

Restoration of old theater moving forward

About 1,500 old bricks were installed in facade of La Grande's Liberty Theatre

By DICK MASON
EO Media Group

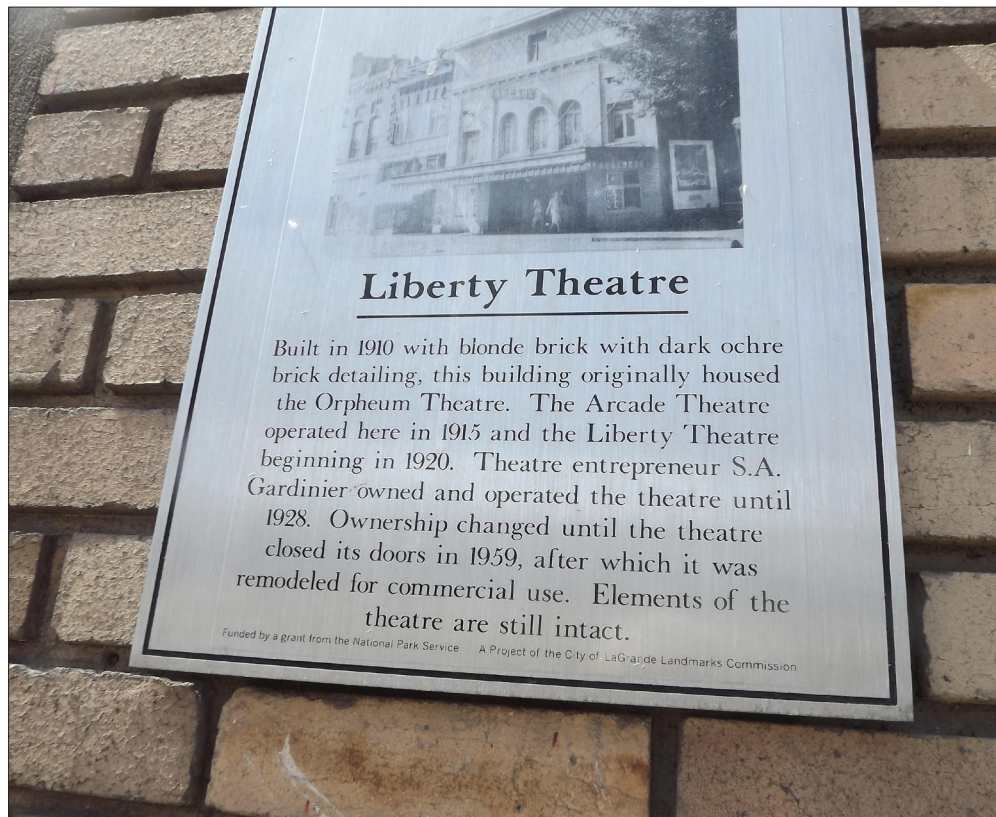
LA GRANDE — The renovation of the Liberty Theatre building is keeping the past alive — in more ways than one.

Restoration workers have finished installing about 1,500 old bricks at the theater's facade. The bricks resemble those of the original theater's entrance before it closed six decades ago.

The bricks will be a prominent part of the re-creation of the facade of the old building. The entrance will include new doors and a metal awning that will cover much of the sidewalk running past it at 1010 Adams Ave. next to La Grande City Hall.

"It will look almost exactly as it did when the theater was open," said Dale Mammen, a leader of the Liberty Theatre restoration project and a historical preservation consultant for the Liberty Theatre Foundation's staff.

Ashley O'Toole, a member of the Liberty Theatre



A metal sign reviews the history of the Liberty Theatre in La Grande. Dale Mammen, a leader of the Liberty Theatre restoration project and a historical preservation consultant for the Liberty Theatre Foundation's staff, hopes the Liberty Theatre will someday look as it did in the 1920s when it was in its second decade of operation and named the Arcade.

EOMG Photo/Dick Mason

Foundation's board, said people get excited when they see the highly visible facade being recreated, which is one reason focus is being placed upon it.

"We have made it a priority because we want to generate a buzz in the community," O'Toole said.

The bricks at the entrance might look familiar to many area residents, because they are from the gym of the old Central Elementary School at K Avenue and Sunset Drive. The school and its gym were built in 1954 but were torn down about two years ago

after the new Central at Second Street and H Avenue was constructed.

"I can't stress enough how fortunate we are to have the bricks," O'Toole said. "So many people went to school (at Central)."

The old Central School was taken down because it

was in poor condition overall due to its age. The same cannot be said for the bricks inside its gym. They are in excellent shape because they were not exposed to the elements, Mammen said. He is delighted that the bricks will help preserve memories of the old school.

"It is nice to be able to help keep Central's legacy alive," he said.

