

TODAY

In 1958, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II named the first four women to peerage in the House of Lords.

In 1967, five days of deadly rioting erupted in Detroit as an early morning police raid on an unlicensed bar resulted in a confrontation with local residents, escalating into violence that spread into other parts of the city; 43 people, mostly Blacks, were killed.

In 1982, actor Vic Morrow and two child actors, 7-year-old Myca Dinh Le and 6-year-old Renee Shin-Yi Chen, were killed when a helicopter crashed on top of them during filming of a Vietnam War scene for "Twilight Zone: The Movie." (Director John Landis and four associates were later acquitted of manslaughter charges.)

In 1983, an Air Canada Boeing 767 ran out of fuel while flying from Montreal to Edmonton; the pilots were able to glide the jetliner to a safe emergency landing in Gimli, Manitoba. (The near-disaster occurred because the fuel had been erroneously measured in pounds instead of kilograms at a time when Canada was converting to the metric system.)

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush announced his choice of Judge David Souter of New Hampshire to succeed the retiring Justice William J. Brennan on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1996, at the Atlanta Olympics, Kerri Strug made a heroic final vault despite torn ligaments in her left ankle as the U.S. women gymnasts clinched their first-ever Olympic team gold medal.

In 1997, the search for Andrew Cunanan, the suspected killer of designer Gianni Versace and others, ended as police found his body on a houseboat in Miami Beach, an apparent suicide.

In 1999, space shuttle Columbia blasted off with the world's most powerful X-ray telescope and Eileen Collins, the first woman to command a U.S. space flight.

In 2003, Massachusetts' attorney general issued a report saying clergy members and others in the Boston Archdiocese probably had sexually abused more than 1,000 people over a period of six decades.

In 2006, Tiger Woods became the first player since Tom Watson in 1982-83 to win consecutive British Open titles.

In 2011, singer Amy Winehouse, 27, was found dead in her London home from accidental alcohol poisoning.

In 2019, Boris Johnson won the contest to lead Britain's governing Conservative Party, putting him in line to become the country's prime minister the following day.

In 2020, the virus-delayed and shortened major league baseball season began with the World Series champion Washington Nationals hosting the New York Yankees at an empty Nationals Park; Dr. Anthony Fauci threw out the ceremonial first ball. (The Yankees won, 4-1, in a game halted by rain.)

Today's birthdays: Retired Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy is 86. Actor Ronny Cox is 84. Actor Larry Manetti is 79. Rock singer David Essex is 75. Singer-songwriter-politician John Hall is 74. Actor Belinda Montgomery is 72. Rock musician Blair Thornton (Bachman Turner Overdrive) is 72. Actor-writer Lydia Cornell is 69. Actor Woody Harrelson is 61. Rock musician Martin Gore (Depeche Mode) is 61. Actor Eriq LaSalle is 60. Rock musician Slash is 57. Model-actor Stephanie Seymour is 54. R&B singer Sam Watters is 52. Country singer Alison Krauss is 51. R&B singer Dalvin DeGrate is 51. Actor-comedian Marlon Wayans is 50. Country singer Shannon Brown is 49. Actor Kathryn Hahn is 49. Retired MLB All-Star Nomar Garciaparra is 49. Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky is 49. R&B singer Michelle Williams is 42. Actor Daniel Radcliffe is 33. Country musician Neil Perry is 32. Actor Lili Simmons is 29.

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 20, 2022
Megabucks
2-11-22-32-33-43
Jackpot: \$3.7 million
Lucky Lines
2-6-9-14-17-24-26-29
Estimated jackpot: \$18,000
Powerball
10-20-23-49-65
Powerball: 22
Power Play: 3
Jackpot: \$119 million
Win for Life
2-22-52-63
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 1-4-6-7
4 p.m.: 6-7-2-3
7 p.m.: 0-6-4-6
10 p.m.: 6-9-7-5
Thursday, July 21, 2022
Lucky Lines
1-5-9-16-20-24-28-30
Jackpot: \$19,000
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 2-1-2-4
4 p.m.: 1-4-8-8
7 p.m.: 0-8-1-3
10 p.m.: 6-7-6-9

Heat wave is coming our way

Northeastern Oregon will have hot days and warm nights

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A heat wave will be hitting Northeastern Oregon over the next week, one which Union County will not escape.

