

TODAY

In 1812, during the War of 1812, the First Battle of Sackets Harbor in Lake Ontario resulted in an American victory as U.S. naval forces repelled a British attack.

In 1969, Apollo 11 and its astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin and Michael Collins, went into orbit around the moon.

In 1975, the Apollo and Soyuz space capsules that were linked in orbit for two days separated.

In 1979, the Nicaraguan capital of Managua fell to Sandinista guerrillas, two days after President Anastasio Somoza fled the country.

In 1980, the Moscow Summer Olympics began, minus dozens of nations that were boycotting the games because of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

In 1989, 111 people were killed when United Air Lines Flight 232, a DC-10 which sustained the uncontained failure of its tail engine and the loss of hydraulic systems, crashed while making an emergency landing at Sioux City, Iowa; 185 other people survived.

In 1990, baseball’s all-time hits leader, Pete Rose, was sentenced in Cincinnati to five months in prison for tax evasion.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton announced a policy allowing homosexuals to serve in the military under a compromise dubbed “don’t ask, don’t tell, don’t pursue.”

In 2005, President George W. Bush announced his choice of federal appeals court judge John G. Roberts Jr. to replace Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. (Roberts ended up succeeding Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who died in Sept. 2005; Samuel Alito followed O’Connor.)

In 2006, prosecutors reported that Chicago police beat, kicked, shocked or otherwise tortured scores of Black suspects from the 1970s to the early 1990s to try to extract confessions from them.

In 2014, a New York City police officer (Daniel Pantaleo) involved in the arrest of Eric Garner, who died in custody two days earlier after being placed in an apparent chokehold, was stripped of his gun and badge and placed on desk duty. (Pantaleo was fired in August 2019.) Actor James Garner, 86, died in Los Angeles.

In 2016, Republicans meeting in Cleveland nominated Donald Trump as their presidential standard-bearer; in brief videotaped remarks, Trump thanked the delegates, saying: “This is a movement, but we have to go all the way.”

In 2020, President Donald Trump refused to publicly commit to accepting the results of the upcoming election, telling Chris Wallace on “Fox News Sunday” that it was too early to make any such guarantee.

Today’s birthdays: Actor Helen Gallagher is 96. Singer Vikki Carr is 82. Blues singer-musician Little Freddie King is 82. Actor George Dzundza is 77. International Tennis Hall of Famer Ilie Nastase is 76. Rock musician Brian May is 75. Rock musician Bernie Leadon is 75. Actor Beverly Archer is 74. Rock musician Kevin Haskins (Love and Rockets; Bauhaus) is 62. Movie director Atom Egoyan is 62. Actor Campbell Scott is 61. Actor Anthony Edwards is 60. Actor Clea Lewis is 57. Percussionist Evelyn Glennie is 57. Classical singer Urs Buhler (Il Divo) is 51. Rock musician Jason McGerr (Death Cab for Cutie) is 48. Actor Benedict Cumberbatch is 46. Actor Erin Cummings is 45. TV chef Marcela Valladolid is 44. Actor Chris Sullivan (“This is Us”) is 42. Actor Jared Padalecki is 40. Actor Trai Byers is 39. Actor Kaitlin Doubleday (“Nashville”) is 38.

Democrat seeking to oust Bentz makes stops to listen in La Grande

Candidate Joe Yetter tours district with goal of ‘protecting democracy’

By SHANNON GOLDEN
The Observer

LA GRANDE— Joe Yetter, the Democratic nominee for Oregon’s 2nd Congressional District, stopped by La Grande, on July 14, during his Eastern Oregon tour.

Yetter is running against incumbent Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, and plans to use his trip as a “listening tour,” learning from the residents of Eastern Oregon and asking questions about their needs.

Oregon’s 2nd Congressional District, the seventh-largest district in the nation, stretches from Medford to Ontario. Yetter embarked on a 1,400-mile trip to cover the large district.

Before hosting a town hall meeting at La Grande’s Side A Brewing, Yetter, a staunch supporter of universal health care,



Shannon Golden/The Observer

Oregon Congressional District 2 Democrat candidate Joe Yetter on Thursday, July 14, 2022, discusses issues facing Eastern Oregon and the nation with local residents during a stop at Side A Brewing, La Grande. Yetter is on a 1,400-mile “listening tour” of the district, which stretches across the state from Medford to Ontario.

joined the Union County chapter of Health Care for All Oregon during their stand-up event at Max Square.

