

TODAY

In 1718, hundreds of French colonists arrived in Louisiana, with some settling in present-day New Orleans.

In 1875, Capt. Matthew Webb became the first person to swim across the English Channel, getting from Dover, England, to Calais, France, in 22 hours.

In 1928, an expedition led by Richard E. Byrd set sail from Hoboken, N.J., on its journey to Antarctica.

In 1944, during World War II, Paris was liberated by Allied forces after four years of Nazi occupation.

In 1958, the game show "Concentration" premiered on NBC-TV.

In 1980, the Broadway musical "42nd Street" opened. (Producer David Merrick stunned the cast and audience during the curtain call by announcing that the show's director, Gower Champion, had died earlier that day.)

In 1981, the U.S. spacecraft Voyager 2 came within 63,000 miles of Saturn's cloud cover, sending back pictures of and data about the ringed planet.

In 1985, Samantha Smith, 13, the schoolgirl whose letter to Yuri V. Andropov resulted in her famous peace tour of the Soviet Union, died with her father in an airliner crash in Auburn, Maine, that also killed four other passengers and two crew members.

In 2001, R&B singer Aaliyah was killed with eight others in a plane crash in the Bahamas; she was 22.

In 2009, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the liberal lion of the U.S. Senate, died at age 77 in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, after a battle with a brain tumor.

In 2014, a funeral was held in St. Louis for Michael Brown, the Black 18-year-old who was shot to death by a police officer in suburban Ferguson.

In 2018, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who had spent years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam before a 35-year political career that took him to the Republican presidential nomination, died at the age of 81 after battling brain cancer for more than a year.

In 2020, two people were shot to death and a third was wounded as 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse opened fire with an AR-15-style rifle during a third night of protests in Kenosha, Wisconsin, over the police shooting of a Black man, Jacob Blake. (Rittenhouse, who was taken into custody in Illinois the next day, said he was defending himself after the three men attacked him as he tried to protect businesses from protesters; he was acquitted on all charges, including homicide.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Tom Skerritt is 89. Jazz musician Wayne Shorter is 89. Movie director Hugh Hudson is 86. Author Frederick Forsyth is 84. Movie director John Badham is 83. Filmmaker Marshall Brickman is 83. R&B singer Walter Williams (The O'Jays) is 79. Actor Anthony Heald is 78. Rock singer-actor Gene Simmons is 73. Actor John Savage is 73. Author Martin Amis is 73. Country singer-musician Henry Paul (Outlaws; Blackhawk) is 73. Rock singer Rob Halford is 71. Rock musician Geoff Downes (Asia) is 70. Rock singer Elvis Costello is 68. Movie director Tim Burton is 64. Actor Christian LeBlanc is 64. Actor Ashley Crow is 62. Actor Ally Walker is 61. Country singer Cyrus (AKA Billy Ray Cyrus) is 61. Actor Joanne Whalley is 61. Rock musician Vivian Campbell (Def Leppard) is 60. Actor Blair Underwood is 58. Actor Robert Maschio is 56. Rap DJ Terminator X (Public Enemy) is 56. Alternative country singer Jeff Tweedy (Wilco) is 55. Actor David Alan Basche is 54. Television chef Rachael Ray is 54. Actor Cameron Mathison is 53. Country singer Jo Dee Messina is 52. Model Claudia Schiffer is 52. Country singer Brice Long is 51. Actor Nathan Page is 51. Actor-writer-director Ben Falcone is 49. Actor Eric Millegan is 48. Actor Alexander Skarsgard is 46. Actor Jonathan Togo is 45. Actor Kel Mitchell is 44. Actor Rachel Bilson is 41. Actor Blake Lively is 35. Actor Josh Flitter is 28.

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. 22, 2022
Megabucks
25-32-33-35-36-40
Estimated jackpot: \$5.1 million
Lucky Lines
1-7-9-14-20-21-27-31
Estimated jackpot: \$20,000
Win for Life
32-38-41-63
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 1-5-9-3
4 p.m.: 1-2-4-9
7 p.m.: 3-4-5-4
10 p.m.: 2-1-1-3
Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022
Mega Millions
3-5-47-48-67
Mega Ball: 7
Megaplier: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$135 million
Lucky Lines
2-8-9-13-20-24-28-30
Estimated jackpot: \$21,000
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 4-1-8-6
4 p.m.: 2-8-1-0
7 p.m.: 7-0-1-0
10 p.m.: 1-5-3-7

Superintendent: 'We should be fine'

Insurance will cover many losses
Wallowa schools suffered due to the Aug. 11 hailstorm

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

WALLOWA — The severe hailstorm that battered the Wallowa School District's campus earlier this month will not shake the district's financial stability.