It will be bring in the hottest weather the region has experienced this year, said Rob Brooks, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Pendleton.

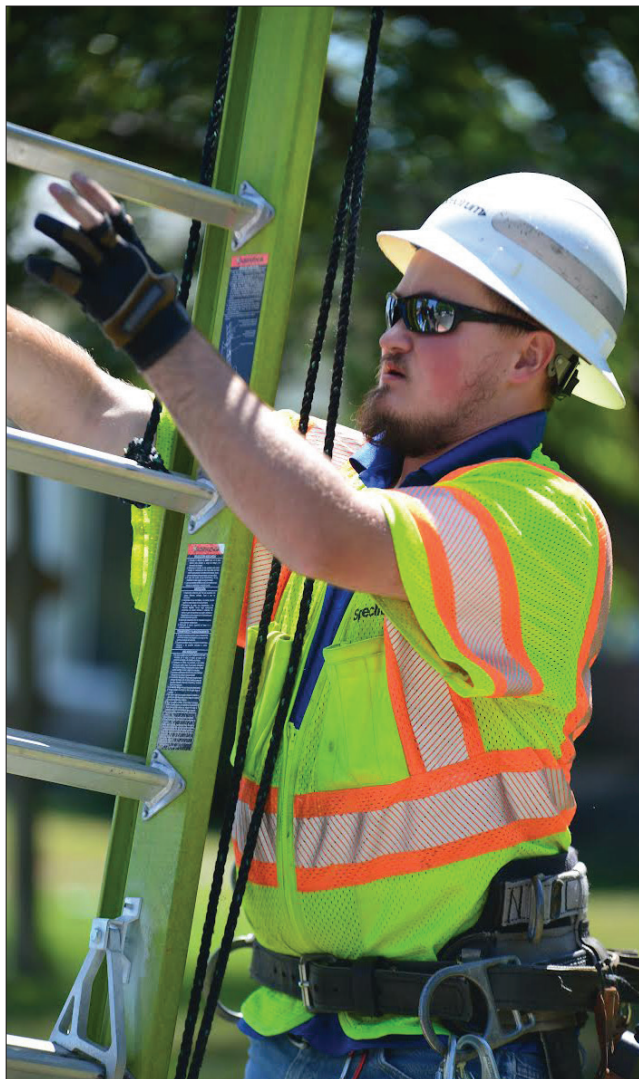
"It is going to be toasty. It is important that people start planning for how they are going to handle this heat," Brooks said on Thursday, July 21.

The National Weather Service is projecting highs in the mid to high 90s starting on Sunday, July 24, peaking at 100 degrees on Thursday, July 28.

The highs concern Brooks but the projected lows are just as concerning. The meteorologist said many of the low temperatures projected for Northeastern Oregon will be at or approaching 70 degrees.

"Recovery time will be down," he said. "People will have less opportunity to cool off their core body temperature."

In La Grande, this will be particularly true July



Dick Mason/The Observer
Landon Wilder, of Cove, a Spectrum field technician, works in sweltering heat in La Grande on Thursday, July 21, 2022.

26-28 when the average low temperature will be a relatively warm 66 degrees, even though the average high temperature for these three days is forecast to be 98 degrees.

"People will need to find ways to cool off at night," Brooks said. It will be even hotter

in Pendleton during this three-day period, with projected highs to be 104 degrees and average lows expected to be 68 degrees.

La Grande and Pendleton typically experience their hottest temperatures in the last week of July and the first two or three days of August, according to

Jim Smith, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Pendleton.

