

Enterprise church replaces defunct bell system

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — After a couple of years of silence, the bells at the Enterprise Community Congregational Church are ringing again. The church on Thursday, Feb. 10, installed anew carillon.

A carillon is a set of bells in a tower, played using a keyboard or by an automatic mechanism similar to a piano roll. According to the Guild of Carillonneurs of North America there are 166 traditional carillons in the United States, and Enterprise has one of those.

Church member Stacy Green said the old carillon ceased to work a couple years ago.

Skip Pepers of the Verdin Co. drove from Boise the morning of Feb. 10 to install the carillon, largely the legacy left by longtime musical director and pianist at the “Big Brown Church,” Gail Swart.

“We have had carillon, according to Verdin’s records, since 1964,” Green said. “Verdin replaced the 1964 model in the 1990s and that lasted until a couple of years ago. We were trying to repair it, and we couldn’t repair it and we just decided



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Skip Pepers, of the Verdin Co., solders a connection Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, while installing a new control system for the carillon bell system at the Enterprise Community Congregational Church. The old system, which was installed in the 1990s, has been out of commission for a couple of years.

we needed a new one, but that was \$12,000, so it was a big expense.”

Swart was instrumental in getting the new sound system in place.

“It was something that was important to Gail Swart, who was our longtime music director. Gail passed away Jan. 28,” Green said. “She

helped raise the money. She sent out letters and put the word out that we were trying to raise the money. That was last fall. Shortly after that, she was diagnosed with cancer. This was a project that was important to her and she was thrilled to know that it would go forward.”

Ken Holt, chairman of the

church’s board of trustees, recalled Swart’s longstanding commitment to music at the church.

“She started playing here when she was 12 years old,” he said.

Mark Green, Stacy’s husband, said the success of the fundraising showed the church’s and the communi-

ty’s affection for Swart.

“People just got together and made it happen,” he said. “Personally, I was skeptical we were going to be able to, but it’s a testimony to who Gail was.”

Stacy Green agreed.

“It’s about honoring Gail as a member of the church,” she said. “She played piano here most of her life. It’s being done in her honor.”

The carillon

The carillon has no real bells, Pepers said. He replaced the electronics: the control system and the amplifier, which sends a digitally recorded sound of bells through four large speakers mounted on the church’s roof.

“They’re actually all digital,” Pepers said. “They’re not real bells. Even the old system was all digital; they’re not real swinging bells. What’s up on the tower are four big horns that are in an array facing out. ... It’s a complete digital system with recorded bells on it.”

As for the times the bells will ring, that will be up to the church leadership. Mark Green said the talk has been about sounding the bells at noon and 6 p.m.

Unlike what some people have thought, the carillon

isn’t played from a keyboard or an organ, Stacy Green said.

Pepers said some carillons can be played by keyboards, but not this one. However, Stacy Green said, the church can alter its sound to coincide with special holidays, such as Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July.

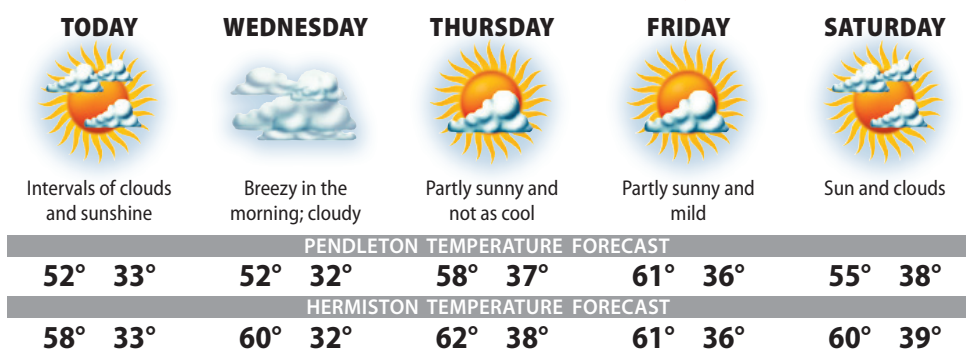
She said the Enterprise community has missed the carillon since the old system quit working and will be glad to have it working again — properly.

“We’ve gotten very positive comments from the community,” she said. “We did check with the city of Enterprise before getting a new one, and with the neighbors. The only problem we’ve ever had with the carillon is when our last one got misfired and was going at midnight, 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. That did not make us any friends in the neighborhood.”

