

TODAY

In 1861, during the Civil War, Confederate forces invaded the border state of Kentucky, which had declared its neutrality in the conflict.

In 1783, representatives of the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the Revolutionary War.

In 1939, Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war on Germany, two days after the Nazi invasion of Poland; in a radio address, Britain's King George VI said, "With God's help, we shall prevail." The same day, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner SS Athenia some 250 miles off the Irish coast, killing more than 100 out of the 1,400 or so people on board.

In 1943, Allied forces invaded Italy during World War II, the same day Italian officials signed a secret armistice with the Allies.

In 1970, legendary football coach Vince Lombardi, 57, died in Washington, D.C.

In 1976, America's Viking 2 lander touched down on Mars to take the first close-up, color photographs of the red planet's surface.

In 1999, a French judge closed a two-year inquiry into the car crash that killed Princess Diana, dismissing all charges against nine photographers and a press motorcyclist, and concluding the accident was caused by an inebriated driver.

In 2003, Paul Hill, a former minister who said he murdered an abortion doctor and his escort to save the lives of unborn babies, was executed in Florida by injection, becoming the first person put to death in the United States for anti-abortion violence.

In 2005, President George W. Bush ordered more than 7,000 active duty forces to the Gulf Coast as his administration intensified efforts to rescue Katrina survivors and send aid to the hurricane-ravaged region in the face of criticism it did not act quickly enough.

In 2009, a private funeral service was held in Glendale, California, for pop superstar Michael Jackson, whose body was entombed in a mausoleum more than two months after his death.

In 2010, Defense Secretary Robert Gates toured U.S. bases and war zones in Afghanistan, saying he saw and heard evidence that the American counterinsurgency strategy was taking hold in critical Kandahar province.

In 2012, Sun Myung Moon, 92, a self-proclaimed messiah who founded the Unification Church, died in Gapeyeong, South Korea.

In 2019, Walmart said it would stop selling ammunition for handguns and short-barrel rifles, and the store chain requested that customers not openly carry firearms in its stores; the announcement followed a shooting at a Walmart store in Texas that left 22 people dead.

Today's Birthdays: Rock singer-musician Al Jardine is 80. Actor Valerie Perrine is 79. Rock musician Donald Brewer (Grand Funk Railroad) is 74. Rock guitarist Steve Jones (The Sex Pistols) is 67. Actor Charlie Sheen is 57. Singer Jennifer Paige is 49. Actor Ashley Jones is 46. Actor Nichole Hiltz is 44. Actor Joel Johnstone is 44. Actor Nick Wechsler is 44. Rock musician Tomo Milicevic (30 Seconds to Mars) is 43. Bluegrass musician Darren Nicholson (Balsam Range) is 39. Actor Christine Woods is 39. Actor Garrett Hedlund is 38. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Shaun White is 36. Hip-hop singer August Alsina is 30.

CORRECTION

The Page A1 story "Debt relief," published Thursday, Sept. 1, misstated the cost of tuition and other fees for Eastern Oregon University. The estimated total cost of attendance, including tuition and fees for on-campus undergraduates at Eastern for in-state students — which includes Oregon, Washington and Idaho — is \$25,506 a year, according to Eastern's website.

LOTTERY

Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022

Megabucks

6-13-29-31-39-40

Jackpot: \$5.5 million

Lucky Lines

4-8-10-14-17-21-28-32

Estimated jackpot: \$29,000

Powerball

7-8-19-24-28

Powerball: 1

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$148 million

Win for Life

10-18-59-63

Pick 4

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

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

7 p.m.: 7-5-5-9

10 p.m.: 6-7-4-2

Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022

Lucky Lines

3-8-11-16-19-22-28-30

Jackpot: \$30,000

Pick 4

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

4 p.m.: 1-6-5-8

7 p.m.: 8-0-3-7

10 p.m.: 0-9-9-6

Obstacles are stepping stones

La Grande native Nicole Lewis encourages all to pursue their dreams

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Rewards await those who never stop chasing their dreams, something Nicole Lewis, a 2004 La Grande High School graduate and a 2008 graduate of Gonzaga University, knows firsthand.

"My dream growing up was to be a singer and songwriter and work with famous artists," Lewis said during a presentation at Central Elementary School on Wednesday, Aug. 31.

Lewis did not know whether she had the ability to achieve these objectives, but today an increasing number of those in the music world are believing in her. Lewis' talent has caught the attention of people like country music legend Dolly Parton — in 2021 Lewis opened a Parton concert at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, Tennessee.

