TODAY IN ISTORY

Today is Thursday, April 29, the 119th day of 2021. There are 246 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN **HISTORY:**

On April 29, 1992, a jury in Simi Valley, California, acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the videotaped beating of motorist Rodney King; the verdicts were followed by rioting in Los Angeles resulting in 55 deaths.

ON THIS DATE:

In 1913, Swedish-born engineer Gideon Sundback of Hoboken, New Jersey, received a U.S. patent for a "separable fastener" — later known as the zipper

In 1967, Aretha Franklin's cover of Otis Redding's "Respect" was released as a single by Atlantic Records

In 1961, "ABC's Wide World of Sports" premiered, with Jim McKay

In 1983, Harold Washington was sworn in as the first Black mayor of Chicago.

In 1991, a cyclone began striking the South Asian country of Bangladesh; it ended up killing more than 138,000 people, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In 2000, Tens of thousands of angry Cuban-Americans marched through Miami's Little Havana, protesting the raid in which armed federal agents vanked Elian Gonzalez, 6, from the home of relatives.

In 2008, Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama denounced his former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, for what he termed "divisive and destructive" remarks on race.

Wallowa County fisherman pulls in a big one

By RONALD BOND Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA LAKE -A Wallowa County fisherman who holds the record for the largest mackinaw caught at Wallowa Lake recently hooked another whopper.

He also has had recent success pulling in kokanee, and said it appears this will be a good season for catching large kokanee at the lake.

It's been a good start to the angling season for Mark Moncrief, a hunting and fishing guide who owns Tri-State Outfitters south of Enterprise.

In a matter of hours during a fishing trip at the lake in late March, Moncrief — who holds the lake record for a 36-1/2-pound mackinaw he reeled in back in the 1980s, caught a 35-1/2-pound mackinaw and, he said, hauled in a 33-pounder a couple of hours later. "I do really well from

usually about the first couple week or weeks in March on," he said. "We've done good in February. It depends on the year. On an average by mid-March on we're starting to do good and consistently catching. I do really good on the



Mark Moncrief holds up a 35-1/2-pound mackinaw he caught recently at Wallowa Lake. Moncrief holds the record for the largest mackinaw caught at the lake, which was just a pound heavier than the one pulled in last

UPDATE ON LOCAL FISHING

Chinook salmon numbers are not expected to be good this year, Kyle Bratcher, assistant district fish biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife,

In the report, Bratcher wrote that Hells Canyon opened to spring fishing April 24, and that he looks for the fishing to improve around the middle of May. Bratcher also reported that kokanee fishing on the Wallowa Lake is turning in fish that are averaging about 10 inches.

Steelhead fisheries close on Friday, April 30.

macks early like that. We have a really large average on our fish. Most macks, people are catching 5 to 12 pounders. Our average here is 15 to 18 (pounds)."

With the kokanee, Mon-

crief said there has been a cycle between smaller fish sizes but higher numbers, or larger numbers but smaller

"Last year, I saw the cycle swing back to a bigger fish," he said. "This year, this early in the year, I'm catching fish in excess of 20 inches already. They'll grow an inch a month after March." Most good-sized

kokanee, he said, are anything in excess of 12 inches, and he said 18 to 20 inches is getting into trophy-sized fish range.

Business has not slowed down for Moncrief despite the pandemic, especially once restrictions were lifted last year and he was able to get back on the water.

"When they opened the county back up I was just flooded," he said. "I think it was the COVID. They were just bugging out — a lot of Washington (and) Idaho people (were here).'

Moncrief isn't sure if this year will be as busy as 2020 was for him, but when the large kokanee start showing up at Wallowa Lake, more people make their way to the water to try to hook a big one.

"I don't know if it'll be as busy as last year, but the word is getting out about these big fish," he said. This spring, Moncrief

not only has had a solid run of catching large fish, but he and his clients are pulling them in in large numbers.

"I had two clients out (from) California. With three of us fishing we boated 62 kokanees," he said, though he noted he personally releases almost all his catches now.

Catching big kokanee, by the way, is not just a trait of his - it runs in his family.

The second-biggest kokanee pulled in in the world was one he said his daughter, Shelby, caught at Wallowa Lake 10 years ago — a 27-inch, 9-1/2pound whopper.