The son of a World War II veteran and the grandson of a World War I vet, Yetter himself served in the military for more than 35 years as a physician. After years of teaching other aspiring military physicians, he now lives on

a farm in Azalea.

Yetter highlighted his military medical assistance as an example of functioning government-run health care — a cause he hopes to champion while in office.

Among other issues he touched on, as a gun owner, he said he supports background checks for firearms. He bills himself as a “pro-choice” candidate and

Easement at lodge to be dedicated July 21

Parcel at head of lake to protect habitat, resources

Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA LAKE — A conservation easement to the Nez Perce Tribe from Wallowa Lake Lodge will be dedicated Thursday, July 21, according to a press release.

The public ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at the lodge.

Since time immemorial, Wallowa Lake has served as the cultural heart of the local Nez Perce Wal’wama Band, according to the release. The easement encompasses the 9.22-acre Lodge property, including its open ground, towering old-growth trees and riparian wetlands at the confluence of the Upper Wallowa River and Wallowa Lake.

The Cayuse-Nez Perce word for this special place

MORE INFORMATION
For more information, contact Madeline Lau, Wallowa Lake Lodge general manager, at 541-432-9821, or Ann McCormack, Nez Perce Tribe, at 208-621-3710.

is Waala’amkt, “where the braided stream disappears beneath the water.”

The easement, acquired in late 2020 and today held in perpetuity by the tribe, will ensure protection of fisheries habitat and cultural resources by precluding or restricting additional development, especially in the Aquatic Zone A. It allows use of the property for a variety of activities, but does not allow permanent structures in protected areas (Zones A & B). Limited construction is permitted in two modest building envelopes (Zone C).

The tribe and the lodge welcome the public to attend this long-awaited dedication. Tribal



Talia Jean Galvin/Contributed Photo

Wallowa Lake Lodge sits on a 9.22-acre parcel at the head of Wallowa Lake. A portion of that property will be dedicated as a conservation easement Thursday, July 21, 2022, to the Nez Perce Tribe. A public ceremony begins at 10 a.m.

Chairman Sam Penney will lead the celebration to officially dedicate the easement. Others will comment on its cultural and scientific significance and the implications for future management of the Wallowa Lake Basin.

Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands (Wallowology) and Oregon State Parks worked closely with the tribe and the lodge to help bring this unique partnership to fruition.

Funding for the \$1M project includes grants from the Collins Foundation, the Healy Foundation, the Oregon Community Foundation, the Muddock Charitable Trust, the Meyer Memorial Trust and the Pacific Power Foundation. As well, Craft3, a bank based in Astoria, and the Bank of Eastern Oregon, played critical roles.

A private lunch will follow the celebration.

Enterprise to receive another \$221K

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — A second round of funding from the federal government is due to arrive in August, the Enterprise City Council found out recently.

City Administrator Lacey McQuead said \$221,795 is expected under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

The city received \$221,546 under the first round of funding last summer, McQuead said.

The council has received a list of anticipated expenditures the ARPA funds are expected to cover. Since the city did not know for sure how much it would receive,

the council has yet to give its final approval on those expenditures.

Of the ARPA funds, \$28,000 is expected to go to the city’s Administrative Department to repave the tennis courts, for playground equipment at the baseball field and for extra room at Enterprise City Hall.

The Library Department is expected to receive \$2,500 to replace filters for its air-purifying systems.

The Enterprise Police Department is slated to receive \$75,000 for either a records-management system or a patrol vehicle.

The Enterprise Fire Department has requested \$86,000 for a fire truck.

The Public Works Department is to receive \$159,500 for a sweeper, a mower and for paver.

Another \$20,000 is earmarked to go to businesses in the city in answer to their applications for assistance.

Local residents have requested \$10,000 to help with bills through Community Connection.

Another \$29,924.51 is expected to go into the general fund for community projects under Opportunity Funds.

Of previously allocated funds, \$32,416.87 remains available and is expected to go to the police department.

