

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, April 8, the 98th day of 2021. There are 267 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On April 8, 1864, the United States Senate passed the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery. (The House of Representatives passed it in January 1865; the amendment was adopted in December 1865.)

ON THIS DATE:

In 1513, explorer Juan Ponce de Leon and his expedition began exploring the Florida coastline.

In 1820, the Venus de Milo statue was discovered by a farmer on the Greek island of Milos.

In 1913, the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, providing for popular election of U.S. senators (as opposed to appointment by state legislatures), was ratified.

In 1952, President Harry S. Truman seized the American steel industry to avert a nationwide strike. (The Supreme Court later ruled that Truman had overstepped his authority, opening the way for a seven-week strike by steelworkers.)

In 1963, "Lawrence of Arabia" won the Oscar for best picture at the Academy Awards; Gregory Peck won best actor for "To Kill a Mockingbird" while Anne Bancroft received best actress honors for "The Miracle Worker."

In 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, breaking Babe Ruth's record.

In 1987, Al Campanis, vice president of player personnel for the Los Angeles Dodgers, resigned after saying on ABC's "Nightline" that Blacks might lack some of the "necessities" for becoming baseball managers.

In 1990, Ryan White, the teenage AIDS patient whose battle for acceptance had gained national attention, died in Indianapolis at age 18.

In 1993, singer Marian Anderson died in Portland, Oregon, at age 96.

In 1994, Kurt Cobain, singer and guitarist for the grunge band Nirvana, was found dead in Seattle from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound; he was 27.

In 2009, Somali pirates hijacked the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama; although the crew was able to retake the cargo ship, the captain, Richard Phillips, was taken captive by the raiders and held aboard a lifeboat. (Phillips was rescued four days later by Navy SEAL snipers who shot three of the pirates dead.)

Ten years ago: Congressional and White House negotiators struck a last-minute budget deal ahead of a midnight deadline, averting an embarrassing federal shutdown and cutting billions in spending.

Round-Up confident in a full 2021 rodeo

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Round-Up Association is projecting confidence in reviving its rodeo for 2021, but its board of directors isn't yet sharing details on how it plans to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pat Reay, the Round-Up's publicity director, said the association is planning for a full slate of events during the second full week of September. That means not just the rodeo, but also the kickoff concert, parades and all the other spin-off events that come out of Round-Up week. The Round-Up signaled its confidence in March when it announced that Happy Canyon Arena would host the two-day Xtreme Bulls Tour Finale during Round-Up week.

"We're cautiously optimistic," Reay said.

The Round-Up will likely have some sort of safety plan to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during the rodeo, but Reay



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

The chutes and grandstands sit empty at the Round-Up Grounds on the afternoon of Friday, June 19, 2020, hours after the Pendleton Round-Up announced the cancellation of the 2020 Pendleton Round-Up. The Round-Up Association anticipates the event will go on this year.

said the event is too far out to share details on the plan. Other large events that have happened since the onset of the pandemic have included measures like mask requirements and temperature checks, but Reay said much could change between now and September, so the Round-Up wasn't ready to commit to anything.

Before canceling last year's rodeo, the Round-Up submitted a plan to the state that would have included audience temperature checks, sanitation stations throughout the Round-Up Grounds and personal protective equipment for some volunteers and employees.

But by July, the Round-Up made the deci-

sion to cancel the rodeo for the first time since World War II.

The association quickly committed to holding the rodeo in 2021, the Round-Up's 111th year, and Reay said the Round-Up has maintained correspondence with the governor's office on holding the event this year.

Reay said committee meetings are being held at least twice a week to figure out the logistics of holding the rodeo this year, including a committee that is addressing tribal participation in the Round-Up.

The Round-Up is still five months away, but Umatilla County's current situation is mixed.

Although the raw number of cases is down significantly from the summer and winter surges the county endured in 2020, the case positivity rate recently ticked up. Additionally, Umatilla County continues to have one of the lowest vaccination rates in the state.

Umatilla County's data

could be critical not just for the Round-Up but for Pendleton's other major events.

While some smaller events like Jackalope Jamboree and Pendleton Cattle Barons are gearing up for 2021 with some added health precautions, others are still in a holding pattern.

The Pendleton Whisky Music Fest is still set for July 10 with headliners Eric Church and Macklemore, but co-organizer Doug Corey said a recent meeting with the governor's office didn't create enough clarity to make organizers certain that it will happen.

One of the Whisky Fest's concerns is seating capacity. If the state restricts seating too low, organizers might not be able to afford to hold the concert for a second year in the row.

Corey is hoping to get more definitive word from the state in April or May, but he was certain that Whisky Fest would not wait until a couple of weeks before the concert to make a decision.