Searchers find body of missing man in the river

The Observer

UNION COUNTY The Union County Sheriff's Office reported it recovered the body of a man missing since Monday, April 26.

The sheriff's office, its search and rescue unit and the Baker County Sheriff's Office dive team on Tuesday removed a vehicle submerged in the Grande Ronde River near Market Lane northeast of Island

The driver of the vehicle was Cecle R. Defries, 23, who was dead in the vehicle. According to the Union County Sheriff's Office, Defries was reported missing Monday.

Volunteers hold spring cleaning to mark Earth Day

By BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Spring cleaning took on a special meaning Thursday and Friday, April 22-23, as about a dozen volunteers celebrated Earth Day by holding a "litter patrol," cleaning up the Wallowa County Recycling Center and holding a recycled art contest.

The Friends of Wallowa County Recycling organized the effort, as nine members of the Wallowa County Rotary Club spent a couple hours Thursday picking up trash along Highway 82 from Enterprise to Eggleson Corner, filling 21 bags.

Friends member Randi Jandt said there were a few interesting finds among the

"Interesting finds this year did not include any



Friends of Wallowa County Recycling/Contributed Photo Volunteers bag trash Thursday, April 22, 2021, during a litter patrol south of Enterprise. The volunteers picked up 21 bags of trash between Enterprise and Eggleson Corner in celebration of Earth Day.

checks like last year," Jandt said, in reference to a \$200 check found during a similar effort in 2020. "But they included a small, new American flag (still in the wrapper), an Easter card from 1982, a large cardboard box (creepily labeled "Research Mannikans")

and pages of a quite torrid letter — or someone's draft of their latest romance

The recycling center got to show off a recently arrived mobile recycling unit trailer, purchased with a grant from the

Baker County

Environmental Quality. On the trailer were

entries in the recycled art contest where throngs of people could vote on the winners, spin a wheel for prizes and learn about the county's recycling

The winners will be on display soon at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph. Everyone who entered an art piece got some kind of a prize, Jandt said.

Local merchants and individuals donated more than \$1,000 in prizes and giveaways, she said.

Friends volunteers cleaned out the recycling centerbuilding, pressure-washed the gummy plastics room floor, picked up escaped paper around the grounds and perimeter, mounted a new decorative sign and accomplished other chores, Jandt said. Mike Harvey was on

hand with his Wallowa Valley Cleaning Products. All Harvey's products have refillable containers — a throwback to when we all used to refill stuff — with the intention of reducing plastic waste in the landfill. Harvey's products are available locally at the Wild Carrot Herbals in Enterprise and Joseph Hardware in Joseph.

Local merchants kicked in great prizes and gift certificates, reminding us that the best way to reduce packaging and transporation waste is to shop local, Jandt said.

She said even the weather cooperated for the efforts at the recycling center and the litter patrol.

"If only we could have weather like that every Earth Day," she said.

Volunteer fire departments seek new recruits to protect communities

By PAT CALDWELL Malheur Enterprise via AP StoryShare

MALHEUR COUNTY Small, secluded cities in rural counties such as Malheur depend on volunteer firefighters more than urban areas do, and local volunteers are often the first to arrive on the scene of an emergency. In some areas, rural departments provide the only immediate medical care.

A 2020 National Fire Protection Association report showed that while the number of volunteer firefighters fluctuated since the mid-1980s, overall there is a downward trend in parttime emergency fire enlistments across the nation.

"We are always looking for firefighters," said Jess Tolman, chief of Vale Fire & Ambulance.

In Nyssa and Vale there is no recruiting station to bring in new volunteers. Instead, the departments depend on advertising, social media posts and word-of-mouth to get new people into the ranks.

Often, men and women will join a local volunteer fire department because family members are already part of the organization.

Tolman said he joined the Vale volunteer department after a friend "talked me into joining.'

"It has been a fun volunteer job and I enjoy the service it provides and the brotherhood of the fire service," he said.

Tolman moved into the full-time fire chief slot

about a year ago when Todd Hesse left to take a similar position in Rockaway

Beach. "The training you will receive with emergency services or fire, it will apply to your personal life. You will be able to provide safety and protection to your family against any kind of fire situation or medical sit-

uation," said Tolman. The shortage is firefighters is more acute as

calls for service increase. "I foresee the bigger Vale gets, the more calls we

will have," Tolman noted. Tolman said his volunteer firefighters are paid Oregon minimum wage when they respond to a fire, and they are required by law to train 60 hours a year.

