

TODAY

In 1790, the U.S. Coast Guard had its beginnings as President George Washington signed a measure authorizing a group of revenue cutters to enforce tariff and trade laws and prevent smuggling.

In 1830, plans for the city of Chicago were laid out.

In 1916, the United States reached agreement with Denmark to purchase the Danish Virgin Islands for \$25 million.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the second of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he prevailed in the long jump over German Luz Long, who was the first to congratulate him.

In 1944, 15-year-old diarist Anne Frank was arrested with her sister, parents and four others by the Gestapo after hiding for two years inside a building in Amsterdam. (Anne and her sister, Margot, died at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.)

In 1964, the bodies of missing civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney were found buried in an earthen dam in Mississippi.

In 1972, Arthur Bremer was convicted and sentenced in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, to 63 years in prison for his attempt on the life of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace (the sentence was later reduced to 53 years; Bremer was released from prison in 2007).

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed a measure establishing the Department of Energy.

In 1987, the Federal Communications Commission voted 4-0 to abolish the Fairness Doctrine, which required radio and television stations to present balanced coverage of controversial issues.

In 1993, a federal judge sentenced Los Angeles police officers Stacey Koon and Laurence Powell to 2 1/2 years in prison for violating Rodney King's civil rights.

In 2009, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il pardoned American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee for entering the country illegally and ordered their release during a surprise visit by former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

In 2019, a masked gunman fired on revelers enjoying summer nightlife in a popular entertainment district of Dayton, Ohio, leaving nine people dead and 27 wounded; police said officers shot and killed the shooter within 30 seconds of the start of his rampage.

In 2020, nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been improperly stored for years in the port of Beirut, Lebanon, exploded, killing more than 200 people, injuring more than 6,000 and devastating nearby neighborhoods; it was one of the largest non-nuclear explosions ever recorded.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Tina Cole is 79. Actor-comedian Richard Belzer is 78. Football Hall of Famer John Riggins is 73. Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is 67. Actor-screenwriter Billy Bob Thornton is 67. Actor Kym Karath (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 64. Hall of Fame track star Mary Decker Slaney is 64. Actor Lauren Tom is 63. Former President Barack Obama is 61. Producer Michael Gelman (TV: "Live with Kelly & Ryan") is 61. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Roger Clemens is 60. Actor Crystal Chappell is 57. Author Dennis Lehane is 57. Rock musician Rob Cieka (Boo Radleys) is 54. Actor Daniel Dae Kim is 54. Actor Michael DeLuise is 53. Former race car driver Jeff Gordon is 51. Rapper-actor Yo-Yo is 51. R&B singer-actor Marques Houston is 41. Britain's Duchess of Sussex, the former actor Meghan Markle, is 41. Actor Abigail Spencer is 41. Actor/director Greta Gerwig is 39. Country singer Crystal Bowersox (TV: "American Idol") is 37. Actors Dylan and Cole Sprouse are 30. Singer Jessica Sanchez (TV: "American Idol") is 27.

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, Aug. 1, 2022

Megabucks
4-9-24-28-35-43
Estimated jackpot: \$4.2 million

Lucky Lines
2-5-9-15-19-24-25-30
Estimated jackpot: \$30,000

Win for Life
15-55-57-74

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 9-1-0-4
4 p.m.: 5-9-8-1
7 p.m.: 2-4-5-9
10 p.m.: 9-1-1-6

Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022

Mega Millions
10-14-25-37-63
Mega Ball: 14
Megaplier: 3
Estimated jackpot: \$36 million

Lucky Lines
2-6-12-15-17-23-25-31
Estimated jackpot: \$31,000

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 5-0-4-1
4 p.m.: 9-4-7-7
7 p.m.: 9-8-4-9
10 p.m.: 4-0-6-0



Dick Mason/The Observer

The city of North Powder has two wastewater ponds, one of which is shown here on Friday, July 22, 2022. The device shown on this pond is an aerator that adds oxygen to the water. The city is hoping to add a evaporation wastewater pond in the near future.