Lewis is the author of hundreds of songs, some of which have been recorded by country music singer Ben Fuller. Four songs Lewis wrote were used in soundtracks of Hallmark Christmas movies.

The artist shared her story as part of a Staff Wellness program being put on throughout the La Grande School District, one led by Central Elementary School counselor Teresa Dowdy.

Lewis spoke and per-



Nicole Lewis gives a presentation and performs at La Grande's Central Elementary School on Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022.



Nicole Lewis performs during a presentation at Central Elementary School, La Grande, on Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022.

formed songs at Island City, Greenwood and Central elementary schools plus La Grande Middle School and LHS. At each school she encouraged those in attendance to not let challenges get in the way of pursuing their dreams.

"Look upon them not as obstacles but as stepping stones," Lewis said at Central.

Lewis' late afternoon presentation at LHS had an audience filled

with teachers whom she thanked for inspiring her.

"You helped me believe in myself and in my dreams, ones which have shaped my life," said Lewis, who now lives in Nashville and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

She credits educators with providing students the spark needed for creativity.

"The chance to express and be creative starts with teachers. To be encouraged,



Nicole Lewis receives a hug from Central Elementary School fourth grader Grace Leon on Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022. Lewis had just completed a presentation for students and teachers at the La Grande elementary school.

equipped, empowered starts here," Lewis said at LHS.

The musician, who often writes songs about family, heroes and community, said she sees a parallel between her career and those of teachers.

"I'm a singer-songwriter and I do what I do because I love music and I want to say something important and inspire people. I think we're in the same business. You all inspire kids every day. We have similar missions," said Lewis, the daughter of Brent and Susan Lewis of La Grande.

Lewis said the producer of the songs she now records is Kent Wells, who is also Parton's producer. This connection has led to many conversations between Lewis and Parton. Lewis said the country music legend is a delightful person to be around.

"She is self-expressive," Lewis said. "She does not hold anything back and she does everything with such grace."

No injuries in late-afternoon field fire

Blaze destroys 72.3 acres including 30 acres of standing wheat

By ISABELLA CROWLEY

The Observer

LA GRANDE — No people were hurt or structures were damaged in a field fire off Liza-

beth Lane and Mount Glen Road late in the afternoon of Wednesday, Aug. 31, but the blaze did do extensive damage.

The fire, which was reported at 4:37 p.m., was started by a failed combine harvester, according to Jim Voelz, of the La Grande Rural Fire Department. He provides the department with investigative and support services. The cause

of the combine failure is unknown, Voelz said.

The blaze burned through 72.3 acres of land, including 30 acres of standing wheat.

Crews from La Grande Rural Fire Department, La Grande Fire Department, Cove Rural Fire Department, Union Fire Department, Imbler Rural Fire Department, North Powder Rural Fire

Department, Oregon Department of Forestry and U.S. Forest Service responded to the fire. Union County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police, Union County Public Works and Union County Emergency Services also responded.

Local landowners and neighbors came out to provide assistance.

The fire was listed as contained at 5:48 p.m.

La Grande City Council to consider ordinance restricting psilocybin service facilities Sept. 7

Ordinance would act as a backup if residents vote no on ban on November ballot

By ISABELLA CROWLEY

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande City Council will consider an ordinance relating to psilocybin service centers and a proposed moratorium on short-term rentals within city limits during its regular session on Wednesday, Sept. 7.

Psilocybin service centers

The psilocybin service center ordinance would restrict time, place and manner on facilities and manufacturing within city limits, which only be enacted if La Grande residents vote not to ban psilocybin in November.

In November 2020, Oregon voters passed Ballot Measure 109 with a 56% majority, which legalized psilocybin in supervised facilities. Earlier this month, the La Grande City Council passed an emergency ordinance banning psilocybin service centers, but voters will get the final say when the proposal appears on the ballot.

If passed, the ordinance would mandate that psilocybin service centers cannot be located within 1,000 feet of schools, licensed day cares, public libraries, public

parks, and community recreation facilities or sports facilities used primarily by those younger than 18. Two facilities could not be in operation within 1,000 feet of each other.

They would also be restricted in a number of other ways, including hours of operation and the public view of the storefront.

The ordinance outlines guidelines for storage, ventilation and secure disposal.

These restrictions are similar to the one the city currently has in place for marijuana-related facilities.

Short-term rental applications

The city is proposing a temporary moratorium on the acceptance of Bed and Breakfast Inn land use applications, citing that short-term rental properties are in direct conflict with the city's recently adopted Housing Needs Analysis and Housing Production Strategy.

