

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Friday, July 27, the 208th day of 2018. There are 157 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On July 27, 1974, the House Judiciary Committee voted 27-11 to adopt the first of three articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon, charging he had personally engaged in a course of conduct designed to obstruct justice in the Watergate case.

ON THIS DATE

In 1789, President George Washington signed a measure establishing the Department of Foreign Affairs, forerunner of the Department of State.

In 1866, Cyrus W. Field finished laying out the first successful underwater telegraph cable between North America and Europe (a previous cable in 1858 burned out after only a few weeks' use).

In 1909, during the first official test of the U.S. Army's first airplane, Orville Wright flew himself and a passenger, Lt. Frank Lahm, above Fort Myer, Va., for one hour and 12 minutes.

In 1921, Canadian researcher Frederick Banting and his assistant, Charles Best, succeeded in isolating the hormone insulin at the University of Toronto.

In 1942, during World War II, the First Battle of El Alamein in Egypt ended in a draw as Allied forces stalled the progress of Axis invaders. The Allies went on to win a clear victory over the Axis in the Second Battle of El Alamein later that year.

In 1953, the Korean War armistice was signed at Panmunjom, ending three years of fighting.

In 1960, Vice President Richard M. Nixon was nominated for president on the first ballot at the Republican national convention in Chicago.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$4.4 million
4-20-22-31-34-43

Mega Millions: \$40 million
1-2-4-19-29-20-x3

Powerball: \$168 million
2-18-41-44-64-PB 26-x2

Win for Life: July 25
35-50-59-74

Pick 4:

July 26
• 1 p.m.: 0-2-6-0
• 4 p.m.: 7-3-9-2
• 7 p.m.: 2-3-4-9
• 10 p.m.: 2-3-9-6

Pick 4:

July 25
• 1 p.m.: 4-7-9-7
• 4 p.m.: 9-6-8-4
• 7 p.m.: 9-6-7-7
• 10 p.m.: 9-6-3-5

ROAD REPORT

Numbers to call:
• Inside Oregon: 800-977-6368.
• Outside Oregon: 503-588-2941.

NEWSPAPER LATE?

Every effort is made to deliver your Observer in a timely manner. Occasionally conditions exist that make delivery more difficult.

If you are not on a motor route, delivery should be before 5:30 p.m. If you do not receive your paper by 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, please call 541-963-3161 by 6 p.m.

If your delivery is by motor carrier, delivery should be by 6 p.m. For calls after 6, please call 541-975-1690, leave your name, address and phone number. Your paper will be delivered the next business day.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We usually know what we can do, but temptation shows us who we are."

— Thomas a Kempis,
German theologian
(1380-1471)

Attorney says agent didn't fire at Finicum

By Steven DuBois
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — FBI special agent W. Joseph Astarita is one of the FBI's best shooters, and he knows when to shoot and when not to shoot, his defense attorney told jurors Wednesday.

Standing within easy striking distance of Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, a militia leader who had come close to killing his fellow agent, Astarita decided to hold fire, the attorney, Robert Cary, said during his opening statement in a case that has become an unlikely footnote to the armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in early 2016.

"If he had shot, he would not have missed," Cary said.

Astarita, 41, is charged with making false statements and obstruction of justice after repeatedly telling investigators he did not fire two shots that missed Finicum, an Arizona rancher who served as spokesman for the Ammon Bundy-led group that seized the refuge in southeastern Oregon.

The errant shots came as Finicum left his pickup while authorities tried to arrest leaders of the takeover. Oregon State Police fatally shot Finicum seconds later.

The shooting was deemed legally justified, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary Sussman told jurors in his opening that the case is not about whether Astarita was right or wrong to fire. It's about integrity, "without which a law enforcement officer is nothing and has nothing," he said.

"If you shoot, you own your shots," Sussman said.

Sussman portrayed Astarita as a relatively inexperienced member of an elite FBI unit, and the only member of law enforcement who was in position to fire the shots in question.

"Only one guy stood in just the right spot," he said. "Only one guy stood with his rifle shouldered, aimed right at Robert 'LaVoy' Finicum's truck."

Finicum and the occupiers seized the refuge on Jan. 2, 2016, to protest the imprisonment of two Oregon ranchers who had set fires. President Donald Trump recently pardoned those men, Dwight and Steven Hammond.

On Jan. 26, the FBI learned that Bundy, Finicum and other key figures were leaving the refuge in two vehicles to meet with a sheriff sympathetic to their cause.

