

TODAY

In 1305, Scottish rebel leader Sir William Wallace was executed by the English for treason.

In 1775, Britain's King George III proclaimed the American colonies to be in a state of "open and avowed rebellion."

In 1914, Japan declared war against Germany in World War I.

In 1927, amid worldwide protests, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed in Boston for the murders of two men during a 1920 robbery. (On the 50th anniversary of their executions, then-Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis issued a proclamation that Sacco and Vanzetti had been unfairly tried and convicted.)

In 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to a non-aggression treaty, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, in Moscow.

In 1973, a bank robbery-turned-hostage-taking began in Stockholm, Sweden; the four hostages ended up empathizing with their captors, a psychological condition now referred to as "Stockholm Syndrome."

In 2000, A Gulf Air Airbus crashed into the Persian Gulf near Bahrain, killing all 143 people aboard.

In 2003, former priest John Geoghan, the convicted child molester whose prosecution sparked the sex abuse scandal that shook the Roman Catholic Church nationwide, died after another inmate attacked him in a Massachusetts prison.

In 2004, President George W. Bush criticized a political commercial accusing Democratic nominee John Kerry of inflating his own Vietnam War record, and said broadcast attacks by outside groups had no place in the race for the White House.

In 2008, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama introduced his choice of running mate, Sen. Joe Biden, of Delaware, before a crowd outside the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois.

In 2011, a magnitude 5.8 earthquake centered near Mineral, Virginia, the strongest on the East Coast since 1944, caused cracks in the Washington Monument and damaged Washington National Cathedral.

In 2013, a military jury convicted Maj. Nidal Hasan in the deadly 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, that claimed 13 lives; the Army psychiatrist was later sentenced to death. Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, the U.S. soldier who'd massacred 16 Afghan civilians, was sentenced at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to life in prison with no chance of parole.

In 2020, a white police officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin, shot a Black man, Jacob Blake, seven times as officers tried to arrest Blake on an outstanding warrant; the shooting left Blake partially paralyzed and triggered several nights of violent protests. (Blake, who was shot as he was about to get into an SUV with a pocketknife that had fallen from his pants, later said he'd been prepared to surrender after putting the knife in the vehicle. Officer Rusten Sheskey was not charged.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Vera Miles is 92. Actor Barbara Eden is 91. Political satirist Mark Russell is 90. Pro Football Hall of Famer Sonny Jurgensen is 88. Actor Shelley Long is 73. Actor-singer Rick Springfield is 73. Queen Noor of Jordan is 71. Actor-producer Mark Hudson is 71. Actor Jay Mohr is 52. Actor Scott Caan is 46. Figure skater Nicole Bobek is 45. Basketball player Jeremy Lin is 34.

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

Friday, Aug. 19, 2022

MegaMillions

12-18-24-46-65

Megaball: 3

Megaplier: 4

Jackpot: \$116 million

Lucky Lines

2-5-12-14-18-23-27-29

Jackpot: \$17,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 9-5-0-0

4 p.m.: 8-4-6-6

7 p.m.: 2-8-5-8

10 p.m.: 1-8-8-2

Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022

Powerball

5-9-11-16-66

Powerball: 7

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$90 million

Megabucks

12-25-32-33-35-40

Jackpot: \$5 million

Lucky Lines

2-8-12-15-19-24-28-31

Jackpot: \$18,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 7-9-4-6

4 p.m.: 7-9-3-9

7 p.m.: 0-6-2-0

10 p.m.: 5-6-1-0

Win for Life

3-34-61-62

Sunday, Aug. 21, 2022

Lucky Lines

1-7-9-14-19-22-26-32

Estimated jackpot: \$19,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 3-6-3-0

4 p.m.: 8-6-7-0

7 p.m.: 9-6-4-9

10 p.m.: 9-5-2-5

LA GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Significant upgrades

La Grande schools to add vaping sensors at high school, middle school

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande School District is preparing to use electronics to prevent students from vaping.

The school district has purchased sensors that will detect vaping and will be installed in restrooms at La Grande High School and La Grande Middle School. The sensors, which have been ordered from the HALO Smart Sensor company in Bay Shore, New York, can detect vaping because they monitor air quality.

When the sensors detect vaping, smartphone messages will alert administrators at the high school and middle school, said Joseph Waite, the La Grande School District's facilities manager. Vaping is illegal in Oregon for those younger than 21 and it is prohibited on La Grande School District property.