Elgin teacher honored

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

ELGIN — Stella Mayfield Elementary School sixth-grade teacher Ashley Moore has been saluted by the Elgin Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber presented Moore with its educator of the year award on March 30 at a meeting of the Elgin School Board.

Moore is in her fourth year as a teacher at Stella Mayfield. She also is an Elgin High School assistant girls basketball coach and volunteers in the community for many youth activity programs. Moore was nominated by one of her peers, according to Elgin School District Superintendent Dianne Greif.

Moore was one of seven people honored

by the Elgin Chamber in addition to one organization and one business. Everyone except Moore received their awards at a March 24 ceremony at Elgin City Hall. Only one recipient plus members of their families and several presenters were in attendance at each presentation to allow for social distancing.

The names of these eight other award winners and information on them was provided in a March 27 Observer article.

All of the Elgin Chamber of Commerce honorees were saluted for what they did in 2019. The Elgin Chamber of Commerce was set to recognize the individuals in 2020 at a banquet, but it was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wallowa County FFA does well at state

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — FFA students from all over Oregon participated in the 88th Oregon FFA State Convention, held virtually March 18-21, from Oregon State University in Corvallis. This year's convention was held remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Chelcee Mansfield, FFA adviser at Joseph Charter School, said the chapter received a Superior Chapter Award, as well as a Gold National Chapter Award during the event. The chapter's beginning parliamentary procedure team placed second, and Anabelle Russell placed fifth in advanced public speaking.

Joseph had five proficiency finalists who were state winners: Anabelle Russell in ag education, Jonah Staigle in agricul-

tural mechanics fabrication, Josey Wearin in beef production placement, Brianna Micka in equine production entrepreneurship and Ian Goodrich in outdoor recreation. Maggie Zacharias placed second in equine production placement.

One of the highlights of the FFA year for Joseph was that Russell was able to get grants to purchase six tower gardens to help educate the school and community about vertical farming. She is growing salad greens, kale and basil with plans to grow cucumbers and tomatoes in this aeroponic system within the school's greenhouse. She will be providing the school lunch with salad greens. She taught lessons to the high school and eighth-graders and will also work with the elementary students. The food science class made

gourmet salads with the greens and chicken basil pizzas.

Of the 240 Oregon FFA members who received their state degrees, 28 were from Wallowa County. The State Degree is the highest degree of FFA membership. The recipients include:

- Addie Royes, Alex Albanez, Alona Yost, Andy Huwe, Bailey Vernam, Carrin Yaw, Caylynn Beck, Destiny Weeks, Dylan Jennings, Flynn Nave, Gaven Winn, Gideon Gray, Grace Collins, Gracie Ellis, Hunter Harvey, Jada Gray, Kasey Duncan, Landon Greenshields, Lannie Stonebrink, Liz Rowley and Rilyn Kirkland of Enterprise.

- Anabelle Russell, Destany Moore, Hayden Hite, Ian Goodrich, Jonah Staigle, Maggie Zacharias and Trace Collier of Joseph.

Police: Man jailed after assault on officer, guard

By **JAYSON JACOBY**
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — A Boise man is in the Baker County Jail on multiple counts after the Baker City Police Department reported he hit one of its officers in the face.

Baker City Police Sgt. Wayne Chastain said Andrew Lane Peterman, 36, hit officer Mark Powell and a security guard during an altercation early Tuesday, April 6, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City. Police arrested Peterman for assaulting a peace officer,

fourth-degree assault, second-degree criminal mischief and second-degree disorderly conduct.

Powell and the security guard were treated at the hospital and released.

The incident started about 12:18 a.m. when police received a call about a vehicle backing into a gas pump at the Jackson's Food Mart, 500 Campbell St.

Police suspected Peterman was driving the 2005 Honda Element that struck the gas pump. He initially agreed to undergo field sobriety

tests, as Powell suspected Peterman might be intoxicated, Chastain said.

But before Powell could administer the tests, Peterman said he wanted to be taken to the hospital.

A Baker City ambulance took Peterman to Saint Alphonsus, where he was evaluated and released, Chastain said.

But Peterman refused to leave the hospital, and in the ensuing altercation he punched the security guard, Chastain said.

Powell used his stun gun to try to subdue Peterman, who continued

to fight, Chastain said, punching Powell twice in the face before Powell arrested him.

The situation was particularly challenging for Powell because it happened in the hospital, with doctors, nurses and other civilians present.

"That increases the risk of the situation for sure," Chastain said.

Chastain said he didn't have any information about the extent of the damage to the gas pump. He said the fire department wasn't called to the scene.

ODFW seeks applicants for volunteer positions

East Oregonian

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is looking for volunteers to serve on the Access & Habitat Northeast Regional Council, according to a press release.