Many people in the community donated toward the new carillon, many in the memory of someone they cared about and others to honor Swart, Stacy Green said.

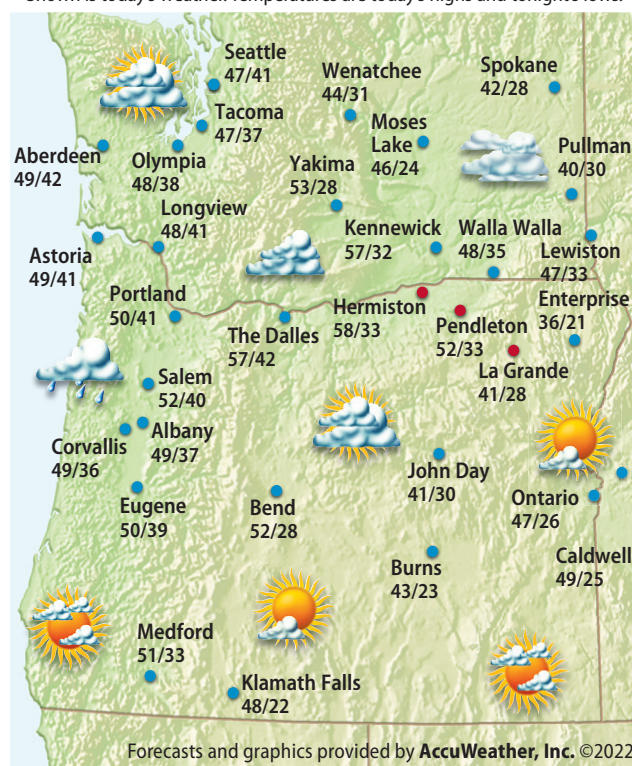
“We hope every time people hear the bells,” she said. “It’ll bring joy to the neighborhood.”

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	48°	34°
Normals	47°	30°
Records	66° (1898)	-4° (1936)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.06"
Month to date	0.10"
Normal month to date	0.59"
Year to date	1.63"
Last year to date	2.45"
Normal year to date	2.13"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	56°	30°
Normals	49°	29°
Records	65° (2011)	-11° (1929)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.02"
Month to date	0.02"
Normal month to date	0.47"
Year to date	0.95"
Last year to date	0.90"
Normal year to date	1.61"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Wed.
Boardman	WSW 4-8	WSW 4-8
Pendleton	W 7-14	W 7-14

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:57 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:22 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:19 p.m.
Moonset today	6:59 a.m.

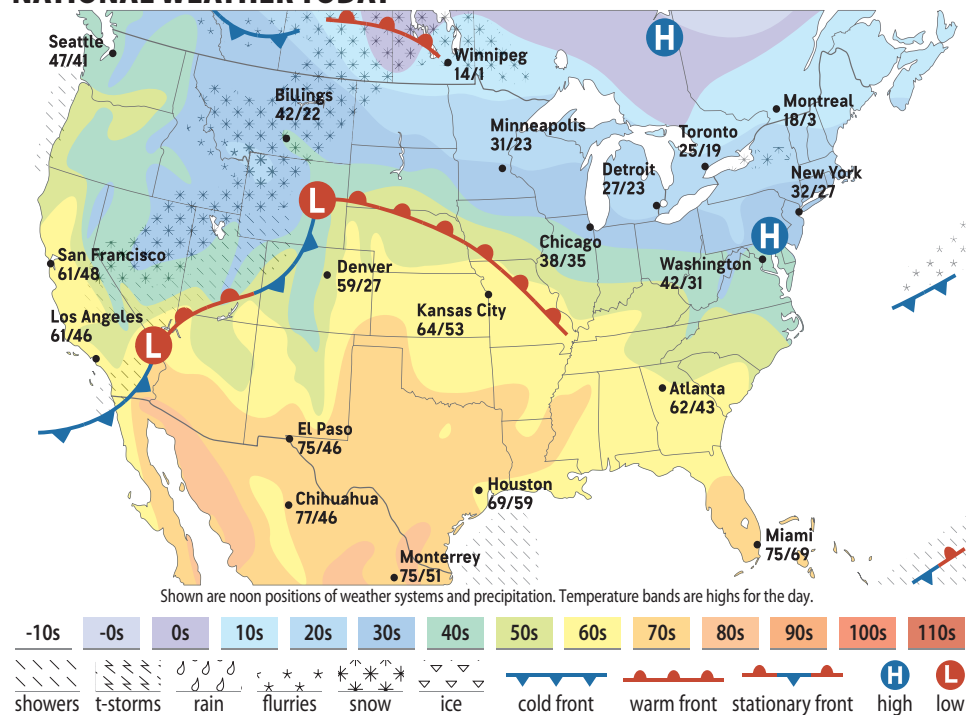


NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 84° in Palm Springs, Calif. Low -42° in Brimson, Minn.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



