

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Thursday, Feb. 20, the 51st day of 2020. There are 315 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Feb. 20, 1962, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Project Mercury's Friendship 7 spacecraft, which circled the globe three times in a flight lasting 4 hours, 55 minutes and 23 seconds before splashing down safely in the Atlantic Ocean 800 miles southeast of Bermuda.

ON THIS DATE

In 1792, President George Washington signed an act creating the United States Post Office Department.

In 1809, the Supreme Court ruled that no state legislature could annul the judgments or determine the jurisdictions of federal courts.

In 1862, William Wallace Lincoln, the 11-year-old son of President Abraham Lincoln and first lady Mary Todd Lincoln, died at the White House, apparently of typhoid fever.

In 1942, Lt. Edward "Butch" O'Hare became the U.S. Navy's first flying ace of World War II by shooting down five Japanese bombers while defending the aircraft carrier USS Lexington in the South Pacific.

In 1965, America's Ranger 8 spacecraft crashed on the moon, as planned, after sending back thousands of pictures of the lunar surface.

In 1971, the National Emergency Warning Center in Colorado erroneously ordered U.S. radio and TV stations off the air; some stations heeded the alert, which was not lifted for about 40 minutes.

In 1987, a bomb left by Unabomber Ted Kaczynski exploded behind a computer store in Salt Lake City, seriously injuring store owner Gary Wright.

In 2003, a fire sparked by pyrotechnics broke out during a concert by the group Great White at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, killing 100 people.

In 2007, in a victory for President George W. Bush, a divided federal appeals court ruled that Guantanamo Bay detainees could not use the U.S. court system to challenge their indefinite imprisonment.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$4.4 million
21-25-26-29-41-48

Mega Millions: \$50 million
6-12-39-61-70-4 x3

Powerball: \$50 million
16-32-35-36-46-3 x3

Win for Life: Feb. 17
17-36-70-76

Pick 4: Feb. 18
• 1 p.m.: 6-7-9-0
• 4 p.m.: 4-4-1-8
• 7 p.m.: 2-5-8-7
• 10 p.m.: 3-4-4-8
Pick 4: Feb. 17
• 1 p.m.: 9-5-5-4
• 4 p.m.: 8-0-0-8
• 7 p.m.: 4-0-5-1
• 10 p.m.: 5-2-7-1

DELIVERY ISSUES?

If you have any problems receiving your Observer, please call the office at 541-963-3161.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Life begets life. Energy creates energy. It is by spending oneself that one becomes rich."

— Sarah Bernhardt,
French actress

Public Safety

Trooper's
career nears
finish line

■ Oregon State Police Sgt. Kyle Hove to retire at end of March

By Dick Mason
The Observer

COVE — Oregon State Police Sgt. Kyle Hove knew early in his career that anything could happen while he was on patrol.

One night it did.

Hove was on patrol with another trooper in Wallowa County about two decades ago when they received a call about gun shots in an area north of Wallowa.

The two troopers were rushing to the address when they saw an unrecognizable object in the middle of its long driveway, one which piqued their curiosity but did not immediately alarm them.

"We almost drove past it," Hove said.

Stopping to take a closer look, the troopers were stunned to discover it was a man in his early 20s wrapped in duct tape almost like a mummy. The individual was unharmed, but Hove and his partner soon learned the man was the one responsible for the disturbance they were responding to. He had been involved in raucous behavior that had so angered the people he was with, some who were relatives, they wrapped him in duct tape and put him in the roadway. The police later arrested him.

"That was one of the stranger things that has happened," Hove said of his career.

Such moments stand out from less bizarre but nevertheless fulfilling experiences in a line of work rapidly nearing its end. Hove is set to retire at the end of March after 20 years with the Oregon State Police. The agency based Hove in Wallowa County his first two years and in Union County the next 18.

"It has been a great career. I have been so blessed to have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people. I would not do anything any differently," Hove said.

