU faculty and visiting writers will teach a variety of classes throughout the week. Each class is \$20, and registration is required. Sign up via the link at www.eou.edu/mfa/litweek.

Monday, July 18, 3:25-4:25 p.m.: "Root Words: Etymology and Poetry" with poet **Laura Da'**

Monday, July 18, 4:30-5:30 p.m.: "Writing Animals, Day Two" with fiction writer **Molly Reid**

Tuesday, July 19, 3:25-4:25 p.m.: "Storytelling Science" with nonfiction writer **Marina Richie**

Tuesday, July 19, 4:30-5:30 p.m.: "Distilling Truths from Facts" with poet **Christopher Kondrich**

Wednesday, July 20, 3:25-4:25 p.m.: "Writing As Creative Play" with fiction writer **Claire Boyles**

Wednesday, July 20, 4:30-5:30 p.m.: "Writing Toward Joy" with essayist **Melissa Matthewson**

Thursday, July 21, 3:25-4:25 p.m.: "Demystifying Historical Fiction" with novelist **Leyna Krow**

Thursday, July 21, 4:30-5:30 p.m.: "Arboreality: Writing About Trees" with nonfiction writer **Nick Neely**

Friday, July 22, 3:25-4:25 p.m.: "Apocalypse No: Against the Eschatological in Fiction" with **Jon Raymond**

MFA program received a grant from the Union County Chamber of Commerce. Neely is hopeful the project will become an annual event.

"I think it's going to be a great tradition for La Grande," he said.

The creative writing program is low residency, meaning students complete most of their degree remotely. This week, many of the two dozen MFA students gathered at Wallowa Lake — at the edge of the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area — for the Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers.

As the students make their way back from Wallowa Lake, they will embark on a "Lit Trail," effectively kicking off the week of festivities. This Lit Trail will make four stops beginning at the Jewel Theatre in Elgin and ending at La Grande's Side A Brewing. Award-winning authors and EOU faculty members will share their expertise on "writing about animals" throughout the afternoon.

The MFA staff didn't want Lit Week to occur

exclusively on campus. Instead, they hope to highlight the many dimensions of La Grande, by hosting events all around town.

The La Grande community can expect to encounter stories of all kinds throughout the week, from myths about jackalopes to poetry on the complex relationship between grief and happiness.

"We want Lit Week to have a little edge," Neely noted, "but for it to also be family-friendly and open to everyone."

LA GRANDE

School board approves contract for its classified staff

New contract provides cost of living increases each year

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The members of the La Grande School District's classified staff are set to receive pay increases each of the next three years.

The La Grande School Board voted on Wednesday, July 13, to ratify a new three-year pact for its 175-member classified staff, which includes paraprofessionals, cooks, custodial workers, secretaries and grounds workers. The contract will provide the school district's classified staff with cost of living raises of 5% in 2022-23, 4% in 2023-24 and 3.5% in 2024-25.

The contract will also boost what the school district's classified staff members receive for health insurance premiums by \$75 a month in 2022-23, \$50.84 a month in 2023-24 and \$50 a month in 2024-25. Classified staff employees will receive up to \$1,449.16 per month for health insurance in 2022-23, up to \$1,500 a month in 2023-24 and up to \$1,550 a month in 2024-25.

"I'm very pleased that we were able to successfully negotiate a new contract," said La Grande School District Superintendent George Mendoza.

He said the school district's classified staff, which voted for the new contract earlier, has done excellent work for the past 2-1/2 years in a challenging environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"They deserve all of the support the school district

can give them," Mendoza said.

The superintendent added the La Grande School District is committed to boosting the working conditions for its classified staff.

Leatha Canfield, president of the classified staff's Oregon School Employees Association bargaining unit, said she was impressed with how smoothly the negotiations went.

"I know that it can be a contentious process, but we were very well received and fairly treated. I feel that we were supported by the school district," said Canfield, who works as a behavior intervention assistant and a computer lab assistant for the La Grande School District.

A joint statement released by Canfield and Mendoza said both parties will continue working together as a team.

"We can all now turn our attention on strengthening our education programs, focusing on student learning, safety and fostering trust in our education system," the joint statement said.

In other action at the meeting, the board elected Randy Shaw as its chair for 2022-23 and Danelle Lindsey as its vice chair. Shaw is beginning his sixth year on the board and was vice chair in 2021-22. Lindsey has served on the board for eight years.

