

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Saturday, May 16, the 137th day of 2020. There are 229 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On May 16, 1943, the nearly month-long Warsaw Ghetto Uprising came to an end as German forces crushed the Jewish resistance and blew up the Great Synagogue.

ON THIS DATE

In 1770, Marie Antoinette, age 14, married the future King Louis XVI of France, who was 15.

In 1939, the federal government began its first food stamp program.

In 1988, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop released a report declaring nicotine was addictive in ways similar to heroin and cocaine.

In 1990, death claimed entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. in Los Angeles at age 64.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$1.4 million
7-9-11-12-38-44

Mega Millions: \$266 million
7-16-27-44-52-5 x5

Powerball: \$86 million
39-53-54-56-57 — PB-20 x3

Win for Life: May 13
15-23-26-72

Pick 4: May 14

• 1 p.m.: 8-7-5-7; • 4 p.m.: 9-2-0-5

• 7 p.m.: 4-0-1-6; • 10 p.m.: 5-3-1-1

Pick 4: May 13

• 1 p.m.: 8-1-1-8; • 4 p.m.: 4-8-6-7

• 7 p.m.: 6-1-6-5; • 10 p.m.: 3-1-1-3

DELIVERY ISSUES?

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TODAY'S QUOTE

"Work is about a search for daily meaning as well as daily bread, for recognition as well as cash, for astonishment rather than torpor; in short, for a sort of life rather than a Monday through Friday sort of dying."

— Studs Terkel, American author and historian (born this date in 1912, died 2008)

Nontraditional graduations set in Union County

By Dick Mason

The Observer

UNION COUNTY — Football fields, a towering outdoor movie screen and the Fourth of July.

All are elements of some of the upcoming graduation ceremonies for Union County school districts.

Their commencement exercises promise to be exciting but anything but traditional due to the COVID-19 crisis. They will have dramatically different twists due to social distancing standards imposed by the state prohibiting large gatherings.

Commencement exercises among the school districts will kick off May 30 at Cove High School's football field. Vehicles, each with a CHS graduate and their family, will be driven along the gridiron where diplomas will be presented at 11 a.m. Once all 17 graduates have received their diplomas, they will walk through Cove High School, many for the first time since all schools were shut down in Oregon in mid-March.

Members of the CHS Class of 2020 then will join their families and be driven through Cove in a parade. Cove Fire Department personnel and officers from the Union County Sheriff's Office will provide assistance with traffic control, said Cove School District Superintendent Earl Pettit. Cove High School's



Observer file photo

Imbler High School is planning to celebrate graduation this year on July 4, with the seniors riding in the town's annual parade following a traditional commencement exercise in the IHS gym. Union County's other school districts have organized nontraditional spring ceremonies, in keeping with the current COVID-19 restrictions.

graduation May 30 will be one of two public schools in Union County, for La Grande High School will also have its commencement that day. LHS graduation will begin at 10 a.m. at the main entrance of the school, where graduates in vehicles with their families will be awarded their diplomas. Other commencement activities will take place at the La Grande Drive-in theater.

Union County graduation ceremonies will resume June 1 with Elgin High School's commencement. Activities will begin at 6 p.m. when a parade through town will be con-

ducted for its class of 2020. The graduation ceremony will start at 7 p.m. at the EHS football field, where seniors will be in vehicles with their families. Graduates will come out one at a time to get their diplomas.

EHS's Class of 2020 completed plans for their commencement Thursday. Elgin School District Superintendent Dianne Greif said the students are disappointed they will not have traditional graduation but they are in good spirits.

"They were saying that when they get together 10 years from now they will have memories that nobody else (at Elgin High School)

has," Greif said.

Powder Valley and Union high schools will conduct their graduation ceremonies June 6.

Union's ceremony starts at 10 a.m. in the UHS gym, where seniors will be awarded their diplomas. Only the graduate and their family and school district officials will be present when each diploma is awarded because of social distancing rules. All commencement walks in the gym will be streamed live on the Union School District's website.

At the conclusion of the awarding of the diplomas, graduates will be driven through Union with their families while participating in a wave parade.

UHS commencement activities will continue the evening of June 6 at the La Grande Drive-in. A senior slide show will be shown there plus pre-recorded talks by UHS's valedictorian and salutatorian.

"We are excited to honor our graduates in a new way in this crazy world we live in," said Union School District Superintendent Carter Wells.

Powder Valley High School's graduation activities will start the evening of June 5 when all seniors and their families will gather at the La Grande Drive-in. At the theater site a pre-recorded video of student

graduation speeches will be among what is shown.

The following day, Powder Valley's graduation ceremony starts at 1 p.m. On June 6, graduates will go to their school's gym one at a time to receive their diplomas with their families and then leave, allowing the next senior to come in. After commencement, the graduates will go to PVHS's football field and toss their caps into the air. A graduation parade through town will follow. The seniors will ride on a semi trailer so they can be seen by everyone, said North Powder School District Superintendent Lance Dixon.