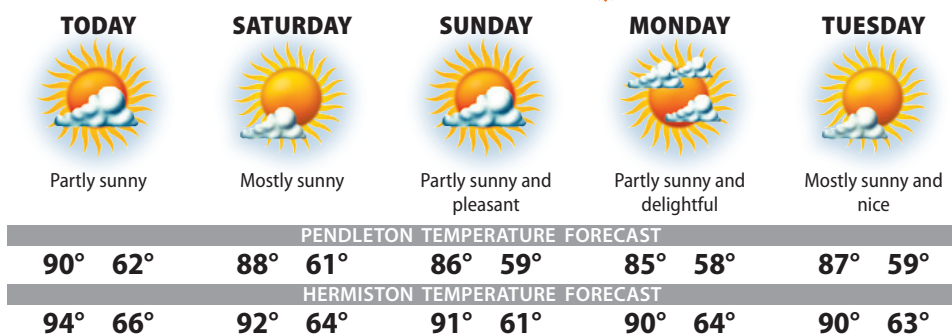
Crews are also continuing to do extensive work on restoring the interior of the Liberty Theatre, which was built in 1910 and closed in 1959, after which its facade and lobby were torn out to accommodate retail establishments. Work being done now includes rebuilding the lobby and restoring utilities, such as water and electricity. Work to be conducted in the future includes restoring the floor and balcony seating, building a staircase to the balcony, renovating the stage and much more.

Mammen hopes the Liberty Theatre will someday look as it did in the 1920s when it was in its second decade of operation and named the Arcade. Mammen and his wife, Ginny, selected the mid-1920s because that was when the Liberty Theatre was at its peak in terms of elegance and because they have the blueprints for major renovations made at the theater in 1923, which were found at the University of Washington. They also have photos of the theater taken that year, two inside and one outside. These photos are helping the Liberty Theatre Foundation restore the inside and outside of the building to what it looked like in the 1920s.

Long-range plans call for the Liberty Theatre building and the now vacant and historic Putnam building next to it to be part of the Liberty Complex. The Putnam building, which the Mammens own, will include a bakery, an extensive kitchen and eating area, a stage for entertainers, skylights, a dressing room for theater performers, offices, living quarters and much more. Work on the Putnam building, which like the Liberty Theatre will have a mid-1920s look, is being funded by the Mammens.

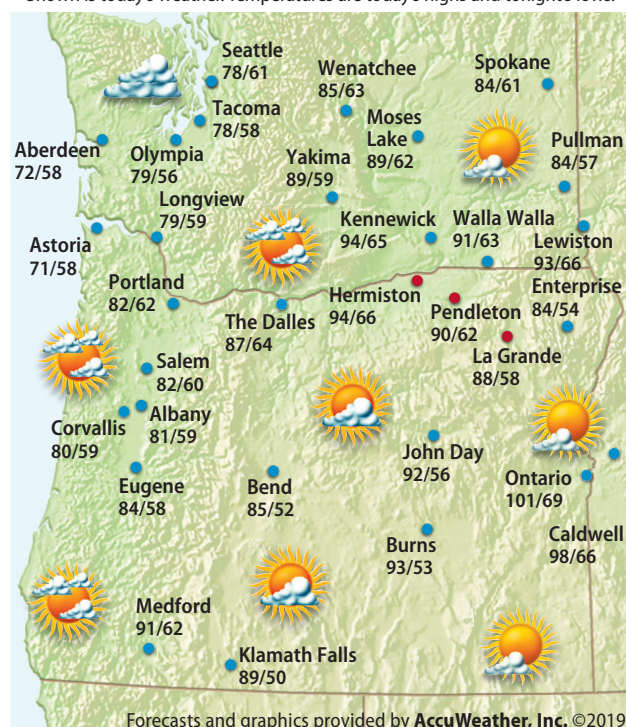
Much of the Liberty Theatre and Liberty Complex work is being funded by grants, including one for \$200,000 received earlier this year from the Oregon Main Street Project. Mammen said \$100,000 of this grant went to the Liberty Theatre and \$100,000 went to the Putnam building restoration.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



