

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Monday, Aug. 12, the 224th day of 2019. There are 141 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Aug. 12, 2017, a car plowed into a crowd of people peacefully protesting a white nationalist rally in the Virginia college town of Charlottesville, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and hurting more than a dozen others. (The attacker, James Alex Fields, was sentenced to life in prison on 29 federal hate crime charges, and life plus 419 years on state charges.) President Donald Trump condemned what he called an "egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides." Democrats and some Republicans called on him to specifically denounce white supremacy. Two Virginia state policemen were killed in a helicopter crash while monitoring the Charlottesville protests.

ON THIS DATE

In 1909, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home to the Indianapolis 500, first opened.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt nominated Hugo Black to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1939, the MGM movie musical "The Wizard of Oz," starring Judy Garland, had its world premiere at the Strand Theater in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, three days before opening in Hollywood.

In 1944, during World War II, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., eldest son of Joseph and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, was killed with his co-pilot when their explosives-laden Navy plane blew up over England.

In 1953, the Soviet Union conducted a secret test of its first hydrogen bomb.

In 1962, one day after launching Andrian Nikolayev into orbit, the Soviet Union also sent up cosmonaut Pavel Popovich; both men landed safely Aug. 15.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$2.4 million
4-5-18-31-32-38

Mega Millions: \$65 million
15-53-56-59-63-1 x2

Powerball: \$138 million
35-41-44-58-59-PB 3 x3

Win for Life: Aug 10
4-46-56-57

Pick 4:

- Aug 11
- 1 p.m.: 3-4-7-5
- 4 p.m.: 0-1-9-8
- 7 p.m.: 0-8-7-7
- 10 p.m.: 9-0-1-9

Pick 4:

- Aug 10
- 1 p.m.: 2-5-9-6
- 4 p.m.: 9-3-2-6
- 7 p.m.: 8-2-5-3
- 10 p.m.: 1-6-9-9

Pick 4:

- Aug 9
- 1 p.m.: 7-9-1-1
- 4 p.m.: 1-1-9-9
- 7 p.m.: 3-9-9-1
- 10 p.m.: 4-9-9-4

ROAD REPORT

- Numbers to call:
- Inside Oregon: 800-977-6368.
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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 please call 541-963-3161.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The secret to life is meaningless unless you discover it yourself."

— From "Of Human Bondage" by W. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965)

A new way to play the violin



Courtesy photo

Baker City native Aaron Bailey with his violin tutor, Tigran Vardanyan, have relaunched their newly improved violin pad, the ArcRest.

By Samantha O'Conner
EO Media Group

Musicians around the world know the difficulties of finding a comfortable way to hold their instrument without affecting the sound.

Aaron Bailey, 37, a Baker City native, in his own search to find a comfortable set up for his violin created a solution — the ArcRest.

The ArcRest is a foam shoulder pad that fills the space between the musician and the instrument, allowing for more movement. The ArcRest also fills the space between the shoulder and instrument to decrease sound dampening for a better sound.

Bailey, who graduated from Baker High School in 2000 and from the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York in 2005, designed the ArcRest with Tigran Vardanyan, a violin teacher at Nazareth College, in 2013.

Vardanyan was Bailey's tutor, and it was during one of their sessions that they discussed their shared interest in a more comfortable rest for the violin.

Vardanyan encouraged Bailey to explore different materials, shapes and sizes. Bailey then went to Michael's, a craft store, bought a variety of materials and "tinkered around a bit."

He returned two weeks

later with the first version of what would become the ArcRest.

"Originally, it was just for us, we had no intention for it to go beyond us," Bailey said, referring to himself and Vardanyan.

But as people began to notice the pad the two musicians were using, they asked about getting one.

Vardanyan and Bailey realized there was a market for their product, and they set out to refine their design. They created one new version before settling on the current form.

"Third time is the charm," Bailey said.

Their ArcRest is now sought after by professional musicians all around the world. They ship orders to Korea, Australia, Canada, and they work with a distributor in the United Kingdom.

Bailey and Vardanyan began their company in 2016 and now sell between 300 to 400 ArcRests per year.

The two make the ArcRest themselves.

The device is made primarily from wood, but with their expansion last year, they have also started using carbon fiber composite.

Bailey began playing the violin when he was 3 years old. His parents, Kent and Monica Bailey, told him that from the age of 18

months he would often grab different objects and hold them as though they were a violin.

Bailey continued to play the violin through high school and college. When the high school did "Guys and Dolls" he was the sole string player for the performance.

He received a \$32,000 academic scholarship to attend Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. He majored in mechanical engineering and minored in music and joined the Rochester Institute of Technology student orchestra.

He graduated in 2005 and is currently working at Council Rock, a telecommunications company in Rochester, while making the ArcRest as a side job.

Bailey also is a member of the Brighton Symphony Orchestra in Brighton, New York, and the Rococo Project.