"Insurance should take care of everything we need. We should be fine," Wallowa School District Superintendent Tammy Jones said.

The superintendent said representatives of the school district's insurance companies have indicated that the Wallowa School District will have most of its losses covered. This means the new roofs needed for the school district's major buildings will be covered by insurance, Jones said. She said that as long as a building has a foundation, most restoration work will be covered.

The roof replacement will be done starting with the roofs most seriously damaged. The roof of the high school's gym and of the building that houses the school district's vocation-agriculture and music programs will be replaced first. Next the roof of Wal-



Jones



Katy Nesbitt/For the Wallowa County Chieftain

An onsite construction trailer sits at the Wallowa School District campus on Monday, Aug. 22, 2022. The trailer lost its windows during the Aug. 11 hailstorm.

lowa Elementary School will be replaced and finally the roof of Wallowa High School. The goal is to have all of the roofs replaced before winter, Jones said.

Temporary repair measures for the roofs have already been taken. 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 on the roofs of the elementary school and the high school.

Some water from the thunderstorm that brought the hail seeped through the damaged roofs. Computers and printers in classrooms were seriously damaged as a result but little else. Jones said it has not been determined if insurance will

cover the cost of replacing the computers and printers.

Items lost to the hailstorm include the school district's greenhouse, its Ford Expedition SUV, and the scoreboard and field lights at the football field. Jones said it is not known if insurance will cover these losses.

Another expense the Wallowa School District will have to pay for will be removing the glass that fell from the football field's lights. About half of the field will have to be vacuumed before games can be played on it, Jones said.

The Aug. 11 hailstorm that caused damage on the Wallowa School District campus struck the Wallowa community with equal force, leaving a high percentage of its homes with badly damaged roofs and

windows.

The school district will reach out to storm victims in a big way on Friday, Aug. 26, when it will conduct an open house from noon to 2 p.m. Many items will be provided to families at the event, including shoes, clothing, bedding and backpacks — items that will help the community's children be ready for the new school year. School will start in the Wallowa School District on Monday, Aug. 29, four days later than originally scheduled due to the storm.

Jones said the school district's staff wants to make sure everything possible is done to help families, especially their children.

"We want to make sure that the kids feel safe and cared for," Jones said.

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Grande Ronde Model Watershed to host joint volunteer event

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed are teaming up to celebrate National Public Lands Day on Saturday, Sept. 24.

The two organizations are hosting Public Lands Day at Bird Track Springs Restoration Site along the Grande Ronde River, about 14 miles southwest of La Grande.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The public is invited to engage in hands-on projects including trail maintenance, monitoring water quality, trash removal and art and storytelling activities. Free transportation to the event is available. A bus will depart at 8:30 a.m. from the Community Stadium parking lot. The bus will return at 1 p.m.

National Public Lands Day is celebrated annually across the nation on the fourth Saturday of September. Started by the National Environmental Education Founda-

tion, NPLD is the nation's largest single-day volunteer event for public lands, which include city parks to national parks and forests.

The Grande Ronde subbasin is a tributary to the Snake River and part of the Columbia River basin. The watershed sustains thousands of acres of forested and canyon lands throughout Northeast Oregon on public and private property and is home to spring Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, bull trout, resident

trout and other native fish species along with elk, deer, river otters, great gray owls, goshawks, bald eagles and many other wildlife species.

The long-term restoration vision for the Bird Track Springs Fish Habitat Enhancement Project is to improve physical and ecological processes by rehabilitating and restoring the river channel and floodplain to achieve immediate and long-term benefits to chinook, steelhead and bull trout at all life stages.

NEWS BRIEFS

Police release description of suspect in armed robbery

ISLAND CITY — The Union County Sheriff's Office has released information about the individual believed to be responsible for the armed robbery at Island City Market & Deli on Saturday, Aug. 20.

The suspect is a white male between 5-foot-9 and 5-foot-10. His last known direction of travel was south on South McAlister Lane. The individual left the store on foot.

Anyone who can identify this individual or has any information about him should call the Union County Sheriff's Office at 541-963-1017.

Nobody was hurt in the robbery, which occurred around 7:30 p.m. The robber left the store with an undisclosed amount of money, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Oregon's rural health care facilities receive federal aid

LA GRANDE — Oregon State Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley announced Thursday, Aug. 18, that \$346,000 in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be allocated to health care facilities in rural Oregon communities — including Union County.

Elgin Health District is one of the three recipients of these emergency rural health care grants. The district will use this \$49,900 investment to purchase equipment to start a telepharmacy and bolster capabilities to respond to COVID-19.