Police stopped the vehicles, and several people surrendered, including Ammon Bundy. But Finicum fled at more than 70 mph with Bundy's brother Ryan and several others.

Roughly a mile down the road, Finicum swerved to avoid a roadblock, nearly hit an FBI agent and careened into a snowbank. Three shots, none fired by Astarita, hit the pickup during the chaos.

The two mystery gunshots rang out as Finicum emerged from his pickup and yelled, "Go ahead and shoot me!"

One bullet missed everything and was never recovered. The other struck the pickup and shattered a window. A fragment, possibly from the bullet, went into Ryan Bundy's shoulder. The potential evidence remains embedded.

"He won't give it to us, and we just can't go in and take it," Sussman said.

Shortly after the errant shots, two state troopers killed Finicum as he ran from the truck and reached toward a pocket where he kept a loaded gun.

Cary, the defense lawyer, stressed to jurors that no eye-witnesses saw Astarita fire his weapon and no such video exists. He also said there is no ballistic evidence linking a bullet to the Astarita's rifle.

He said two other members of law enforcement were in range to fire the rounds in question. He said an Oregon State Police trooper who killed Finicum — "the guy who aggressively followed Finicum into the snow and shot him dead" — likely fired them.

FIRE

Continued from Page 1A
its ladder truck and a group of firefighters to assist on the scene. Baker City sent an engine and a group of their firefighters to the scene as well.

In all, firefighters from La Grande Rural, La Grande, Elgin, Baker City and Pendleton responded to the Boise Cascade fire. Despite all the help, Thomas said it took approximately five to six hours for the firefighters to get to the fire itself because the layout of the warehouse was a challenge.

The wood product that was stored in the warehouse had to be moved from the perimeter of the building to the inside so the firefighters could get to the walls where the fire was still smoldering.

Once the second ladder arrived, the firefighters attacked the fire from the front, on the side and straight down, which is eventually how they were able to contain it.

The firefighters also had the added challenge of battling the fire in mid-90 degree heat.

"I was very proud and impressed with everyone," Thomas said. "I watched several of the different cities go through several different air tanks. If they hadn't gotten to the fire, it would have spread to the other end of the building."

Eventually, he said, the firefighters were able to hand over the fire to the Boise Cascade fire response team.

Thomas said the crews were able to start leaving the scene after 2 p.m.

Quick actions save tavern

By Katy Nesbitt
For the Observer

IMNAHA — A car fire threatening the Imnaha Store and Tavern was extinguished yesterday afternoon by a large community effort and a dose of luck.

According to Tim Roberts, who has a small fire engine he operates in coordination with the Oregon Department of Forestry, neighbors were stringing out hoses from their homes to put out the fire when he arrived.

"I got a call from (tavern owner) Sallie (Tanzey) that there was a car on fire in front of the store," he said.

Roberts said the Chevy SUV was smoking as it pulled into a parking spot next to a large propane tank, but the driver was unable to open the hood to put out the fire.

Johnny Gibson, a heavy equipment operator, was

already there when Roberts arrived. Gibson unloaded a backhoe off a trailer and used it to lift the hood of the SUV so water could be sprayed directly on the fire.

"It was just pure dumb luck that Johnny arrived when he did," said Enterprise Fire Chief Paul Karvoski.

Joseph and Enterprise Fire Departments, U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry personnel and sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the scene. Roberts, who was closer than any of the other resources, said he arrived 40 minutes ahead of the other fire engines.

"The county's response was tremendous — they emptied the barn," Roberts said.

If the fire hadn't been contained, Karvoski said, it could have ignited the propane tanks and potentially burned down the tavern, the Roadhouse next door and possibly other buildings in town.

Karvoski said the temperature was 105 degrees in Imnaha at the time of the fire, around 2:45 p.m. Roberts said the wind was blowing as well, and he credited the Imnaha residents for acting quickly.

"The community does well in that kind of situation," he said.

R & C
FAMILY STORE
Footwear for the Family

2700 Bearco Loop
La Grande
541-963-8898

Oregon Department of Transportation
NOTICE OF ROAD WORK
UNDER CONSTRUCTION

US 30 / OR7 / OR82 / OR237 / CHIP SEAL
(La Grande-Baker / Whitney / Wallowa Lake / Union-North Powder Hwy.'s.)

Beginning **August 6** the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) will be chip sealing sections of OR7 (Whitney Hwy.), US30 (La Grande-Baker Hwy.), OR82 (Wallowa Lake Hwy.) and OR237 (Union-North Powder Highway) in the Baker and Union County areas.