Bailey said the Rococo Project is a string quartet that performs music written prior to 1830 on period instruments. They use duck strings instead of modern metal, and baroque-style bows, which are two inches shorter than modern versions.

"It's actually helped my playing and forced me to interact with the violin more," Bailey said.

Mankins pleads guilty in death of son

EO Media Group

A Baker City man pleaded guilty Friday in Baker County Circuit Court to criminally negligent homicide, unlawful possession of methamphetamine and recklessly endangering another person in connection with the November death of his 2-year-old son.

Peter Lee Mankins, 33, of 1905 Birch St., was sentenced to 34 months in prison and will be placed on three years' post-prison supervision upon release, District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff stated in a press released.

Mankins was charged with criminally negligent homicide, a Class B felony, after 2-year-old Liam Mankins got control of a loaded .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol at his home on Nov. 4, 2018, and shot himself in the head.

Peter Mankins was asleep in his bedroom when the boy got access to the gun, Shirtcliff said. Liam was playing with the gun on the floor when it discharged.

The boy was transported to St. Alphonsus hospital in Baker City and then flown

by Life Flight to St. Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise, where he later died.

Mankins was charged with possession of methamphetamine, a Class A misdemeanor, after investigators found meth in the home, Shirtcliff said. And Mankins was charged with recklessly endangering another person, also a Class A misdemeanor, because the drug was readily accessible to the 2-year-old boy.

Mankins tested positive for methamphetamine at the time of the offenses, based on toxicology reports, Shirtcliff said.

Umatilla County Circuit Court Judge Jon Lieuallen sentenced Mankins after a settlement conference Friday, Shirtcliff said.

One count of second-degree manslaughter, and two counts of endangering the welfare of a minor were dismissed as part of a plea agreement with the District Attorney's Office.

The boy's mother, Diana Goodman, also was in the home when Liam Mankins gained access to the gun and shot himself.

Her case is still pending, Shirtcliff said.

Weekend storms hit region

EO Media Group

A series of weekend storms that battered the Blue Mountains with several thousand lightning bolts, each capable of igniting a fire, also dumped copious rain in places that prevented blazes from spreading quickly.

Lightning sparked more than two dozen fires across Northeastern Oregon, but crews were able to control most at one-tenth of an acre or less.

"We've gotten quite a bit of precipitation over most of the area," said Willy Crippen, who works for the Oregon Department of Forestry and recently retired as a fire management officer for

the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. "The weather after the storms was very conducive to getting control over most of the fires."

According to the National Weather Service more than 35,000 lightning strikes were recorded over the weekend across the Northwest, including Oregon, Washington and parts of Idaho.

"It was a pretty active storm," Crippen said.

The low pressure system that helped spawn the thunderstorms also ushered in a much cooler airmass. The temperature Sunday afternoon at Anthony Lakes was in the low 40s, with occasional rain showers.

Fall mushroom season begins early in Northwest

The Associated Press

Pacific Northwesterners who forage for wild mushrooms are noticing that the late summer and fall delicacies are coming in early this year. Edible wild mushrooms are now flooding wholesale markets.

In the maritime Northwest, chanterelles are coming in at least three weeks early. In the Cascade Mountains, porcinis (aka king boletes) and matsutakes (aka pine mushroom) are poking up earlier than normal too.

"We're already seeing mushrooms coming in that generally don't show up until the middle of September," Charlie Wiley, a commercial mushroom buyer in Southwest Washington and owner of Pacific Northwest Wild Mushrooms, said. "We've got pine mushrooms coming in. I can't remember ever getting them in August."

Wiley guessed the wild

mushrooms were triggered to fruit early by mild, moist summer weather.

"Mother Nature is finicky and she definitely tricked them," Wiley told public radio on Wednesday. "It's shaping up to be an outstanding mushroom crop this year."

Wiley said wholesale prices are falling fast as pickers bring in big harvests, which means you might want to keep an eye out for specials at supermarkets and restaurants.

A new festival in Oregon to celebrate wild mushrooms had to be moved up by a week to Aug. 25 because the star attraction is arriving early. The Mt. Hood Meadows Mushroom Festival was originally scheduled for Labor Day weekend.

Vice president Dave Tragethon said his Mount Hood resort previously hosted mushroom dinners in the spring and fall, but expanded the program this

year to include guided hikes, cooking demos and a food fest.

"We are making this more about discovery and getting into the forest to find some treasures, identifying them and coming up with delicious ways to prepare and present them," Tragethon said.

Novices interested in foraging for wild mushrooms are strongly urged to go out with a mushroom expert until they get the hang of fungi identification.

Commercial mushroom foragers hope the unusual early arrival of fall fungi does not lead to an early end of this year's season as well.

"Hopefully, we'll still get another flush of things in the fall," Dena Wiley, a partner in the Pacific Northwest Wild Mushrooms company, said. "We count on the October mushrooms to come in for the Thanksgiving holidays."

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