North Powder wastewater upgrade project still alive

Project would add third pond to city's wastewater treatment system

By **DICK MASON**

The Observer

NORTH POWDER — A drive to upgrade the city of North Powder's wastewater treatment system is still a go despite setbacks earlier this year.

"I feel optimistic about it," said Mike Morse, a member of the North Powder City Council.

The drive hit turbulent waters in the spring

when the city of North Powder put the project out to bid. Just one firm submitted a bid and it was well above what the city, which has received a \$1.9 million federal Community Block Grant for the project, could afford, according to City Recorder Beth Wendt.

The city may begin accepting bids for the project for a second time this fall, Wendt said, adding she thinks the bids may come in lower because more firms likely will be involved. "We hope there will be more competition," she said.

More firms will likely be bidding then, Wendt said, because in the

fall months contractors are scheduling projects for the upcoming year, unlike in the spring when many are booked solid for the summer and fall.

The centerpiece of the proposed upgrade project is the creation of a third pond for the city's wastewater system. Treated wastewater from the two ponds North Powder currently has now would be pumped through a pipe to the new pond where the wastewater would evaporate.

Presently, some wastewater from the two ponds is periodically discharged into the North Powder River.

This usually occurs in the winter when the water levels in the two ponds are near capacity. Wendt said the addition of an evaporation pond will make it easier for the city to meet rising Oregon Department of Environmental Quality standards.

Should bids for the proposed upgrade project still come in high this fall, Wendt said the city council may consider applying for another government grant and possibly a loan to help it finance the work. Wendt said it also may look into completing the project more gradually in less expensive smaller segments.

Lower temps in the forecast

Cooler air from the Pacific will lower temperatures in Union, Wallowa counties

By **DICK MASON**

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Cool, moist air flowing in from the Pacific Ocean will keep temperatures more bearable in Union and Wallowa counties this week.

Temperatures are projected to be down significantly from late July, at least through this weekend, according to Jim Smith, a meteorologist with the

National Weather Service office in Pendleton.

"There is a southwesterly flow which is bringing in cooler moist air," he said.

The daily highs in La Grande are projected to average 89.2 degrees through Monday, Aug. 8, below the broiling four-day stretch La Grande experienced from July 27-30, when the daily high averaged nearly 103 degrees.

The average high temperature in Joseph through Monday, Aug. 8, is projected to be 83.2 degrees, a big drop from the July 27-31 stretch when Joseph had an average daily high of 95.8 degrees.

Cooler moist air flowing in from the Pacific is not the only reason temperatures are expected

to be down in Union and Wallowa counties. A second reason is the smoke from large wildfires burning in Northern California. Smith said smoke from these fires, including the McKinney Fire in the Klamath National Forest near the Oregon-California border which exploded over the weekend, is now high above Northeast Oregon. The smoke is keeping the ground from heating up as much by blocking solar radiation, Smith said.

The smoke is not projected to have a major impact on local air quality in the near future. The website IQAir.com listed La Grande's air quality as moderate on Aug. 3 and projects it will be good on Aug. 4 and Aug. 5.

ODF restricts land use for fire danger

Wallowa County Chieftain

LA GRANDE — As conditions across Northeastern Oregon have shifted to warmer and drier weather in the height of summer, the Oregon Department of Forestry's Northeast Oregon District has increased public use restrictions on lands protected by ODF, according to a press release.

"This year has been unique with a slow start to warmer and drier conditions," said Matt Hoehna, assistant district forester. "However, with extreme heat this last week, the vegetation and fuels have changed dramatically. It does not take long for a fire to ignite and carry with the drier fuels that

we are seeing in the district. We must consider our options in reducing the number of preventable fires."

Effective Wednesday, Aug. 3, the ODF added restrictions for lands within the district. The restrictions affect both landowners and the general public.

The regulated use closure affects private, state, county, municipal and tribal lands in seven counties: Baker, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and small portions of Grant, Malheur and Morrow counties.

The restrictions include the following fire-prevention measures:

- Open fires are prohibited, even at designated campgrounds, including campfires,

charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires.