Imbler High School's graduation is set to start at 10 a.m. July 4. Imbler School District Superintendent Angie Lakey-Campbell hopes that by July 4 the COVID-19 social distancing rules will no longer be in place, allowing for a traditional commencement exercise in the IHS gym. Following the commencement, graduates will be saluted while riding in Imbler's Fourth of July parade, an event Lakey-Campbell also said she hopes can be conducted then. Should COVID-19 still be a serious issue July 4, Lakey-Campbell said IHS will conduct a nontraditional graduation ceremony that will conform to social distancing standards.

'Move Oregon's Border' petition gets OK in Union County

By Phil Wright

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The latest petition from the group seeking to move Idaho's border west to include a large part of Oregon gained approval in Union County.

Union County District Attorney Kelsie McDaniel approved "Requires Commissioners Hold Meetings Regarding Relocation of State Borders" as a ballot title for the petition and Friday morning notified county Clerk Robin Church.

Church in March rejected the petition from Michael McCarter of La Pine

seeking to create the new state of Greater Idaho using most of Oregon, including Union County. Church was among 11 county clerks who denied that petition, which demanded county boards of commissioners hold public meetings to discuss the idea of moving the border. That process was administrative rather than legislative, as the Oregon constitution requires.

McCarter said the new petition, however, asks counties to form a committee to find out what the public thinks about moving the Idaho border, and then

have the group present its findings to county commissioners, who in turn would advise state and federal representatives and senators.

"If people are against it, at least they had the opportunity to voice their opinion," McCarter said. "Give your opinion, folks."

The Move Oregon's Border group would reduce Oregon to only 17 counties, all on the state's west side. The other 19 counties along with several in northern California would become part of the new state of Greater Idaho. McCarter said 12 of the 19 counties

have approved the petition, with Jackson County on Thursday giving its OK.

"So that's a big one," McCarter said, because Jackson County's population accounts for 25% of the total population for the 19 counties.

Church said Thursday her office received the newer petition on April 30, which she approved and forwarded May 8 to the district attorney for the ballot title. Now, Church explained, Union County has to publish legal notices about the ballot title for seven business days, including in The

Observer, to allow any voter an opportunity to challenge the title. Church said that clock is likely to start ticking Tuesday.

If there is no challenge, she said, McCarter's group can gather the 705 signatures in the county to get the proposal on a ballot. But which election remains a question. Church said McCarter and company have not specified.

According to the Oregon Secretary of State Elections Division, the signatures would be due Aug. 5 for verification to get it on Nov. 3 ballot.

I-84
eastbound
rolling
slowdowns
underway

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Oregon Department of Transportation crews will conduct occasional rolling slowdowns at locations between Pendleton and La Grande during the next two months to accommodate the installation of new variable message reader boards along Interstate 84.

According to an ODOT press release, the first slowdowns began Thursday morning between milepost 200 west of Pendleton and milepost 221 near the top of Cabbage Hill. The slowdowns resume May 18, 20 and 22. The traffic control will continue through the month of May in the eastbound lane at the same or other locations. Similar operations will take place in late May through June for the westbound freeway, according to the press release.

Drivers can expect delays of 30 minutes or more.

During the rolling slowdowns, pilot cars will slow traffic to 30 mph along a 20-mile section of the interstate ahead of the project location, creating a short window of time at the construction site with no traffic and allowing crews to safely work on and over the freeway.

Eastbound freeway on-ramps at exits 202, 207, 209, 210, 213 and 216 will be temporarily closed in the slowdown zone until the pilot car traffic passes the interchange. The work does not affect freeway off-ramps.

Several work areas between Exit 216 and La Grande will require rolling slowdown operations over the next two months.

Public part of Union County Fair canceled

By Dick Mason

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The public portion of the Union County Fair has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision was made by the Union County Fair Association, following Gov. Kate Brown's May 7 announcement regarding crowd sizes and events in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The governor announced that large gatherings such as conventions, festivals and major concerts and live-audience sporting events will not be allowed at least until September.

The Union County Fair

has been running for more than 100 years. It was set for July 29-Aug. 1.

Amy Horn, president of the Union County Fair Association, said the fair's livestock show and auction, major events for 4-H and FFA, will continue in some format.

"Something will happen, we just don't know what that will look like," Horn said.

She said possibilities include a virtual livestock show and auction or ones conducted with a limited number of people. The 4-H and FFA are in charge of determining how the events will be set up.

Horn said the Union County Fair Association is a strong backer of 4-H and FFA.

"The board (also known as the Union County Fair Association) is fully committed to the 4-H and FFA members and their families," Horn said.

Horn said the association is grateful for the help it is continuing to receive from the public.

"We would like to thank our community for their continued support, not just for the fair but our local youth and the agricultural education programs that are so vital to our country," she said.



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