

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Tuesday, July 7, the 189th day of 2020. There are 177 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On July 7, 1865, four people were hanged in Washington, D.C., for conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln: Lewis Powell (aka Lewis Payne), David Herold, George Atzerodt and Mary Surratt, the first woman to be executed by the federal government.

ONTHIS DATE

In 1898, the United States annexed Hawaii.

In 1948, six female U.S. Navy reservists became the first women to be sworn in to the regular Navy.

In 1954, Elvis Presley made his radio debut as a Memphis, Tennessee, radio station played his first recording for Sun Records, "That's All Right."

In 1976, the United States Military Academy at West Point included female cadets for the first time.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: July 4 \$3.5 million

6-14-22-33-38-47

July 1 \$3.4 million

1-2-10-32-35-38

Mega Millions: \$62 million

20-40-44-45-50—24 x2

Powerball: July 4 \$60 million

16-21-27-60-61—PB-6 x2

July 1 \$51 million

15-28-52-53-63—PB-18 x4

Win for Life: July 4 9-23-71-75

July 1 4-36-38-76

Pick 4: July 5

• 1 p.m.: 0-2-1-1; • 4 p.m.: 7-5-2-6

• 7 p.m.: 2-7-2-7; • 10 p.m.: 9-4-3-5

Pick 4: July 4

• 1 p.m.: 5-1-2-6; • 4 p.m.: 6-9-7-0

• 7 p.m.: 5-3-3-5; • 10 p.m.: 0-8-0-4

Pick 4: July 3

• 1 p.m.: 7-2-6-8; • 4 p.m.: 3-6-7-6

• 7 p.m.: 4-4-5-2; • 10 p.m.: 6-3-8-1

Pick 4: July 2

• 1 p.m.: 4-6-7-4; • 4 p.m.: 4-6-2-7

• 7 p.m.: 8-6-8-1; • 10 p.m.: 4-8-9-1

Pick 4: July 1

• 1 p.m.: 3-9-7-5; • 4 p.m.: 1-7-7-0

• 7 p.m.: 9-1-7-9; • 10 p.m.: 3-0-3-3

DELIVERY ISSUES?

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

Vandals post anti-tourism signs in Joseph

By Bill Bradshaw
EO Media Group

JOSEPH — Signs in Joseph were vandalized recently to convey anti-tourist messages and heighten fear that tourists are bringing COVID-19 to the area, according to Joseph City Administrator Larry Braden.

Braden reported the vandalism to the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office the afternoon of Thursday, June 25. He said he had discussed the matter with Mayor Teresa Sajonia and they agreed he should call the sheriff's office in Enterprise.

Braden said June 26 that a deputy came to Joseph, took some photographs of the vandalized signs and opened an investigation.

Possibly the worst damage was whitening out the words "forget to" in the sign reading "Don't forget to come back" at the north end of town, leaving it to read, "Don't come back." Other signs read, "Tourists, the fact that you are here reveals how selfish you are," "Tourists Go Home! You are the spread — COVID-19," "Tourists did



Photo by Ellen Morris Bishop/EO Media Group

Someone tried to white-out the words "forget to" on the back side of a welcome sign at the north end of Joseph, making the sign read "Don't come back."



Submitted photo

A sign along the Joseph Highway blames tourists for spreading COVID-19. It is one of several that city workers removed.

you bring us COVID" and "Tourists, before you came, you checked the COVID count here didn't you? So you know you could be responsible for bringing us community spread COVID. Negligent homicide?"

The posting of simple anti-tourism signs had been going on for about a month. The whitened-out sign is believed to have happened the night of June 23, "as best as we can tell," Braden said.

"There are some local

people who don't want tourists and they're custom making signs and stickers and posting them around town," he said.

He said there were even plywood signs screwed to Oregon Department of Transportation signs with similar messages.

So far, he said, the paper signs and stickers required only a few hours to take them down. But repainting amounts to real vandalism.

"Vandalizing signs is more than just posting a sticker," Braden said. "We want to let it be known that this is happening and want to find out who it is to prosecute them."

Sajonia said she is fully behind Braden's efforts to stop the vandalism.

"It's a criminal offense; it's defacing public property," the mayor said.

"Larry was pretty upset about it and I back him on it."

Braden said he sees a clear line between the First Amendment freedom of

expression and committing a crime such as vandalism.

"Honestly, with the freedom of speech thing, I'm OK, but when we have to start spending taxpayer dollars to fix it, this is vandalism and it's crossing the line," he said. "This vandalism is what I'd like to get stopped."

Sajonia agreed.

"It's important for people to have opinions, but they can't deface public property," she said. "It's owned by the taxpayers."

Imbler High School ends 2020 commencement celebrations

Last of county's 2020 graduations

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

IMBLER — The members of Imbler High School's class of 2020 ended their high school careers with an outdoor ceremony on the Fourth of July.

