

TODAY

In 1901, President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded by anarchist Leon Czolgosz at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. (McKinley died eight days later; Czolgosz was executed on Oct. 29.)

In 1909, American explorer Robert Peary sent a telegram from Indian Harbor, Labrador, announcing that he had reached the North Pole five months earlier.

In 1943, 79 people were killed when a New York-bound Pennsylvania Railroad train derailed and crashed in Philadelphia.

In 1949, Howard Unruh, a resident of Camden, New Jersey, shot and killed 13 of his neighbors. (Found to have paranoid schizophrenia, Unruh was confined for the rest of his life; he died in a Trenton nursing home in 2009 at age 88.)

In 1972, the Summer Olympics resumed in Munich, West Germany, a day after the deadly hostage crisis that left eleven Israelis and five Arab abductors dead.

In 1975, 18-year-old tennis star Martina Navratilova of Czechoslovakia, in New York for the U.S. Open, requested political asylum in the United States.

In 1991, the Soviet Union recognized the independence of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

In 1997, a public funeral was held for Princess Diana at Westminster Abbey in London, six days after her death in a car crash in Paris. In Calcutta, India, weeping masses gathered to pay homage to Mother Teresa, who had died the day before at age 87.

In 2001, in a dramatic shift, the Bush administration abandoned the Clinton-era effort to break up Microsoft.

In 2002, meeting outside Washington, D.C. for only the second time since 1800, Congress convened in New York to pay homage to the victims and heroes of September 11.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama conceded only halting progress toward solving the nation's economic woes, but vowed in a Democratic National Convention finale, "Our problems can be solved, our challenges can be met." Drew Peterson, the former Illinois police officer who gained notoriety after his much-younger wife, Stacy, vanished in 2007, was convicted of murdering a previous wife, Kathleen Savio. (Peterson was later sentenced to 38 years in prison.)

Five years ago: Hurricane Irma, the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic, pounded Puerto Rico with heavy rain and powerful winds; authorities said more than 900,000 people were without power. A California parole panel recommended parole for Leslie Van Houten, who at 19 was the youngest of Charles Manson's murderous followers in 1969. (California Gov. Jerry Brown later blocked her release.)

One year ago: Support programs for Americans still being hit hard financially by the pandemic expired, including one that provided jobless aid to self-employed and gig workers; the Biden administration's \$300 weekly supplemental unemployment benefit also ended. The Taliban said they had seized the last Afghan province that hadn't been in their control after their blitz through the country in August. A lawyer for actor Jean-Paul Belmondo confirmed that the actor, star of the French New Wave film "Breathless," had died at 88.

Mount Emily Fire contained

The fire has been determined to be human caused

By **ISABELLA CROWLEY**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Fire crews made significant progress on the Mount Emily Fire over the weekend.

The 5.4-acre fire, approximately 5 miles north-northwest of La Grande, is now listed as contained. The listing was made at 7:55 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, according to Hunter Pretucci, of the Blue Mountain Inter-agency Dispatch Center.

"We don't anticipate any more growth of the fire," Pretucci said Sept. 5.

A 10-person U.S. Forest Service crew with four engines is now on the fire.

Oregon Department of Forestry firefighters were initially combating the blaze with the Forest Service but have left the scene. A helicopter was



Oregon Department of Forestry/Contributed Photo

Fire and smoke is visible on Mount Emily through the trees on Friday, Sept. 2, 2022. The 5.4-acre fire, approximately 5 miles north-northwest of La Grande, was listed as contained on the evening of Sept. 4.

used to help fight the fire on Sept. 3.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Pretucci said though

that it has been determined to be human caused.

The fire, 5 miles north of Interstate 84, did not threaten any structures. It

was first reported around 11 p.m. by a member of the public Friday, Sept. 2.

■ Reporter Dick Mason contributed to this report.

Wallowans urged to detail hailstorm damage

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — Wallowa residents whose property was damaged in an Aug. 11 hailstorm were urged to quickly fill out forms giving as much detail as possible on what would become their claims during an emergency meeting of the Wallowa City Council on Thursday, Sept. 1.