Brooks, the coach of a youth boxing club in Pendleton, is so concerned about the projected hot weather that he is giving his boxers the option of not coming to practice next week. He said he does not know how many of his boxers have air conditioning in their homes to help lower their core body temperatures at night.

Pendleton will be hotter than La Grande over the next six days because of its lower elevation, Brooks said. La Grande has an elevation of 2,785 feet, while Pendleton sits at 1,200 feet. Temperatures will be lower in Enterprise, which has an elevation of 3,757 feet, because it is higher, but the Wallowa Valley will not escape the heat wave.

Enterprise's projected to climb to 95 degrees by July 28.

The projected Northeastern Oregon heat wave will hit about a year after a blistering one hit the region. That weather event, caused by a high-pressure system described by many as a heat dome that blocked all weather systems out of the region, broke many high temperature records. Brooks does not expect the upcoming heat wave to shatter any records, but he said it poses a threat to people because of its projected prolonged nature.

"I'm not concerned about records," he said. "I'm concerned about safety."

Open house slated for bridge project

Oregon Department of Transportation plans to replace Meacham Creek and Union Pacific Railroad Bridge

By **SHANNON GOLDEN**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Department of Transportation plans to replace the Meacham Creek and Union Pacific Railroad Bridge in 2024, a project that will cost an estimated \$6.9 million.

According to ODOT, the bridge, located on the I-84 Frontage Road at milepost 239, is structurally deficient and does not provide adequate clearance between piers and the railroad tracks.

"We do routine bridge inspections every two years, and that's how it was deter-

mined that we needed to replace this bridge," said Erin Winterton, a transportation project manager working on the Meacham Bridge renovation.

ODOT noted several concerns about the bridge in their report, including the poor condition of the rail and deck, severe concrete deterioration, cracks in the pavement and concrete grinders, insufficient clearance between the piers and the railroad tracks and the bridge's one-way traffic allotment.

Winterton noted that on ODOT's sufficiency rating

scale, the bridge, which was built in 1925, scored 38.5 out of 100. "The bridge deck and the bridge rail especially need attention," she said.

Due to a variety of maintenance needs and increasing maintenance costs, the department opted to replace the bridge completely rather than make repairs to the existing one. The project involves removing the existing bridge and constructing a wider one that accommodates two-way truck traffic and that has sufficient clearance.

The project will go out to bid in September 2023 and construction is scheduled for the spring and summer of 2024. According to ODOT, the project will require a road closure. Vehicles will

be able to make a detour around the construction via I-84 Exit 234.

The department will provide more information about the project's impacts closer to construction.

There will be an in-person open house for those interested in learning more about the project on July 26 at 5 pm at the ODOT Meacham Maintenance Station, located at 64462 Old Oregon Trail Road, Meacham, 97859.

ODOT encourages local residents and businesses to visit the project's website for more information. For those who want to keep up-to-date on the project, the department offers Northeast a sign-up on the website for Northeast Oregon news releases.

Young La Grande mother suffers cardiac arrest

GoFundMe page set up for Vanessa Durfee's family

By **TRISH YERGES**
For The Observer

LA GRANDE — A La Grande woman, Vanessa Durfee, 26, the daughter of Sharee Henderson and Ed Durfee of Elgin, suffered a sudden cardiac arrest at her residence on Sunday, July 17.

Her 6-year-old daughter found her unresponsive and alerted Vanessa's partner, Troy Jones, who immediately called 911 for emergency medical assistance. According to her aunt, Sandra Roda, Durfee was intubated and admitted July 17 to the intensive care unit at Grande Ronde

Hospital, where she has undergone tests to determine the cause of her condition. To date no medical reason can be ascertained.

"The doctors have done all the testing they can do, and there's no explained reason why Vanessa had a sudden cardiac arrest," Roda said. "They performed a drug screening, and it was negative, so there's no known reason for this. We're also unsure how long she was without oxygen. She might have gone without oxygen for up to 20 minutes. Right now, she's sedated and has some major brain swelling due to the time she was without oxygen."