LHS Assistant Principal Eric Freeman said the sensors will be a plus.

"We want restrooms

to be safe places for kids, free from vaping or anything that makes students feel uncomfortable," he said.

Vaping concerns him because people who do it can develop cravings for nicotine.

"It is a way to get addicted to tobacco and a gateway to bad habits or even drugs," Freeman said.

The assistant principal said it is not known how many LHS students vape, but he believes many have been in contact with others who vape and have been offered the chance to do it.

Freeman said it is hard to detect students who vape because the devices are not large.

"Some are as small as a pen and are easily hidden," he said, adding the smell of vaping is hard to detect.

La Grande Middle School Principal Chris Wagner also will welcome the sensors. He believes they will help prevent students from vaping in school and from starting to vape.



Isabella Crowley/The Observer, File

The La Grande School District plans to install sensors to detect vaping in restrooms at La Grande High School and La Grande Middle School before the start of the school year, Aug. 29, 2022.

"The best intervention is prevention," he said.

Wagner said there were several times in the past school year that students were found to be vaping. He said that because vaping is addictive, he wants to make sure any students found vaping receive the help they might need to stop.

Vaping is done with electronic devices known as e-cigarettes, which simulate tobacco smoking. The electronic device consists of a power source such as a battery and a container-like cartridge. Instead of smoke the user inhales vapor. Many vaping products

contain nicotine.

The new sensors are relatively small.

"They look like smoke detectors," Waite said.

The sensors will do more than alert administrators of vaping in restrooms — they will also notify administrators of loud noises and possible fights, Waite said.

The sensors are expected to arrive early next week. Installation will start shortly after they arrive.

"Our goal is to have them in before school starts," Waite said.

Classes start in the La Grande School District on Monday, Aug. 29.

Improvements occupied school district's summer

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Summer is a window of opportunity for school district grounds and maintenance crews as they race the clock to complete work that can only be done when buildings are vacant.

Beneficiaries of this summer's work include Island City Elementary School, where the aging concrete in its main entry area has been repaved.

"It has created a more even surface," said Joseph Waite, La Grande School District's facilities manager.

Waite noted the smoother surface will be much easier to remove snow from during the winter months, with no crevices to trap snow and ice. The repaving work was needed because the top layer of concrete had crumbled and exposed rock underneath, Waite said.

Restoration work of a different kind has been done at La Grande High School. Its six-year-old track has been repaired. Cracks have been sealed and the entire 400-meter oval has been recoated with a synthetic material.

Indoors, the high school's horticulture classroom has been converted into a lab where plants can be grown using hydroponics. A form of hydroculture, hydroponics involves growing plants, usually crops, without soil by using water-based mineral nutrient solutions.

Renovation work in the horticulture classroom included moving old manholes covered by metal grates and covering them with epoxy flooring. The manholes were a vestige of the school's former auto shop that operated in the large classroom.

Waite said the classroom is safer now. The manhole covers were a hazard to students because the legs

of chairs and tables could get caught in the grates. Fortunately, the grates caused no injuries, Waite said.

Carpeting has been installed at the high school in the office area near the main entrance, replacing carpeting that was at least 20 years old.

"I think it was the same carpeting the high school had when I was a student there," said Waite, who graduated from the high school in 2002.

At La Grande Middle School, a larger freezer was installed, which also necessitated electrical wiring work. The kitchen's refrigerator and old freezer were moved into an adjacent hallway. Shelves have also been rearranged in the kitchen this summer, creating more work space for staff, Waite said.

Also at the middle school, stairwells have been repaired and repainted, and additional security cameras have been installed.

Start of school to be delayed in Wallowa

By DICK MASON

The Observer

WALLOWA — The Wallowa School District is delaying the start of classes due to extensive damage caused by the hailstorm on Thursday, Aug. 11.

School will start on Monday, Aug. 29, said Wallowa School District Superintendent Tamera Jones.

"We want to give families and staff more time to get things cleaned up," she said. "This is a community tragedy."

Within the Wallowa community almost every roof was seriously damaged, cars were destroyed, windows were shattered, people sustained concussions and large trees were uprooted, Jones said.

Jones said it has been remarkable how people in the community have rallied to help one another out in the midst of the disaster.

"The response to the storm has really shown the strength of the Wallowa community and the surrounding area," she said. "Neighbors are helping neighbors and people are banding together. Support has come from everywhere."