The council defined Bed and Breakfast Inns as lodgings of 30 days or less, including traditional bed-and-breakfasts with meal service, Airbnb, full vacation home rentals or equivalent rentals.

This 2019 analysis estimated the city needs 795 new housing units within the next 20 years to accommodate a projected growth of 1,392 new residents — approximately 40 new units every year to meet the prediction. These dwellings range from single- and multi-

family homes to townhome and duplexes.

Since March 2020, La Grande has seen the construction of 38 new dwelling units. But the city's planning commission has approved 28 of conditional use permit applications for Bed and Breakfast Inns in the same time frame — resulting in the conversion of 18 new units into short-term rentals.

The moratorium would apply only to residential zones within city jurisdiction and for requests for a full conversion and use of a dwelling unit as a short-term rental. The city asserts that this halt on applications would allow time for the completion of temporary or permanent changes in plans, regulations or procedures relating to short-term rentals.

During the Sept. 7 meeting, the council will conduct a first reading of the proposed ordinance and will accept public testimony on the matter.

Executive session

After the regular meeting the city council will hold an executive session, which will not be open to the public. According to Oregon law, city councils may adjourn to executive sessions to discuss a limited number of topics without the public present.

During this session the council members will review and evaluate the work performance of either a public official, employee or staff member.

IN BRIEF

North Second Street Bridge over I-84 in La Grande to close for paving project

LA GRANDE — The North Second Street bridge over Interstate 84 near the Union County Fairgrounds in La Grande will again be closed near the Union County Fairgrounds next week.

The Oregon Department of Transportation said in a news release that bicycles and pedestrians, including those with disabilities, will be allowed access through the work zone at all times and work on the bridge will not affect interstate traffic.

The closure is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 6, and Wednesday, Sept. 7, according to the release.

The contractor will be grinding asphalt and paving both ends of the bridge. When paving is complete and the bridge reopens, flaggers will be controlling traffic to accommodate removal of the work platform, installation of protective screening and sealing cracks on beams and supports.

This is a full closure to vehicles on North Second Street between the entrance to the fairgrounds, north of I-84, and Lake Avenue, south of the interstate. ODOT crews will stage a detour around the work zone.

There will be one more closure before work on the bridge is complete, according to the release. The contractor will need to lift the bridge to replace and repair support bearings. Once this work starts, the bridge will be closed for up to three weeks. The final phase of the construction is slated to start later in September.

Lane closures, reduced speeds expected on I-84

LA GRANDE — Work has begun on Interstate 84 between Ladd Canyon and North Powder.

The Oregon Department of Transportation said in a news release the paving project will repair rutted and cracked pavement on a section of highway that was last paved in 2003. Paving will be done between mileposts 272 and 285 and will also be done on the bridges over the interstate at Exit 278 and Exit 283.

The contractor will begin paving intermittent sections of the left-lane shoulders in both directions, the release said. Motorists should expect lane closures and reduced speeds of 55 mph during daylight hours when work is occurring. Later in September, the contractor will work at night to reduce impacts to traffic.

The project is scheduled for completion by Nov. 1.

Join Cove City Council meeting in person or online

COVE — The city council will meet for its regular session on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Counselors will discuss the soap box derby, a one-time forgiveness of a water leak and the annual city audit.

After the council addresses new business, the public will have an opportunity to weigh in on a request by two residents to temporarily live in a recreational vehicle while building a shop.

Mayor Sherry Haeger will deliver her report on a community appreciation program.

The meeting takes place at 7 p.m. in Cove City Hall. It will also be livestreamed through GoToMeeting. The link is available on the city's website.

Wallowa Lake businesses to put on benefit for Wallowa

WALLOWA LAKE VILLAGE — Several businesses are planning a benefit to help the residents of Wallowa in their efforts to recover from the Aug. 11 hailstorm that devastated the town.

The benefit will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10.

Greg Jarman, a co-owner of Wallowa Lake Go Karts, said his operation, as well as the Wallowa Lake Tramway, Wallowa Lake State Park Marina rentals, Eagle Cap Chalets miniature golf and the Matterhorn Village miniature golf all will donate proceeds from the day.

"We hope people will take advantage of it and support it," Jarman said. "It's more than just (the money) going into somebody's pocket. It's going to where it needs to be."

He said there's no set goal for the amount the businesses hope to raise.

"Just as much as possible," he said. After the benefit, someone will be selected to take the proceeds to Wallowa, he said. He agreed it is another case of Wallowa County residents taking care of one another.

"We want to stand with them in their time of need," he said. "Solidarity. That's us."