

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Monday, May 20, the 140th day of 2019. There are 225 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On May 20, 1927, Charles Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field on Long Island, New York, aboard the Spirit of St. Louis on his historic solo flight to France.

ON THIS DATE

In 1521, Ignatius of Loyola was wounded by a cannonball while defending Pamplona against the French; during his convalescence he turned to religion, becoming a leader of the Counter-Reformation and the founder of the Jesuits.

In 1873, Levi Strauss and tailor Jacob Davis received a U.S. patent for men's work pants made with copper rivets.

In 1899, taxi driver Jacob German was pulled over and arrested by a police officer riding a bicycle for speeding down Manhattan's Lexington Avenue in his electric car at 12 miles an hour at a time when the speed limit was 8 mph; it was the first recorded speeding arrest in U.S. history.

In 1915, Israeli soldier-statesman Moshe Dayan was born at Deganya Alef Kibbutz.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart took off from Newfoundland to become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. (Because of weather and equipment problems, Earhart set down in Northern Ireland instead of her intended destination, France.)

In 1939, regular trans-Atlantic mail service began as a Pan American Airways plane, the Yankee Clipper, took off from Port Washington, New York, bound for Marseille, France.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$2.0 million
3-5-13-15-24-39

Mega Millions: \$367 million
5-17-28-32-63-11-x3

Powerball: \$288 million
2-10-25-66-67-PB 26-x4

Win for Life: May 18
22-38-50-55

Pick 4: May 19

• 1 p.m.: 2-5-9-0

• 4 p.m.: 3-4-7-0

• 7 p.m.: 4-4-4-0

• 10 p.m.: 1-0-6-5

Pick 4: May 18

• 1 p.m.: 5-4-1-8

• 4 p.m.: 3-7-9-8

• 7 p.m.: 4-2-3-3

• 10 p.m.: 0-4-3-6

Pick 4: May 17

• 1 p.m.: 0-9-7-6

• 4 p.m.: 8-7-8-6

• 7 p.m.: 2-4-6-2

• 10 p.m.: 7-8-7-3

ROAD REPORT

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NEWSPAPER LATE?

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies."

— Moshe Dayan (1915-1981)

One woman's unique way to remember

By Trish Yerges
For The Observer

"People either like them or they hate them because they're made with human hair," said Carolyn Witty of Enterprise, who collects Victorian mourning wreaths.

Victorian mourning wreaths were typically framed and on display in homes in remembrance of beloved female family members who had died. It was reverently viewed as a type of memorial art or symbol of family history, especially when the wreath was a composite of many family members' hair.

"The hair that is used in these wreaths does not come off after a person has died," she explained, "but the hair comes from a hair receiver."

It was a custom during the Victorian era for a woman to let her hair down and brush it 100 strokes before she retired to bed. She removed the hair from her brush or comb and wound it around her finger. Then she put the wound-up hair in a hair receiver, a small pot that had a lid with a hole in the center of it. The woman simply pushed her wound-up hair through the hole and that's where the hair was stored until it was used into some form of hair art.

"The woman would take the hair out and make flowerets or leaves or make watch fobs or other pieces of jewelry like brooches and earrings," Witty said. "It was an art not too far off from embroidery, tatting, quilting, crocheting — just with a different medium."



Trish Yerges/For The Observer

Carolyn Witty of Wallowa County enjoys collecting Victorian mourning wreaths made of human hair. She values it as art and as someone's family history.

The flowerets made of hair were combined to make a U-shaped wreath with the hair of the most recently deceased person put in a place of honor in the middle of the wreath. Wreaths of different hair colors were particularly beautiful and are highly prized by collectors.

"Some hair is more valuable than others," Witty said, "Red and gray (combinations are) more valuable because obviously it's more than one person and more than one generation."

Victorian ladies learned this craft and acquired patterns through publications like "Godey's Lady's Book" or the "Self-Instructor in the Art of Hair Work" published in 1867. There was also a catalog called the "National Artistic Hairwork Company" that would assist women

in learning this art form.

Witty was first introduced to mourning wreaths a number of years ago when a friend in Pendleton gave her one as a gift. She was immediately drawn to the intricacies of hair art, admiring the tiny weaving and folding of the hair over wire forms to create stems, flower blossoms and leaves.

"But mourning wreaths are just one kind of hair art," she said. "During the Civil War, women used their hair to make watch fobs to send with their men into war."

Other hair art, such as brooches, rings and earrings were commonly worn during the year-long grieving period in Europe. It gave the wearer a sense of closeness since hair is a very personal part of the body. Not only was it a common mourning cus-

tom but the time spent making hair jewelry or mourning wreaths was also therapeutic for the artist.