More than 100 Wallowa residents turned out to hear what local, state and federal officials are trying to do to help them rebuild in the wake of the hailstorm that left many buildings and vehicles seriously damaged.

"We need more information on your needs," said Kathleen Cathey, a field representative for U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden.

Cathey advised residents to complete the forms distributed at the meeting as soon as possible, as there is a two-week deadline to get them in. However, if the forms aren't complete, she said, additional information can be added later.

Elected officials helping

Wallowa County Commissioner John Hillock was present at the meeting and noted that state Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, and state Rep. Bobby Levy, R-Echo, are actively seeking help for the community. Mayor Gary Hulse said he had contacted the state Office of Emergency Management two days after the storm, and that afternoon he heard from Gov. Kate Brown's office. Hulse also has asked for a public information official to help him and the city's recorder, Carolyn Harshfield, field the many telephone calls they've been handling since the storm.

Cathey said that as Hulse and Harshfield are trying to answer questions over the phone "for 850 people, one every 15 minutes, somebody's going to get missed."

She agreed support was widespread.

"You have captured the attention and support of everybody in Oregon," she said.

Contractors ready

Construction contractors also were there to offer advice and prepare to repair and rebuild homes.

Will Lehr, of Enterprise, who previously lived in Wallowa, is a recently retired general contractor who was



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa Mayor Gary Hulse, standing, fields questions from Wallowa residents on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022, at an emergency meeting at the Wallowa Senior Center on damages their homes suffered during the Aug. 11 hailstorm.

organizing other contractors to come to the aid of Wallowa.

Several contractors cautioned residents not to be taken in by those who may promise more than they would deliver.

"We'd rather underpromise and overperform," one of the contractors said. "That way we'll be friends with you."

Lehr assured those in attendance that each of the about 10 contractors present was proficient in at least one area of construction. Another contractor noted that since he is primarily a roofer, if there's someone who largely focuses on siding it would be best to subcontract to that contractor.

"That way we'll get it all done quicker," he said.

An insurance agent also urged property owners to make sure any contractor they deal with is licensed in Oregon. Some may be licensed in multiple states, but it's critical they also be licensed to work in Oregon.

One member of the audience asked if the nearby Boise Cascade mill in Elgin could be prevailed upon to sell plywood at cost to residents. Hulse said the mill already had donated a considerable load.

The contractors also addressed the concerns of property owners who are overwhelmed by the detailed paperwork and bureaucracy of dealing with insurance companies.

"That's our job," Lehr said. "We know how to do that."

He was asked if the group of con-

tractors was complete and said he is open to having more join the recovery efforts.

"You can never have too much help," he said.

Wide variety of aid

Several officials from various agencies also told Wallowans they were available to help.

Connie Guentert, of Wallowa, executive director of Community Connection of Northeast Oregon and until recently the manager of the Enterprise office, emphasized that Community Connection has multiple resources available, including food, transportation and household materials. She urged contacting the Enterprise office directly.

Dr. Elizabeth Powers said both Winding Waters Medical Clinic and Wallowa Memorial Hospital could help with mental health needs, noting that the community has experienced a traumatic event in the hailstorm.

A list of resources was circulated at the meeting and copies would be made available at city hall. Community Connection, the senior center and elsewhere around town. It includes contacts and sources to receive and make donations, bedding, a possible tax break from the county Assessor's Office, food banks, housing, transportation, veterans services, legal aid and state resources, and contact information for various building contractors, window replacement, carpet cleaning and tree services and auto repair.

NEWS BRIEFS

La Grande Main Street Downtown seeks executive director

LA GRANDE — La Grande Main Street Downtown is seeking an executive director.

The local pro-business nonprofit in an announcement Thursday, Sept. 1, stated it is looking for applicants with excellent verbal and written communication skills, public relations and managerial abilities and a strong administrative background. The executive director would "coordinate downtown revitalization activities using the Main Street 4-Point Approach."

Previous nonprofit experience is a plus, with a background in event planning, small business development or volunteer recruitment and management.

The position "requires a dynamic, outgoing team player with proven ability to multitask and work independently" with the ability to work with the private and public sectors, according to the announcement. Applicants should have experience working with and for a board of directors and committees and experience writing grants. The position is 40 hours a week with an annual salary range of \$42,500-\$47,500, depending on experience and qualifications.