- Aug. 6-7:** I-84 freeway on/off ramps at Exit 306, then head toward Baker City on U.S. 30 to intersection of Auburn St. and Main St. at mile point 53.96 (near Chevron Station in Baker City). This work is expected to take about 2 days. Exit 306 will be closed August 8 for chip sealing of freeway on and off ramps.
- Aug. 6-15:** OR82 between Elgin and Minan, mile points 20-34.
- Aug. 7-9:** OR7 between mile post 35.42 near bottom of Mason Dam and mile post 41.85 at Salisbury Junction, where OR7 intersects with OR245. This work is expected to take about 2 days.
- Aug. 13-15:** US30 between mile post 49.85 at Hughes Lane in Baker City and mile post 32.86 at west city limits of North Powder. Expect to be working in Haines on Aug. 14 and end at North Powder on Aug. 15.
- Aug. 16-21:** OR237 (Union-North Powder) between mile post 22.8 (five miles south of Union) and North Powder west city limits, at mile post 32.45. This work is expected to take about 3 days. Chip seal through North Powder expected to occur Aug. 21.

NOTE: Dates are subject to change, depending on weather conditions and other factors.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS: During chip seal activities in downtown areas, vehicles will not be allowed to park in work zones along US30 in the Baker City and Haines area, or along OR237 in North Powder.

IRRIGATION PIVOTS/WATER SPRINKLERS: Local residents are asked to adjust irrigation pivots and lawn sprinklers to avoid spraying water onto the roadway, as this creates problems for chip rock application.

TRAVEL IMPACTS: Expect up to 20-minute delays, reduced speeds, loose rock on the roadway, flaggers, and pilot cars directing single lane traffic through the work zones. Minor delays during nighttime/early morning hours for road sweeping. Please reduce speed and watch for construction activities in the area. Plan extra travel time and slow down to prevent loose rock from flying onto other vehicles. Crews will sweep roadway, but expect some loose rock to be present for several days after chip seal.

REQUEST TO RANCH AND FARM OWNERS: ODOT is asking highway users to keep farm equipment off the impacted highway sections during and up to two days after the chip seal operations. To prevent chip rock adhesion problems due to animal waste on the roadway, ranchers are requested **please contact the ODOT maintenance manager listed on attached map** and advise of any plans to move livestock on impacted highway sections during spring or summer months this year.

Your local ODOT maintenance crews appreciate your support and cooperation during this paving operation.
For other eastern Oregon highway construction project information contact Tom Strandberg @ 541-963-1330, email: thomas.m.strandberg@odot.state.or.us or visit www.tinyurl.com/odot-region5

From Wagon Wheels to Ferris Wheels
August 1-2-3-4
2018 Fair
UNION COUNTY

Day	Time	Event
Wednesday, August 1, 2018	2pm	Bad Penny
	8am	Fair Opens
	10am	Booth Exhibits Open
	10:30am	4H Open Class Livestock Judging including exotic and small animals
	2pm	Cascade Amusement
	4pm	Carnival Opens
	8pm	Good Times/Bad Times, Main Stage
	10pm	Good Times/Bad Times, Main Stage
	10pm	Fair Closes
	Thursday, August 2, 2018	8am
8-10am		Senior Breakfast
9am		Open Class Goat Show
10am		Booth Exhibits Open
10am		Log Cabin Opens, Family Fun
2pm		Cascade Amusement
4pm		Carnival Opens
4pm		Ring of Fire Reunion, Main Stage
5pm		Fair Parade Line-up
5pm		Tap That Beer Garden Opens
Friday, August 3, 2018	8am	Fair Opens
	10am	Booth Exhibits Open
	2pm	Cascade Amusement
	4pm	Carnival Opens
	4pm	Ring of Fire Reunion, Main Stage
	4pm	Fair Parade Line-up
	5pm	Tap That Beer Garden Opens
	5:15pm	Parade Judging
	6pm	Fair Parade Downtown
	8pm	Ring of Fire Reunion, Main Stage
Saturday, August 4, 2018	8am	Fair Opens
	10am	Booth Exhibits Open
	2pm	Cascade Amusement
	4pm	Buyer
	4pm	check in
	4pm	Junior Market Auction
	4pm	BBQ
	4pm	Depot Street Syncopators, Main Stage
	5pm	Tap That Beer Garden Opens
	5pm	Junior Market Auction
8pm	Depot Street Syncopators, Main Stage	
10pm	Fair Closes	
Sunday, August 5, 2018	8am-3pm	All Exhibits Released