ALMANAC

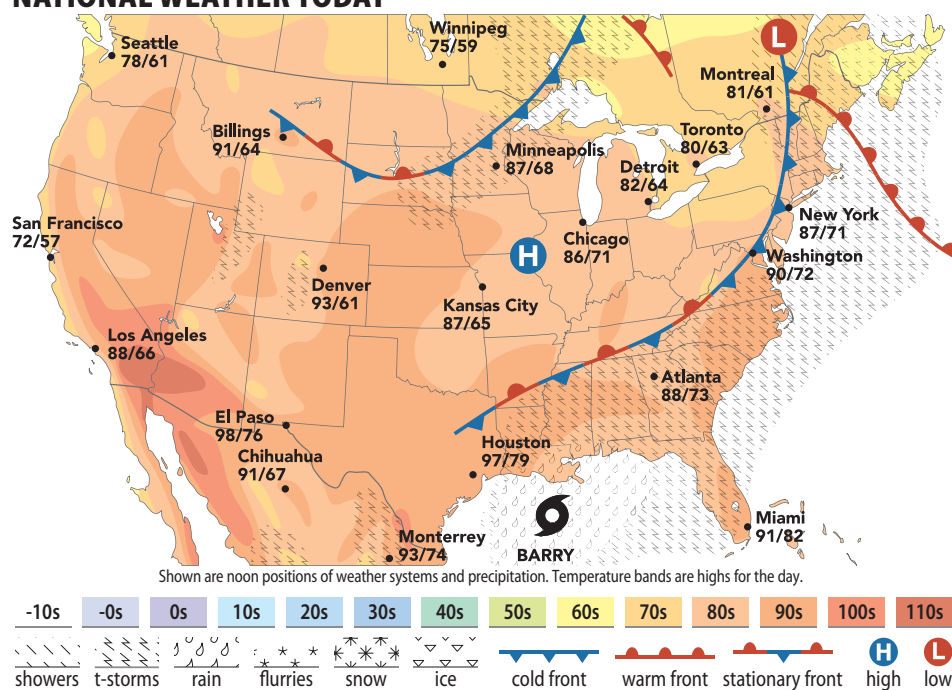
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	87°	62°
Normals	88°	58°
Records	107° (1897)	40° (1911)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.02"	
Normal month to date	0.11"	
Year to date	9.59"	
Last year to date	6.49"	
Normal year to date	7.68"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	88°	65°
Normals	88°	58°
Records	107° (2002)	42° (2008)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	Trace	
Normal month to date	0.08"	
Year to date	4.55"	
Last year to date	5.10"	
Normal year to date	5.78"	
WINDS (in mph)		
	Today	Sat.
Boardman	WSW 6-12	WSW 7-14
Pendleton	WNW 6-12	W 7-14
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	5:17 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	8:44 p.m.	
Moonrise today	5:03 p.m.	
Moonset today	2:11 a.m.	
	Full	Last
	New	First
	July 16	July 24
	July 31	Aug 7

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 114° in Thermal, Calif. Low 33° in Gothic, Colo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Oregon seed crop dodges damage from July rain

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

SALEM — A short spell of unseasonable rain in early July isn't expected to diminish yields for Oregon seed farmers during this summer's harvest — unless it persists.

While growers can typically count on dry weather this time of year, steady showers on July 9 and overcast skies on July 10 probably won't cause problems as long as the sun soon comes back, said Tom Chastain, seed crop physiology professor at Oregon State University.

"I don't think we're looking at a disaster, it's just going to be a delay for people," Chastain said.

Roughly a half-inch of rain fell July 9 on the central Willamette Valley, where much of the state's grass seed is produced — the equivalent of the entire month's average rainfall all in one day, he said.

The downpour was likely too gentle to knock seeds loose to the ground, thereby reducing yields, which can occur during violent storms, he said. "I'm not expecting a lot of shattering, at least for the crop that's not cut yet."

Sustained moisture can induce seeds in windrows to germinate, hurting quality, but forecasts call for a return to sunny weather that would dry out the crop before that occurs, Chastain said.

"I don't think it got wet enough for long enough for us to have problems with sprout," he said, noting that pest and fungus pres-



Capital Press Photo, File

Grass seed is harvested in a Willamette Valley field. A recent spell of rainy weather isn't likely to impact grass seed yields unless the sunshine stays away for longer.

sure can also result from prolonged moisture.

Different types of grass seed are harvested in stages in Oregon's Willamette Valley, with annual ryegrass and forage-type tall fescue being cut into windrows, and then run through a combine to collect seed earlier than perennial ryegrass and turf-type tall fescue. Likewise, red and white clover are harvested after crimson varieties.

Crops that have already been windrowed face other issues from rain aside from seed shatter and germination: grass blades can grow into the windrows, interfering with the combine's harvesting mechanism, Chastain said. That possibility can also be averted if sunshine soon

dries out the windrows.

In recent memory, the area saw 0.63 inches of rain in July 2011 and 1.12 inches in July 2014 without causing serious disruptions to seed farmers, he said. "Things were OK those years, we didn't have a lot of yield problems."

However, the 3 inches of rain that fell in July 1983 did cause sprouting that cut yields because the seed was rendered unusable, Chastain said.

If weather forecasts are correct and conditions return to normal, the recent rain will probably just result in a more compressed harvest schedule for growers, he said. "They've got to pick up the backlog of fields they haven't harvested plus the new ones coming online."

CORRECTIONS: The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

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Single copy price:

\$1.50 Tuesday through Saturday

Circulation Dept.

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Business Office Manager:

541-966-0824

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Production manager: Mike Jensen
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com