- Nonindustrial use of chain saws is prohibited.

- Internal combustion engine use, except for motor vehicles is prohibited.

- Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water or at a cleared area.

- Use of motor vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles is prohibited except on improved roads, except for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.

- Cutting, grinding and welding of metal is prohibited.

- Mowing of dried and cured grass with power driven equipment

is prohibited.

- Use of fireworks is prohibited.

- Any electric fence controller in use shall be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory or be certified by the Department of Consumer and Business Services and operated in compliance with manufacturer's instructions.

Aside from these restrictions, also prohibited is the use of exploding targets and tracer ammunition. Debris burning is prohibited, which includes burned piles and burn barrels.

These restrictions shall remain in effect until replaced, suspended, or terminated by additional proclamations.

IN BRIEF

Nez Perce National Historical Park ranger to speak Aug. 9

JOSEPH — A ranger from the Nez Perce National Historical Park will speak at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture at noon on Tuesday, Aug. 9.

The park is unique in that its sites are not all connected, and not even all "owned" by the National Park Service. Some of them, including the Old Chief Joseph Grave Site at Wallowa Lake, the Joseph Canyon Overlook and the Dug Bar crossing site on the Snake River, are in Wallowa County.

The park celebrates Nez Perce history and culture, and chronicles the path of the War of 1877. The park headquarters and a visitor center are in Spalding, Idaho, up the Clearwater River from Lewiston.

Those interested are invited to come with their questions about why some places are in and others not. Find out about battlefield commemorations and other events celebrated by the national park.

Teachers and educators are invited to stay for a 2 p.m. session on teaching Nez Perce history and culture. The Joseph Center is developing boxes of Nez Perce teaching materials — each elementary school in the county will get its own box of materials — and park staff will be here to provide more materials and information for educators.

For more information, contact Rich Wandschneider at the center at 541-432-0505.

New 4-H club brings back familiar name

LOSTINE — There is a new 4-H club in the lower valley. The club includes Cloverbuds (grades K-third) and Juniors (grades fourth through sixth).

The Junior division members are working on large-animal projects including pig, goat and sheep projects for the Wallowa County Fair. The club meets at the Southfork Grange in Lostine and members volunteered as helpers at the Southfork Grange's May Day event.

Club members are doing a horticulture activity during the spring season with volunteer instructor June Colony. The club members are also interested in learning about photography, cooking and sewing.

The adult leader of the club is Sadie Kennedy. Lostine Rascal 4-H Club officers are: President Camelia St George, Vice President Dillon Wortman, Secretary Chenoa Brockman, Treasurer Tallynn Clary, Sergeant of Arms Edith Kennedy and Reporter Lydia Hawkins-Hogrefe.

La Grande youth new junior member of Angus group

SAINT JOSEPH, Mo. — Whitley Gunderson, of La Grande, is a new junior member of the American Angus Association, according to Mark McCully, chief executive officer of the national organization with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

Junior members of the association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the National Junior Angus Association and take part in association-sponsored shows and other national and regional events.

Anthony Creek Fire near North Powder is contained

NORTH POWDER — A small wildfire 15 miles west of North Powder that broke out Sunday, July 31, is now contained.

The Anthony Creek Fire was contained at 6:09 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 2, according to the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center. The fire, less than 1 acre in size and ignited by lightning, was reported at 6:17 p.m. on July 31.

Planes dropped fire retardant and helicopters deposited water on it for much of Aug. 1. Hand crews were also sent to the fire, which did not threaten any structures. The fire has burned timber and slash but has not caused any injuries.

The fire is in the Webfoot area and has been difficult place to reach, according to Hunter Petrucci, of the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center. Petrucci said some old roads had to be opened to allow crews to get to the fire.

Also on Aug. 2, a small fire in the Jubilee Lake area, 18 miles north of Elgin, was quickly extinguished by a fire crew sent by Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center. The fire, one-tenth of an acre and human caused, was reported at 5:20 p.m. and was contained by 5:59 p.m. Nobody was injured and no structures were threatened by the fire.