Search fails to turn up Idaho angler missing since Jan. 17

By **JAYSON JACOBY**
Baker City Herald

HELLS CANYON — A steelhead angler reported seeing what he believed was a body in the Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam on Friday morning, Feb. 4.

A team from the Baker County Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue team brought a boat to the site, about 1 mile downriver from the Hells Canyon Visitors Center, hoping to recover the body of an Idaho fisherman, Alberto Sillonis, who went missing in the area on Jan. 17.

Searchers did not find the body, Sheriff Travis Ash said on Feb. 7.

The steelhead fisherman, who was fishing on the Oregon side of the river, reported seeing the body in a back eddy where the water is about 10 to 12 feet deep, Ash said.

The Baker County Dispatch Center received the

report at 9:13 a.m. on Feb. 4. Ash said he and four others left the dock at the Visitors Center around 1 p.m. that day.

Ash said the searchers spent a few hours searching but did not find a body.

He said the current in the area is strong and unpredictable, and the Sheriff’s Office does not have the ability to put a diver in the water at that site.

Ash said no additional searches are planned unless the Sheriff’s Office receives new reports in the area.

The Sheriff’s Office announced last month that it believes Sillonis, 85, of Weiser, drowned after falling from a dock into the river below the Visitors Center.

Sillonis had left his home on the morning of Jan. 17 and planned to return home that evening.

Relatives reported him missing about 6 p.m. that day when he failed to return.

Baker County deputies, along with deputies from the

Washington County Sheriff’s Office in Idaho, began searching the route to Hells Canyon as well as checking hotels in nearby towns.

At about 9:07 p.m. on Jan. 17, deputies found Sillonis’ 2008 Nissan Frontier pickup truck in the parking lot at the Hells Canyon Visitors Center.

Deputies searched the immediate vicinity and found two fishing poles, with the line from one still in the water, on the center dock.

On the morning of Jan. 18, searchers found a felt, short-brimmed hat on rocks about 60 feet from the dock, which Sillonis’ family confirmed was his.

Idaho Power Company employees used a remote-operated vehicle with an underwater camera and sonar to search the river, but with no success.

Sillonis is a white man who stands 5-foot-8 and weighs about 160 pounds. He has white hair.

If anyone has information about Sillonis, they can call Ash at 541-523-6415.



Sillonis

IN BRIEF

EOU COVID-19 cases remain steady

LA GRANDE — After a spike in COVID-19 cases that reflected statewide trends early in the year, cases at Eastern Oregon University plateaued during the last week.

From Sunday, Feb. 6, through Feb. 13, the university reported eight cases. The weekly trend comes in the wake of 182 cases in January.

Eastern tallied five cases on Feb. 7 and three cases on Feb. 8. Since the university began tracking cases in July 2021, there have been 287 total COVID-19 cases among those associated with Eastern Oregon University. There have been 158 cases among off-campus students, 52 cases among employees and 42 cases among on-campus students.

As of Feb. 13, the university’s test positivity rate is 11.6% — Eastern has conducted 2,482 total tests. The percentage takes into account double-testing positive individuals.

Eastern totaled one off-campus isolation/quarantine during the past week. The university has 50 total isolation rooms

available on campus.

As of the fall semester, in-person vaccination among students stands at 75.7%. There is a 24.2% exemption rate for on-campus students.

For employees, 80.1% are vaccinated and 17.7% received an exemption.

Bend police cite OSP trooper for DUI

BEND — Bend police on Thursday night, Feb. 10, cited an Oregon State Police trooper for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

A Bend police officer pulled over Lewis Topinka, 40, of Bend, around 11:08 p.m. after he drove a pickup through a blinking red light without stopping, according to a press release from the police department. Topinka was off duty.

The officer who pulled over Topinka soon confirmed he was employed as a trooper for the Oregon State Police. Topinka received a citation in lieu of arrest for driving under the influence of intoxicants, which is consistent with COVID-19 protocol at the Deschutes County Adult Jail, the release added.

—EO Media Group

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