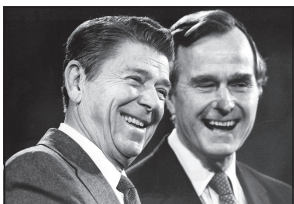


DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 6, the 310th day of 2019. There are 55 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Nov. 6, 1984, President Ronald Reagan won re-election by a landslide over former Vice President Walter Mondale, the Democratic challenger.

ON THIS DATE

In 1814, Adolphe Sax, the inventor of the saxophone, was born in Dinant, Belgium.

In 1860, former Illinois congressman Abraham Lincoln of the Republican Party was elected President of the United States as he defeated John Breckinridge, John Bell and Stephen Douglas.

In 1861, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was elected to a six-year term of office.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower won re-election, defeating Democrat Adlai E. Stevenson.

In 2012, President Barack Obama was elected to a second term of office, defeating Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

In 2016, FBI Director James Comey abruptly announced that Democrat Hillary Clinton should not face criminal charges related to newly discovered emails from her tenure at the State Department.

CORRECTION

In the Nov. 4 article, "Union County Girl Scouts take Manhattan" on page 1 A, Angela D'Antonio's last name was misspelled.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$5.7 million
8-22-26-29-36-40

Mega Millions: \$145 million
2-9-24-49-54-19-x3

Powerball: \$40 million
3-23-32-37-58-22-x2

Win for Life: Nov. 4
14-17-55-58

Pick 4:

Nov. 5
• 1 p.m.: 4-3-9-2
• 4 p.m.: 0-9-5-3
• 7 p.m.: 2-3-5-2
• 10 p.m.: 0-4-6-1
Pick 4: Nov. 4
• 1 p.m.: 2-1-2-6
• 4 p.m.: 3-5-2-9
• 7 p.m.: 3-4-1-9
• 10 p.m.: 2-1-7-0

NEWSPAPER LATE?

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

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The illiterate of the future will not be the person who cannot read. It will be the person who does not know how to learn."

— Alvin Toffler, American writer-futurist



Bill Bradshaw/EO Media Group

Gladys Huffman, a World War II veteran of Britain's Royal Air Force, sits covered in a quilt presented to her by the American Legion, of which she is a member in her own right. She was a war bride to a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Forces and has been a U.S. citizen since 1945. She now lives at the Alpine House at Joseph.

Making her home in Joseph

■ Gladys Huffman's century-long storied life brings her to Wallowa County

By Bill Bradshaw

EO Media Group

JOSEPH — How does a young English girl who served in the Royal Air Force end up in Joseph, Oregon? To tell the full story would take a long time to tell — just about 100 years. That's because Gladys Huffman will turn 100 in January.

But for this Veterans Day, she's one of the few World War II veterans left in Wallowa County — and the only one living at the Alpine House in Joseph.

Born in January 1920 in Birkenhead, England, Huffman was just 19 when Great Britain declared war on Nazi Germany after Hitler's Sept. 1, 1939, invasion of Poland.

Like many of her countrymen — and women — she wanted to join the war effort. At first, she volunteered as an air raid warden and spotter in her hometown. Both Birkenhead and Liverpool were prominent shipbuilding centers and thus targets of the Luftwaffe — the German air force.

"We had an anti-aircraft gun parked right outside our house," she recalls, saying she was based near her home.

She even remembers after one Luftwaffe raid, the building in which she was taking shelter was hit and heavily damaged, but she and others survived in the basement.

"We didn't know how we were going to get out until a pickaxe came through the wall and somebody asked if we were OK," she says.

As an air raid warden, she helped enforce blackouts during the Blitz — Germany's early, unsuccessful effort to bomb Britain into submission that culminated in British victory in the Battle of Britain — and after a bombing by the Luftwaffe she would call in where emergency services



Courtesy of Gladys Huffman

Huffman, then Favager, is shown in her Women's Auxiliary Air Force uniform while serving for Britain's Royal Air Force during World War II.

were needed. She says that on one occasion, her family spent 10 days in an air raid shelter.

She says the bombings during the Blitz and the blackouts were the worst parts of the war she experienced personally.

"You couldn't see anything (at night)," she says. "You couldn't even see the street signs to know where you were. That was the hardest to take."