On the Wallowa School District's campus, the roofs of all buildings were damaged so severely they will have to be replaced, Jones said. Tarps have been placed over the roofs of the high school gym and the building housing the school district's vocation-agriculture and music programs. Sealing work has been done



Dick Mason/The Observer

Trees are down in front of Wallowa High School on Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022, following a severe weather storm.

on the roofs of the other buildings as a temporary repair measure.

Water has leaked through a number of the roofs, causing damage to classrooms, the superintendent said.

The storm also destroyed the school dis-

trict's greenhouse, the scoreboard and its football field lights. She said the glass from the lights will have to be vacuumed from the football field.

Jones said that amazingly, only one window of a school district building was cracked during the storm.

Nobody hurt in early morning house fire

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — No people or animals were injured in a house fire at 61825 Riddle Road, early in the morning of Saturday, Aug. 20, but the blaze did do extensive damage.

The fire, which was reported at 4:26 a.m., destroyed the home's garage, which was connected to the house. The fire also did damage to the one-story home and destroyed a shed just east of its garage, a 2013 Keystone Energy trailer and a 2013 Ford Explorer, according to Jim Voelz, of the La Grande Rural Fire Department, who provides the department with investigative and support services.

A man and a woman, both of



Jim Voelz/Contributed Photo

A house fire on Riddle Road, La Grande, in the early morning of Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, caused extensive damage.

whom quickly escaped, were inside the house when the fire started, Voelz said. The woman discovered the fire after she heard a sound in the garage. She then opened a door to the garage and found it fully engulfed in flames.

The woman next alerted the man inside the home and opened a gate on the east side of the garage to let two dogs escape safely.

Crews from the La Grande Rural Fire Department, the La Grande Fire Department and the Imbler Rural Fire Department responded to the blaze. The fire was listed as contained at 5:06 a.m.

Firefighters remained at the scene of the fire until about 8:30 a.m.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, Voelz said.

The house fire was near the border of La Grande and Island City, about 300 yards north of Island Avenue and within the jurisdiction of the La Grande Rural Fire Department, which was in charge of extinguishing the fire.

Early Head Start classroom coming to La Grande

New Timber Ridge Apartments will provide the space

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The statistic is eye popping and Robert Kleng, the director of Eastern Oregon University Head Start, speaks of it with a sense of urgency.

Research, Kleng said, indicates that 80% of the development of our brains takes place during the first three years of life, a big reason why the educator is elated about the recent start of construction on the Timber Ridge Apartments complex, which is expected to be finished by the summer of 2023.

The 82-unit apartment complex is being built on a lot on East Q Avenue between 26th and 27th streets in northeast La Grande.

Plans for the apartment complex, which will provide housing for lower-income families and individuals and cost \$38.2 million, call for it to have a classroom for Early Head Start, a program that provides education services to infants and toddlers through age 3.

"I am over the moon excited," Kleng said of the opportunity to provide education services to infants and toddlers during such a critical time in their brain development.

Kleng is glad more people are beginning to appreciate just how extensive cerebral development is from birth to age 3.

"This has long been overlooked," he said.

Kleng is grateful for the support the builders of Timber Ridge Apartments have provided EOU Head Start.

"They built it in and did not charge us a dime," he said.

The classroom will be in an 8,000-square-foot community center at Timber Ridge Apartments.

Kleng said that without it, EOU Head Start would not have been able to offer Early Head Start in a classroom setting. He explained that it is possible to get grants for the operation of programs like Early Head Start but almost impossible to get grants for building of classroom structures.

EOU Head Start has an Early Head Start program, but it is a home-based program rather than operating in a central location. EOU Head Start staff make regular visits to families of children age 3 and younger. The program teaches parents how to best help with their child's development and shows parents they are a "child's first and important teacher," Kleng said.

The educator noted that one great thing about having an Early Head Start at Timber Ridge is that families participating in the program who live in the apartment complex "will be neighbors. This will create such a network of support," Kleng said.

The Early Head Start classroom at Timber Ridge will add to the network of EOU Head Start centers in La Grande, Elgin, Union and Baker City for 4- and 5-year-olds. The organization's services are available at no cost to qualifying families.

MORE INFORMATION

Timber Ridge Apartments in La Grande is being built by Hunt Capital Partners, of Encino, California, in collaboration with the Northeast Oregon Housing Authority and Community Development Partners Oregon, of Portland.