Applications are being accepted for the position of chairman and landowner representative until April 25. To apply, complete an application, which can be found on the ODFW website.

Volunteers in these positions meet quarterly to con-

sider funding projects that open private land to hunting access or improve wildlife habitat for game animals.

Applicants for the regional positions should live or work in Union, Wallowa, Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler, Grant or Baker counties.

The statewide board and regional councils are each made up of seven volunteers — three landowner representatives, three hunter representatives and the chair.

Immigrant enjoys helping a small town

By **LISA BRITTON**
For the Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Venkat Subramanian doesn't live in Baker City, but he wants to support this community as much as he can.

Venkat grew up in Chennai, India, population of about 7 million. His family's roots, though, are in a village that he compares in size with Baker City.

After earning a bachelor's degree in engineering in India, he came to the United States in 2000 to earn a master's at Oregon State University.

He began working with Richard and Kathleen Chaves, owners of Chaves Consulting in Baker City, in 2004. Since 2010, Venkat's company, Arikkan Inc., has worked on several projects with Chaves Consulting, including the Synergy Data Center.

"We became really close friends, and family friends," said Venkat, who lives in Camas, Washington. "And

I had an immediate connection with Baker. People are really good."

Venkat comes from a family who gave back to their community. His great-grandparents worked in international trade.

"They were the banks for the Imperial Bank of London," he said.

His comparison of that role, in today's world, is Citibank. They had partners throughout southeast Asia, and helped build cities with their wealth. And always, he said, a big percentage of their profits went to support the community and children.

Then World War II ended, and southeast Asian countries were released from Britain's control. The transition led to, in his words, "firing the immigrants."

"We were the immigrants," he said. "We lost everything."

His family returned to their small village in India with nothing.

Venkat heard these stories from his dad who, years ago, asked his own father how the family reacted when they were left with nothing.

"My great-grandfather said, 'God had selected me to do all this. Now He's given me retirement.'"

His family, Venkat said, instilled lessons in him about the value of money. "Our money is just an instrument, it's not life," he said. "Money should not be the cornerstone of your value."

His father attended college thanks to the generosity of donors from his village. He started a manufacturing company and eventually expanded to four facilities employing hundreds of people.

With the profits, his father supported schools and hospitals in the same town that helped fund his college education.

Venkat's business is located in Vancouver, Washington, but he felt like

his monetary support would mean more in Baker City.

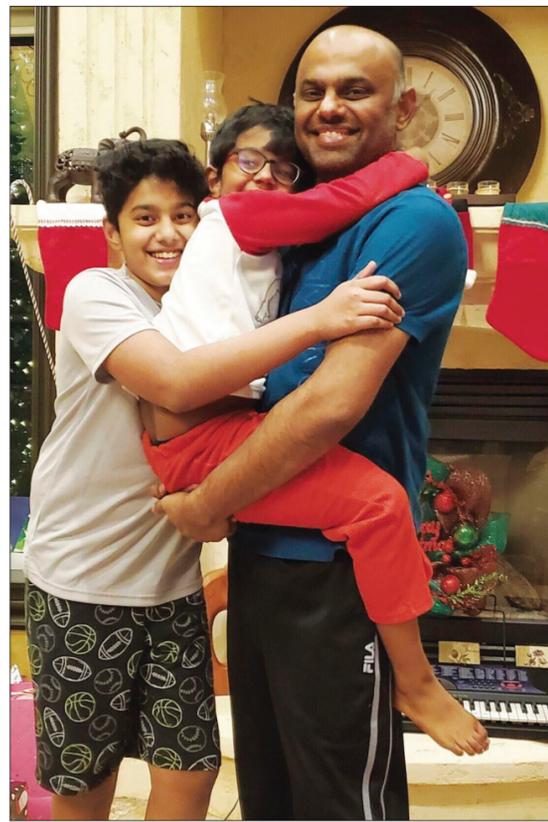
"I wanted to do something for Baker," he said. "My first thought was how to help kids."

After consulting with Richard Chaves, Venkat first helped provide shoes and jackets at Baker Middle School. Later, he began supporting the Backpack Program that provides a weekend's worth of food for children who need a bit extra.

He's expanding his support to include the YMCA, Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, playground equipment for the Baker Early Learning Center, and the Baker Relief Nursery.

"He feels like he can make a difference in Baker," Chaves said. "He's a good man and comes from a great family. We're lucky to have him as part of our community."

"It's my pleasure," Venkat said. "I feel fortunate I have an opportunity to make a difference."



Contributed Photo

Venkat Subramanian with his sons, Nikhil, left, and Varun. Venkat has been helping children and supporting community groups in Baker City, though he lives in Washington.