"It was an evening occupation, and it wasn't a group thing like quilting," Witty said. "It was a private one because this was their family member's hair after she passed away."

Women often made hair flowerets from their own hair and saved them, and over many generations, a wreath could be made.

"People immigrated to America with their grandmother's hair or their mother's hair flower pieces because it was the only connection they had with their loved one from back home in Europe," Witty said.

However, not everyone in colonial America had a sympathetic understand-

ing of this grieving custom.

"In this country, when the Salem witch trials took place, a lot of hair (art) was burned because people thought it carried lice, germs and even witchcraft because it was human hair," Witty said.

Some people today are repulsed by mourning wreaths, Witty said. They connect personal hair from deceased people with the occult, and some fear a ghostly attachment to the wreaths.

"I've never had any experiences like that with the wreaths I own," Witty said. "I really like mourning wreaths as art. My husband has his stuffed elk and caribou on the wall, and I have my wreaths."

The tradition of making of mourning wreaths and hair flowerets has ceased in America, and no one makes new ones anymore.

"That's partly because there's no long hair available," Witty said.

With the advent of stylish haircuts, many women don't grow the length of hair needed to create hair flowerets. This fact makes hair art all the more collectible. Fine examples of mourning wreaths may still be found at museums, estate sales, auctions, antique shows and on the internet.

To see more artifacts from the Victorian era, visit the Union County Museum, 333 S. Main St. in Union, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. The museum is open mid-May until the end of September. ■

Gun control measure expected back after miss this session

The Associated Press

SALEM — A multifaceted gun control bill pushed by Oregon Democrats may be dead this session, but advocates and opponents alike are confident it will return.

The Statesman Journal reports that Senate Bill 978 was a casualty of the deal that got Senate Republicans to end their four-day walkout and return to the Capitol, allowing Democrats to pass a multibillion-dollar education revenue bill on May 13.

The move to include SB978 in the trade disappointed gun control advocates inside and outside the Capitol. The measure would have required safe gun storage; placed liability on gun owners if a gun is stolen, but not reported, and used to injure a person or property; outlawed untraceable and undetectable firearms; granted local authorities the power to regulate firearm access in public buildings; and allowed retailers to set higher

minimum purchasing age restrictions.

"We certainly had hopes that this would be a big year for sweeping gun control and gun regulation here in Oregon," said Hilary Uhlig, state campaigns lead for Moms Demand Action in Oregon. "If it was too hard to stomach as a package, we are used to incremental change and we will keep working until we can stem the tide of gun death."

Buoying their outlooks somewhat was the success so far of House Bill 2013, Uhlig and other advocates said. It would fix an oversight from 2018 when lawmakers closed the so-called "boyfriend loophole" in gun possession by people convicted of domestic violence.

The original 2015 legislation barred people convicted of a domestic violence crime, or subject to a restraining order from possessing firearms, and this session's HB 2013 lays out exactly how that is supposed to happen. ■

BAKER

Continued from Page 1A

That must happen by June 30. The city's new fiscal year starts July 1.

In the budget message, Warner writes that the city's cash balance at the end of the current fiscal year will be an estimated \$160,000 more than was budgeted.

The main reason is lower-than-expected personnel costs in the Police Department.

The Department has had several vacant positions at times during the fiscal year. Chief Wyn Lohner retired in May 2018, and there were multiple other positions that went unfilled.

Warner writes that the Police Department should be at full staffing by the end of June.

The situation is different with the Fire Department, where the hiring of three firefighters with a federal grant has not reduced overtime costs as much as expected, Warner wrote.

Personnel costs in the Fire Department have been consistent with the adopted budget, however.

Through March — 75% of the fiscal year elapsed — personnel costs were 73.5% of the budgeted total. Police Department personnel costs at that point amounted to 65.6% of budget.

The city's rate for Oregon's Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) will increase by about 30 percent starting July 1.

In the general fund, which includes administration and the police and fire departments, that PERS increase will boost the city's bill by about \$116,000 in the next fiscal year. Because PERS rates are set for two years, the city will have two years to absorb the rate increase, Warner wrote.

On the positive side of the ledger, the city is collecting revenue from its ambulance service at a higher rate than the previous fiscal year.

The Fire Department handles far more ambulance runs than it does fires, and ambulance revenue accounts for about 44 percent of the Department's annual budget.

Warner wrote that he expects the city will receive more for ambu-

lance patients covered by Medicaid — as much as \$50,000 in additional revenue for the coming fiscal year. However, the city is not budgeting that revenue in case the projection is too optimistic.

The city projects ambulance revenue will rise from about \$730,000 this year to \$750,000 in the coming fiscal year.

The city is proposing a 2% merit pay raise for employees who aren't represented by a union. ■

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