Tolman said the ambulance crews also are volunteer.

He said once a person joins the volunteer fire ranks, they must attend four trainings where they learn "how to get hoses off engines and get them used to spray and water through the hoses. All of our procedures and SOP and stuff. ... Once that happens we give them gear, then we have our actual online training course they go through and once they achieve that they

can go out on calls." Tolman said the volunteer department meets every other Tuesday for two

"So, four hours a month we do training for fire," he said.

Tolman said the depart-

ment also sponsors specialized training on some Saturdays.

For Nyssa Fire Department Chief Eric Menchaca,

low numbers are troubling. "It does concern me. The more we can have on the department the more our chances of having a bigger turnout increases," he said.

Menchaca said he uses social media such as Facebook and Instagram to seek new recruits.

"I also have a banner I hang up at the school fence," said Menchaca.

Terry Leighton, Ontario Fire and Rescue chief, said his agency's long-standing junior firefighter program made the hunt for volunteers easier.

"That has helped us a lot. We are blessed and have not had the trouble like some other places have," he said.

Youth 16 or older can join the junior program, said Leighton. Usually the youth who volunteer are already connected to the fire department through family members who currently serve. He said his firefighter

roster includes 34 people. Eight of those, he said, are full time and 26 are part time. Leighton said the

drought in volunteers is a "national thing." "We are so busy now-

adays. We have other priorities and you don't have as much community commitment. People also work a long distance from their homes now," he said.

Oregon Department of

ethics violations **BAKER COUNTY** An investigator for the Oregon Government **Ethics Commission found** a "preponderance of evidence" that Baker County Commission Chairman Bill Harvey tried to use his position to benefit himself, his son and his son's business and he failed to disclose conflicts of interest

commissioner accused of

last year. In a report, investigator Susan Myers recommends the Ethics Commission make a preliminary finding that Harvey committed eight violations of state ethics laws.

The Ethics Commission was scheduled to review Myers' report during its meeting Friday, April 30, but Harvey said he had scheduling conflicts that day. Myers said the matter will be added to the Ethics Commission's June 11 meeting agenda.

Umatilla National Forest firewood permits available May 1

PENDLETON — Personal-use firewood cutting permits from the Umatilla National Forest go on sale Saturday, May 1, through Nov. 30. Permits are \$5 per cord with a minimum purchase of four cords and yearly maximum of 12 per household.

Local vendors will sell firewood permits in fourcord packets with a \$2 fee per packet. training and practice held

Vendors include:

News Briefs

Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Wallowa County Chieftain Search and rescue team members and trainees learn techniques for carrying a Stokes litter and "rescuing" SAR volunteer Kim Braatz on Sunday, April 25, 2021, at the Mount Emily Recreation Area near La Grande. The exercise was part of the field day training and required for certification for the nearly 25 new members.

•Walla Walla Ranger District, 1415 W. Rose St., Walla Walla, Washington, 509-522-6290.

•Pomeroy Ranger District, 71 W. Main St., Pomeroy, Washington, 509-843-1891.

•Supervisor's Office, 72510 Coyote Road, Pendleton, 541-278-3716. Permits also are avail-

able directly from the Forest Service. For more information call 541-278-3716, email

ries@fs.fed.us or visit ubne.ws/firewoodinfo. **Northeast Oregon** counties boost search

and rescue ranks

r6 umatilla public inqui-

LA GRANDE — The search and rescue teams from Union, Umatilla and Wallowa counties gained almost 25 newly certified members this week following two weekends of

in La Grande and at the Mount Emily Recreation

Wallowa County Sheriff's Search and Rescue gained 11 new team members and the Union County and Umatilla County Sheriffs collectively added more than a dozen to their certified teams. All SAR members are volunteers.

The training included instruction and practice in basic survival, map reading and navigating, knot tying, communications, tracking and understanding the behavior of people who were lost. The field exercises included demonstrations of search techniques and team coordination during

Experienced volunteers from Union, Umatilla and Wallowa counties' SAR units provided instruction and coaching for the training.

- EO Media Group