Of course, the worst experience for her and her family was what happened to two of her brothers, Reginald and Victor Favager, who also were in the RAF.

Huffman said that one night, during the same raid over occupied Europe, both the Lancaster bombers her brothers were aboard were shot down. Victor, who had lied about his age and enlisted at 17, was killed, and Reginald, 19 at the

time, was taken prisoner. Reginald was captured near the site where the Germans were doing rocket tests and he was accused of being a spy.

"He was treated very badly by the Nazis," she says, adding that he did survive the war.

As a plane spotter, she would identify whether flights of planes were friend or foe and count the numbers of enemy planes. Later, she became one of the early volunteers in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

"At first, the RAF didn't want women," she says. "You had to be able to do a man's (desk) job to release him to go to the front."

Later on, she says, as Britain got more desperate for manpower, women were conscripted, something American women haven't experienced.

Huffman was given a job as an accountant handling the finances of British and foreign pilots. That's how she met her first husband, Willard W. Davis.

An American, Davis went to Canada to try to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

"He wanted to go in right now" to be a fighter pilot, Huffman said.

But since the process of becoming a pilot with the RCAF was going to take too long, he instead got his wings with the air force of the Polish government in exile. He got his training and wings from the RAF, wore an RAF uniform, but flew in a squadron with Poles and other non-Brits.

Davis flew for the Poles and the RAF until America came into the war in

December 1941.

"He wanted to fly under his own colors" and transferred to the U.S. Army Air Forces, Huffman said.

The couple married in June of 1943 and her RAF service ended. By then, the Allies were pushing back on nearly all fronts, but Davis didn't want his bride in harm's way and sent her to America.

But that in itself involved danger. She sailed on the RMS Aquitania — a former ocean liner — to New York and at times was chased by U-boats.

"It was kind of scary to know they were following you," she says, but added there was no serious danger since the Aquitania was so much faster. She said no U-boat ever got close enough to fire a torpedo.

After V.E. Day in May 1945, Davis served in the U.S. Army of Occupation in Germany and his new family joined him there. That's when Huffman became a U.S. citizen.

"He said it would be better being in Germany with a U.S. passport than a British one," she says.

She said Davis died in 1954, of a heart attack, induced by the stress of the war.

Today, Davis has four daughters, 16 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

In 2018, she moved to the Alpine House since her daughter, Gockley, was living nearby and had lived in Joseph for 16 years. Gockley moved to Peck, Idaho, this year.

Huffman said she had visited Wallowa County once before moving here and fell in love with it.

Road crews ready for winter

By Bill Bradshaw

EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — Colder temperatures, shorter days and occasional snow indicate winter is on the horizon, and those responsible for keeping Wallowa County roads and streets clear are getting ready for it.

Oregon Department of Transportation keeps clear about 127 miles on the state highways — OR82, OR3, OR350 and OR351 — including where they go through cities, while each city is responsible for its own streets. The Wallowa County Road Department clears a total of about 700 miles of paved and gravel roads.

Brandon Tanzey, roadmaster for Wallowa County, said his crews have been preparing for their coming winter work.

"We hope for the best and expect the worst," he said of the likelihood of a rough winter ahead. "We've got everything geared up and ready to go."

Tanzey said the county has a fleet of 10 vehicles of various sorts — graders, plow trucks, sanders, etc. — to handle the approximately 700 miles of county roads and a crew of 11 people to operate them.

"If it's really bad, with me it's 12," he said.

He said the county gets much of its sand/gravel mix from ODOT. After the snowfall of the night of Oct. 28-29, county crews deposited sand/gravel on areas that didn't get the sun and still had compacted snow, Tanzey said.

Each road department determines for itself the circumstances at which they break out the plows.

Ronnie Neil, public works director for Enterprise, said his crew normally comes in about 4 a.m. if there's more than 2-1/2 inches of snow on the ground.

First, the city takes care of the downtown and main emergency routes and school areas, and then concentrates on residential areas. Similar priorities are common in other cities in the county.

Some road departments take a less specific approach.

"We play it by ear," which usually means 2 to 4 inches, ODOT's Tanzey said.

All the road departments except Joseph use sand or a sand/gravel mix, particularly on hills and at curves. Joseph doesn't use sand because of the few hills in town, said Larry Braden, city administrator.



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