Eleven of the 13 graduating students stood on the stage as their parents and supporters watched from vehicles on the Lee Lowe Field.



Staff photo by Sabrina Thompson

Imbler High School graduates unload from a bus Saturday after riding through town to celebrate their commencement from high school in an outdoor ceremony.

Still, Imbler Superintendent Angie Lakey-Campbell said she and the graduating class enjoyed the outdoor commencement.

"Several students asked why we haven't held festivities outside before," Lakey-Campbell said.

The ceremony honored all of the graduating seniors, even the two who did not attend. This, along with only letting a limited number of people onto the field near the stage, allowed the school to follow Gov. Kate Brown's execu-

tive orders banning large gatherings of more than 25 people. For those who wished to watch the ceremony, Imbler School District livestreamed the commencement on Facebook.

"Nobody could have predicted our senior year

would be cut so short," valedictorian Benjamin Wagner said in his speech. "But just like the reason given for the cutoff, this is only a small part of our lives. We will move on and soon 2020 will be but a distant memory."

Missing teenager found unharmed

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Jarek Parker, a 13-year-old from La Grande who was missing nearly a week, was found and reunited with his family, La Grande Police Lt. Jason Hays announced late Wednesday.

The teen was "healthy and safe and was reunited with his family" Wednesday evening, according to Hays, who also said police would not provide more details.

Parker left his La Grande home June 25 and was reported missing that day. He had taken food, water and camping equipment, La Grande police previously reported.

Lostine City Council welcomes new member

By Bill Bradshaw
EO Media Group

LOSTINE — The Lostine City Council is back up to full strength, having voted Wednesday, July 1, to welcome Spencer Shelton to Position No. 3.

Mitchell Shelton resigned from the council

in June. Spencer Shelton's nomination and election were effective immediately.

However, Shelton, Mayor Dusty Tippet and Councilor Darci Calhoun, who holds Position No. 2, will all stand for reelection during the general election in November.

In another matter, watermaster Shawn Young and Fire Chief Tippet said spring maintenance in the city water department had been delayed because of the wet weather. Young said the water department's telemetry system is working correctly.

Umatilla County commissioner candidate admits he wrote racist letter

By Jade McDowell
EO Media Group

HERMISTON — A racist letter that recent Umatilla County commissioner candidate Jonathan Lopez claimed was left anonymously in his mailbox was written by Lopez himself, according to Lopez and Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston.

On Monday, July 6, Edmiston said in an email that Lopez had confessed he wrote the letter. Edmiston said the case would be forwarded to the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office for review for initiating a false report, a Class A misdemeanor in Oregon.

"From the onset, this alleged incident has been thoroughly investigated," Edmiston wrote in an email. "Our investigation has shown that Mr. Lopez

wrote the letter himself and made false statements to the police and on social media. The end result is a verbal and written admission by Mr. Lopez that the letter was fabricated."

Lopez previously posted a photo of a typed letter full of racist, homophobic and misogynist slurs to Facebook, stating he had received the letter but he had "no resentment for whomever wrote this."

The letter, as shown in the photo, stated in part that Lopez and other "Mexicans" were "not welcome here" and that "America is for the God fearing, pro gun, pro life humans who refuse to be controlled by the government."

When contacted by the East Oregonian, Lopez initially stated that it was a big misunderstanding. He said he just meant to speak with

"As a lifelong resident of this diverse community, I'm disgusted someone would try to carelessly advance their personal ambitions at the risk of others."

Jason Edmiston, Hermiston police chief

Edmiston about racism in Umatilla County and use the letter as an example of the type of racism people experience, but often don't speak out about publicly.

"I never meant to file a report, it just kind of spiraled out," he said, adding he "never meant to mislead" the public.

When questioned about his statements on Facebook and the fact he told an East Oregonian reporter on June 24 that he had found the letter in his mailbox when he got home, he confirmed he had told a police officer

nian story before the election.

Edmiston also said Hermiston police learned Lopez never served in the U.S. Coast Guard as stated, which would be a violation of the 2013 Stolen Valor Act. Lopez has not provided documentation to the East Oregonian to confirm his claim of Coast Guard service when asked.

"This investigation is particularly frustrating as we are in the midst of multiple major investigations while battling a resource shortage due to the current pandemic," Edmiston said. "The time spent on this fictitious claim means time lost on other matters, not to mention it needlessly adds to the incredible tension that exists in our nation today. As a lifelong resident of this diverse community, I'm disgusted someone would try to carelessly advance their personal ambitions at the risk of others."

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Joe Horst

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In light of the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in Union County we are taking extra precautions to ensure all of our customers safety. Red Cross will be closed from 1:30-2:30 PM, Monday through Friday, in order to clean the contact areas of the pharmacy more thoroughly. Olive Branch will be open and doing Drivethru ONLY. Please feel free to call in and leave refills on our phone line for continued service. 541.963.5741 ext. 1 Thank you for your support as we make every effort to keep you and your loved ones safe during this time.

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