The city of Elgin has been without a pharmacy for 15 years. Residents must drive 20 miles to La Grande to pick up their prescription.

The Elgin Health District clinic, built in 2008, currently offers medical, dental and limited behavioral health services, but does not have a pharmacy.

"No matter your zip code, every Oregonian should have easy access to the care they need," Wyden said in the Thursday press release.

The health care clinic will use this funding to purchase and install telepharmacy equipment at the clinic location and at Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande, according to the press release.

Two other facilities — one in Clatsop County and one in Lane County — will also receive funding for what the Senate news release called a "Rural Development investment."

Of the funds, \$237,900 will be used to purchase two new food distribution trucks and food storage equipment for Clatsop Community Action food distribution facility in Warrenton.

In Lane County, South Lane Mental Health will receive \$58,200 to purchase a covered gazebo, picnic tables and chairs to facilitate outdoor COVID safe therapy sessions, as well as implement security and safety measures in the Cottage Grove office.

"This crucial funding will better equip Clatsop, Lane, and Union Counties with the tools needed to address hunger and improve health in the community, by updating existing food distribution facilities, making treatment facility improvements and ensuring easy and reliable access to pharmacies for our rural communities," Merkley said in the joint press statement on Thursday.

Traffic delays west of Wallowa planned

WALLOWA — Drivers can expect delays just west of Wallowa, as work continues on the bridge over the Wallowa River, the Oregon Department of Transportation announced.

Traffic will be controlled by flaggers or a temporary traffic signal there during working hours, and by the temporary traffic signal during nonworking hours. Delays of as much as 20 minutes 24/7. The signal is expected to remain in place until both travel lanes are available again early this fall.

The contractor is installing falsework — temporary framework structures — and constructing forms for construction of the new bridge concrete superstructure. Rebar placement will begin this week.

Washington man dies in cycle crash near Enterprise

ENTERPRISE — A Clarkston, Washington, man died Saturday, Aug. 20, as a result of injuries suffered in a single-vehicle motorcycle crash on Zumwalt Road near Enterprise, according to a press release from the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office.

Karl Daniel Schmidt, 34, was pronounced dead at the scene. The crash occurred less than a mile from Crow Creek Road.

Deputies, medics and Oregon State Police responded to the scene, the release stated.

No other information was available.

Schools getting COVID-ready

Little has changed since spring in Wallowa County classrooms

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — As Wallowa County schools prepare for a new school year, another look at keeping kids safe from COVID-19 is a major part of administrators' concerns.

Becky Nordtvedt, the new superintendent for the Wallowa County Educational Service District, said Thursday, Aug. 18, that each school district sets its own policies and those plans must be submitted to the Oregon Department of Education by Friday, Aug. 26 — or the first day of school, whichever is earliest.

The first day of school for Enterprise students is Monday, Aug. 29, while Joseph students go back Wednesday, Aug. 24. Wallowa students were to return Aug. 25, but damage to buildings caused by the Aug. 11 hailstorm delayed that to Aug. 29.

The Oregon Health Authority and the ODE held a press conference Wednesday, Aug. 18, to discuss any changes for the coming school year.

Colt Gill, ODE director, emphasized during the conference that nearly all health and safety protocols will be locally determined by district leaders in conjunction with local health officials.

Some statewide rules remain in effect, Nordtvedt confirmed, such as requiring vaccinations — or approved exceptions — for faculty and staff.

But most requirements, such as face masks, social distancing, ventilation protocols and testing for the coronavirus remain in local hands.

Nordtvedt said she is not aware of the specifics of each district's plan that will be submitted, but she believes they're all quite similar, since the county has a number of students who may live near one school and attend another.

"The beauty is all of our schools have very similar plans," she said. "In terms of what things looked like in the (past) spring, I think it'll be similar."

Last spring, the state lifted the requirement that students and staff wear face masks, but anyone is allowed to wear one if they choose.

However, she said, "Things can change if the COVID transmission rates change."

Tom Crane, superintendent at Enterprise schools, said district officials meet monthly instead of weekly with Dr. Elizabeth Powers at Wallowa Memorial Hospital and get updates on the current COVID situation, such as whether the number of cases is increasing or decreasing and the number of available hospital beds.

But this fall, there's little change from the spring, when much of local control returned. In March, districts changed to optional face masks, social distancing of 3 feet, daily monitoring for COVID symptoms and testing if one or more symptoms were discovered or a known exposure to someone sick with COVID was determined.

"That's where we'll be this year," Crane said.

"It's still about choice," he added. "We may have students and staff who want to wear masks and we encourage them to" if they choose.

Officials at Joseph Charter School were unavailable for comment.