Hove started in law enforcement 30 years ago when he joined the U.S. Army and served for about 10 years as a member of its Military Police. His responsibilities included checking areas for explosive devices, including sites where U.S. presidents were set to visit. Much of his work was done with bomb-sniffing dogs.

He worked with a total of three bomb-sniffing



Staff photo by Dick Mason

Oregon State Police Sgt. Kyle Hove is about to end his days patrolling the local stretches of Interstate 84 and other roads. He plans to retire in March after 20 years with the state police.

dogs and cared for each. He said one of his favorite duties was brushing his dog each day, something the canines loved.

"That was a bonding experience," Hove said.

He said his stint of military service was arduous but forged meaningful personal ties.

"I couldn't wait to get out, but once I did I really missed it. I missed the camaraderie, the sense of family," Hove said.

He joined the Oregon State Police about six months after leaving the military after attending a job fair in Fort Lewis, Washington, where OSP had a booth. A lot has changed at the agency since Hove joined, especially in terms of technology.

"At first all we had (in patrol cars) were radios," Hove said.

Today, all patrol cars have speed detection equipment, computers and camera systems.

"It is a mobile office," Hove said. "It has made us more efficient."

All local OSP troopers and officers spend much of their time patrolling Interstate 84 looking for speeding drivers and aiding motorists who have been in crashes or are stranded due to mechanical breakdowns. Hove said in recent years the number of crashes in the winter on I-84 has declined significantly. He credited the drop to the Oregon Department of Transportation's use of salt to reduce the formation of ice.

"ODOT is doing a terrific job," Hove said.

Whether on Interstate 84 or other roadways in the region, Hove said the life of a trooper on patrol is rewarding because of the opportunity to assist others.

"You are finding people in crisis," Hove said.

Still, the challenges of the job leave troopers tightly wound.

"You are hyper vigilant, you are always aware of your surroundings," he said.

Dramatic shifts in emotional tenor also can add to the strain.

"There is a lot of boredom and extreme chaos," Hove said.

Life will be on a more even keel for Hove after he retires but will remain fast-paced. He plans to spend much of his time helping his wife, Angela, run a growing business at their home in Cove. The business, Hove Industries, sells an array of test kits for hydrology and other fields.

Hove said he feels good about the direction OSP is moving locally because of the leadership Lt. Daniel Conner provides out of the La Grande office and the quality of the young troopers the agency has hired in recent years. He said they are bright, have outstanding work ethics and care deeply about their community.

The OSP sergeant mentored a number of troopers, including Robert Routt, now a senior trooper. He said his career got off to a good start because of the wealth of knowledge Hove shared and his patience.

"I could not have had a better coach," Routt said.

Public Money

County holds off
funding film festival

By Dick Mason
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Eastern Oregon Film Festival likely will not receive funding from the Union County Board of Commissioners this fiscal year.

The board of commissioners voted 3-0 against a motion Wednesday to provide \$6,000 to the film festival in the fiscal year that runs until June 30.

The EOFF received \$3,500 from the county in 2018-19. Film festival organizers asked the county to provide \$7,800 this year. The board in December considered providing the annual event with \$6,000 in 2019-20.

The board delayed voting on that motion until Wednesday because commissioners wanted to discuss the proposal at a Feb. 12 work session.

Commissioner Matt Scarfo said the festival would have spent the \$6,000 on operational expenses, including staff. The money would

have come from the county's motel tax fund. Commissioner Donna Beverage said county policy prohibits it from spending money from this fund for the operation of once-a-year events.

The \$3,500 the Eastern Oregon Film Festival received earlier from Union County was for advertising, Beverage said.

Scarfo said he is a supporter of the film festival and he would like to see it seek other sources for money, including the Union County Chamber of Commerce.

Chris Jennings, director of the Eastern Oregon Film Festival, wrote in an email he was disappointed in the board's vote.

"EOFF is disheartened by the actions of the commissioners," Jennings said.

He said the festival will be diligent in creating partnerships "to support the growth of our nationally acclaimed film festival."

The 2020 Eastern Oregon Film Festival runs Oct. 22-24 in La Grande.

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