The council also con-

sidered a request from the Enterprise High School coaching staff for funding to replace the current backstop at the baseball field.

Jim Nave, who spoke on behalf of the coaching staff, said the current backstop is unsafe and it has been many years since improvements to it were completed.

McQuead said she understood the school was asking for \$30,286, as reflected by a quote submitted. She also suggested that Nave submit a quote to replace the dugout and look into any other funding available.

The council agreed to table the matter until Aug. 8 and will discuss it further then.

IN BRIEF

Firefighters contain shed fire July 16 on Starr Lane

UNION COUNTY — A shed fire on Starr Lane between La Grande and Imbler on Saturday, July 16, caused damage but no one was injured.

The fire started late in the afternoon. A house near the burning shed was never threatened, according to the La Grande Rural Fire Department.

Firefighters from the La Grande, La Grande Rural and Imbler fire depart-

ments and the Oregon Department of Forestry responded to the fire.

No one injured in La Grande fire on Spruce Street

LA GRANDE — No injuries were reported in a late-afternoon fire on North Spruce Street just south of Riverside Park on Friday, July 15.

The fire was reported at about 5 p.m. and started among a pile of household items outside a home. A U-Haul trailer nearby was dam-

aged by the blaze, according to Craig Kretschmer, chief of the La Grande Rural Fire Department.

Nine firefighters from the La Grande Rural and the La Grande Fire departments quickly extinguished the fire. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

Traffic control at the Spruce Street site was provided during and after the fire by the La Grande Police Department and the Union County Sheriff’s Office.

—The Observer

Drivers urged to use caution on I-84

Meacham-Kamela project should be complete by fall

By DICK MASON
The Observer

MEACHAM — People driving between the Kamela and Meacham exits on Interstate 84 this summer are experiencing a little bit of what it was like to make the journey more than five decades ago.

The only roadway between La Grande and Pendleton then was the two-lane Highway 30, a far cry from Interstate 84, which has at least two eastbound and two westbound lanes. Today, however, a portion of Interstate 84 is virtually a two-lane highway between Meacham and Kamela due to restoration work by the Oregon Department of Transportation being conducted on the freeway.

Presently, a portion of the freeway between Meacham and Kamela, which normally is only a westbound section, is now a two-lane roadway with vehicles going opposite directions in each lane to allow the adjacent two lanes of eastbound freeway next to them to be restored.

Cones have been installed to divide the two lanes of traffic. The speed limit is being reduced from 70 to 50 mph in the work zone of the project to protect travelers and those working at the site.

Motorists are being urged to drive with extra caution while this work, which is expected to continue through early fall, is conducted.

ODOT spokesperson Tom Strandberg is encouraging people planning on going through this section of the I-84 to leave earlier than normal to allow for more time to reach their destination so they are not tempted to rush through the construction zone, where extreme caution is needed.

“People make bad decisions when they are in a hurry,” Strandberg said.

The Oregon State Police, working in cooperation with ODOT, have an increased presence in the work zone to discourage people from speeding through it.

The two-year, \$39 million Meacham-Kamela project started in 2021. Oregon Department of Transportation crews restored roadway in the westbound and eastbound lanes of I-84 for 3-1/2 miles east of Meacham before shutting down for the winter. ODOT is on pace to restore the remaining miles of freeway for the project by early fall, Strandberg said.

The repaving work is necessary because severe winter weather and heavy use of tire chains have rutted the roadway’s asphalt surface.

“Puddles of water can form in the ruts,” Strandberg said.

The puddles can cause vehicles to lose control, he said, and when they freeze they create even more hazardous conditions. Preventing such conditions from occurring is an objective of ODOT this summer.

“Ruts are dangerous,” Strandberg said. “We want to keep the pavement smooth.”

The westbound and eastbound lanes for slow traffic, now made of asphalt, are being rebuilt with concrete, and the fast lanes are receiving new asphalt.

Strandberg said concrete, which is longer-lasting than asphalt, is the best fit for the slow lanes because they have such heavy truck traffic. Concrete is more expensive than asphalt but the extra cost is worth it.

“Asphalt lasts 10 to 15 years but concrete can last at least 35 years,” Strandberg said.