The physicians will be reevaluating Durfee's condition on July 23, said Roda, who works as a neurological trauma nurse in ICU at Sacred

HOW TO DONATE
To make a donation to help Vanessa Durfee and her family, go to <https://gofund.me/0aa91a02>.

Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Washington.

Durfee is a graduate of Elgin High School and is currently a stay-at-home mother of two daughters, ages 6 and 1. The family has established a GoFundMe page to help the young family with the costs related to her medical emergency and her absence from home.

"As a longtime resident of the community, anything the community can give her would be extremely beneficial," Roda said.

NEWS BRIEFS

EOU's board of trustees to hold annual retreat in Boardman

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University's board of trustees will hold its 2022 annual retreat Aug. 8-9 in Boardman.

The meetings will include engagement with local and regional business leaders, local representatives and regional stakeholders to discuss the university's role in business, industry and education in the area.

Trustees will host a public reception from 5-6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8, in the SAGE Center Gallery. The public is invited to attend the recep-

tion and share their EOU stories and hear comments from President Tom Insko and the board's chair, Richard Chaves.

"The board of trustees intentionally holds its retreat in different locations to better understand the regions EOU serves," Tim Seydel, vice president for university advancement, said. "This is a great opportunity for community members, alumni and friends to meet with trustees and the president and hear about what we are doing, and for EOU to learn more about the needs of the area."

During the retreat, the board also plans to host panels on economic development and education and con-

duct regular business. A full agenda will be made available in early August.

NP's city hall temporarily without phone service

NORTH POWDER — The city of North Powder is moving its city hall into its old fire station.

North Powder's city hall will not have phone service until at least Wednesday, July 27, due to the move, according to city officials.

Residents can reach city officials with an emergency by phone at 541-975-0422.

Fire danger continues to climb

ODF fire managers raised public use restrictions July 22

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Rising fire danger, due to drier and warmer conditions, prompted the Oregon Department of Forestry to increase public use restrictions in Northeastern Oregon.

The added public use restrictions — which went into effect at 12:01 a.m. July 22 — are intended to prevent or minimize human-caused wildfires and to protect natural resources and public health and safety.

"This year has been unique in the sense that we are seeing large fires around the region several weeks ahead of when we would normally expect them. With the thunderstorms that have been hitting the area, we must consider our options in reducing the number of preventable fires," said Steve Meyer, Baker Wildland fire supervisor.

Public use restrictions are being amped up because measurements that fire managers use to estimate seasonal fire severity are indicating extreme fire conditions across the region, according to an Oregon Department of Forestry press release.

The restrictions now in place include the following fire prevention measures:

- Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires.
- Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed. Propane firepits are not allowed.
- Debris burning is prohibited, including the use of burn barrels.
- Nonindustrial chainsaw use is prohibited.
- Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water, or at a cleared area free of flammable vegetation.
- The use of motor vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles is prohibited except on improved roads, except in the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.
- Possession of the following firefighting equipment is required while traveling, except on state highways, county roads and driveways: a shovel and a gallon of water or a 2-1/2 pound fire extinguisher.
- The cutting, grinding and welding of metal is prohibited.
- The mowing of dried and cured grass with power-driven equipment is prohibited.
- The use of fireworks is prohibited.
- The use of exploding targets is prohibited, as is the use of tracer ammunition or any bullet with a pyrotechnic charge in its base.
- Any electric fence controller in use must be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory or be certified by the Department of Consumer Business Services, and operated in compliance with manufacturer's instructions.

The Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests, as well as Bureau of Land Management lands are currently under public use restrictions in Northeastern Oregon. Fire restrictions for these forests can be found at www.bmidc.org.

FIRE DANGER STATUS
Current information on fire danger status in Northeastern Oregon is available at www.bluemountainfireinfo.blogspot.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/oregondeptofforestryNEO/