Shaw succeeds Robin Maille, who announced she was stepping down from the position after serving two years. Mendoza praised Maille for her work as chair, noting that she led the board during an enormously challenging period.

"You were the right person for that spot during a very difficult time," he said of Maille.

Summer intern joins newsroom

University of Oregon graduate Shannon Golden started July 11

By ISABELLA CROWLEY

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Observer will have another reporter on staff this summer with intern Shannon Golden.

Golden comes to the La Grande newsroom through the Charles Snowden Program for Excellence in Journalism, which



Golden

pairs student journalists from universities in Oregon with local newspapers.

"We are excited to have Shannon in the newsroom. It always makes for a fun summer when we have an extra pair of hands and a new voice offering ideas. This is the second year The Observer has had a Snowden intern. It's something we look forward to," said The Observer's interim editor, Andrew Cutler.

Golden graduated this spring from the University of Oregon with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism and a minor in global studies. She hopes to launch a career in journalism.

"I always thought journalism was a good major for indecisive people," Golden joked with a smile. "You get to learn about everything and anything from others. It's a very versatile role."

After starting the internship on Monday, July 11, she immediately proved herself as a team player. Golden received a call from Cutler at 2 p.m. on her first day, asking her to write a piece for the East Oregonian about the hidden bottle hunt prize found at Hermiston's Riverfront Park.

Golden said she felt intimidated by the task but was also really excited to write the article because it felt like "a real newsroom moment."

She got right to work — calling, interviewing and writing. She had the piece turned around and ready to go within two and a half hours.

"It's clear Shannon is talented writer with a clear passion and talent for telling stories," Cutler said. "She has hit the ground running and tackled everything we've thrown at her so far."

Golden wrote her first story for The Observer on how La Grande's Market Place Fresh Foods is increasing access to fresh produce through the SNAP benefits program.

During her 12 weeks in Union County, Golden will report on miscellaneous topics in the region.

"I really love the interviewing process and being able to connect with people," she said. "I think community journalism will always be tremendously important to connecting people. It's cool to be a part of that."

Last summer, Carlos Fuentes spent the summer as The Observer's Snowden intern. Fuentes is currently an intern with Portland Business Journal through the Dow Jones News Fund.

"Shannon's help this summer means we will be able to tell more people's stories and cover more topics, so I am excited to have her here," Cutler said. "We always end up trying to convince our Snowden interns to come work for us after their internship, because the program produces great reporters, and based on the work she has produced in her first few days, I would say Shannon fits that pattern."

NEWS BRIEFS

COVID surge strikes Alpine House in Joseph

JOSEPH — It may seem the COVID-19 pandemic is all but through, but the residents of the Alpine House senior living facility in Joseph would have to disagree.

Administrator Steve Zollman said Wednesday, July 13, that 19 of their 29 tenants had come down with what appears to be a mild version of the virus.

"We don't expect to lose anybody," he said.

Rumors that visitors were being barred from the facility are unfounded, Zollman said.

"We don't stop visitors. That would be illegal," he said. "We may talk you out of walking in here, but we don't stop them."

He said health care professionals

visit regularly and some residents have opted to take the antiviral medicines offered by them.

He said about five employees have volunteered to stay on the premises 24 hours a day so others can go home and not risk spreading the virus to their families.

Of those who have contracted the latest round of the virus, none are among the four who contracted it early this year.

"It doesn't seem to make any difference whether they've been vaccinated, boosted or what," Zollman said.

Alpine House seems to be alone in the latest surge. A nurse at Wallowa Valley Senior Living in Enterprise who declined to be identified said no such outbreak has occurred there.

"There's nothing like that's going on here," she said.

10-acre Marr Creek Fire in Wallowa County contained

WALLOWA COUNTY — A 10-acre wildfire 16 miles east of Joseph is now contained.

The Marr Creek Fire, burning in the Harl Butte area, was declared contained by the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center at 9:34 a.m. on Thursday, July 14.

Nobody has been injured and no property has been damaged during the blaze, which didn't threaten any structures, according to the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center.

The lightning-caused blaze was first reported at 11:27 a.m. July 13. A crew was sent to the fire by the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center.

—EO Media Group