If interested, submit a resume, cover letter and three references to jobsearchdowntown@gmail.com, or send them to La Grande Main Street Downtown, Attn: HR, 102 Depot St., La Grande, OR 97850. The cover letter should include a concise summary of work experience and how it is suited to Main Street and the revitalization of downtown La Grande.

Nobody injured in Union County garage fire

UNION — Nobody was injured in a garage fire on Miller Lane between Hot Lake and Union on Sunday, Sept. 4. Crews from the Union Rural and the La Grande Rural fire departments responded to the fire, which was reported at about 10:45 p.m. A total of about 15 firefighters combated the blaze.

Two people were in the neighboring home the garage was next to and both escaped unharmed, according to Frank Maestas, assistant chief of the Union Rural Fire Department. The garage was seriously damaged and the home suffered some smoke damage.

The fire was controlled within 30 to 45 minutes. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

—The Observer

County to discuss Hot Lake Rock Quarry

Commissioners to consider proposed mining expansion

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Mining activity at Hot Lake Rock Quarry, 8 miles southeast of La Grande, could increase in the future.

The Union County Board of Commissioners is considering approving an ordinance that would allow the amount of rock being taken out of Hot Lake Rock Quarry to expand significantly. The board will hold a public hearing on Ordinance 2022-0 Thursday, Sept. 8, at 9 a.m. in the east meeting room of the Joseph Building, 1106 K Ave., La Grande.

The session may be attended in person, online via Zoom or by phone. For access information and links, go to www.union-county.org/commissioners/agendaminutes and click on the Sept. 8 meeting.

The ordinance would amend the Union County Comprehensive Land Use Plan to permit the expanded rock mining. The county planning commission conducted a hearing on the ordinance last month. During the meeting, the planning commission voted to recommend the board of commissioners approve the ordinance.

The Hot Lake Quarry mining site is on Boothman Ranches property a mile west of Highway 203 and south of Hot Lake Lane. The location contains large volumes of basalt rock. The site is approximately 40 acres, and information Union County provided indicates there is 500,000 tons of rock for every 5 acres of extracted material.

The quarry, which is mined by LJI Construction, of La Grande, provides rock that meets Oregon Department of Transportation standards for road sanding, asphalt mix and base rock material, according to information the firm Materials Testing & Inspection provided to the county.

The planning commission approved the request for the amended comprehensive use plan on the condition that no mining, blasting or excavation of aggregate material be conducted between Dec. 1 and March 31 in any given year to minimize disturbances to wildlife, upland birds and waterfowl. The planning commission also stipulated that no new access roads could be built in order to minimize the impact on wildlife.

Those who have expressed opposition to allowing increased mining at the site include David Moyal.

The La Grande resident is concerned about the possible negative environmental impact the increased mining could have and said he believes there is no need for it.

"I do not believe there is a shortage of gravel in the county," Moyal said.

Search and rescue building

The county board at the Sept. 8 meeting also will discuss the Union County Search and Rescue building project. The board is set to vote on awarding a bid to a contractor to complete the building. The work involves installing doors and a north wall and finishing the building's concrete floor and electrical work.

A portion of the money for the work comes from federal pandemic relief funding.

Work on the building at 63838 Highway 203, La Grande, started in March 2019, and until now volunteers provided all of the labor. Between 1,400 and 1,500 hours of volunteer labor have gone into the project, according to Fred Hawkins, director of the building project and a member of agency's board of directors.

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, Sept. 2, 2022

Megamillions
39-40-52-60-67
Megaball: 20
Megaplier: 2
Jackpot: \$191 million

Lucky Lines
2-6-9-15-18-24-27-31
Jackpot: \$31,000

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

Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022

Powerball
18-27-49-65-69
Powerball: 9
Power Play: 2
Jackpot: \$159 million

Megabucks
5-28-35-38-40-42
Jackpot: \$5.6 million

Lucky Lines
2-6-12-15-17-24-25-29
Jackpot: \$32,000

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

Win for Life

3-8-27-37

Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022

Lucky Lines
1-8-10-13-17-23-28-30
Estimated jackpot: \$33,000

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