

TODAY

Today is Thursday, June 3, the 154th day of 2021. There are 211 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On June 3, 1989, Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, died. On the same day, Chinese army troops began their sweep of Beijing to crush student-led pro-democracy demonstrations.

ON THIS DATE:

In 1621, the Dutch West India Co. received its charter for a trade monopoly in parts of the Americas and Africa.

In 1861, Illinois Sen. Stephen A. Douglas, the Democratic presidential nominee in the 1860 election, died in Chicago of typhoid fever; he was 48.

In 1937, Edward, The Duke of Windsor, who had abdicated the British throne, married Wallis Simpson in a private ceremony in Monts, France.

In 1943, Los Angeles saw the beginning of its "Zoot Suit Riots" as white servicemen clashed with young Latinos wearing distinctive-looking zoot suits; the violence finally ended when military officials declared the city off limits to enlisted personnel.

In 1948, the 200-inch reflecting Hale Telescope at the Palomar Mountain Observatory in California was dedicated.

In 1962, Air France Flight 007, a U.S.-bound Boeing 707, crashed while attempting to take off from Orly Airport near Paris; all but two of the 132 people aboard were killed.

In 1965, astronaut Edward H. White became the first American to "walk" in space during the flight of Gemini 4.

In 1977, the United States and Cuba agreed to set up diplomatic interests sections in each other's countries; Cuba also announced the immediate release of 10 Americans jailed on drug charges.

In 2004, President George W. Bush announced the resignation of CIA Director George Tenet amid a controversy over intelligence lapses about suspected weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and the September 11 terrorist attacks.

In 2008, Barack Obama claimed the Democratic presidential nomination, speaking in the same St. Paul, Minnesota, arena where Republicans would be holding their national convention in September 2008.

In 2010, BP sliced off a pipe with giant shears to make way for a cap in the latest bid to curtail the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

In 2016, heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali died at a hospital in Scottsdale, Arizona, at age 74.

Ten years ago: Former Democratic presidential hopeful John Edwards admitted he had "done wrong" and hurt others but strongly denied breaking the law after federal prosecutors charged him with using \$925,000 in under-the-table campaign contributions to hide his mistress and baby during his 2008 White House run. (After a 2012 trial in North Carolina, jurors acquitted Edwards on one count of accepting illegal campaign contributions and deadlocked on five other counts; prosecutors decided against retrying the case.) Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh was wounded when rebel rockets barraged his palace; he later went to Saudi Arabia for treatment. Physician-assisted suicide advocate Dr. Jack Kevorkian died at a Michigan hospital at 83. Actor James Arness (TV: "Gunsmoke"), 88, died in Brentwood, California.

WALLOWA COUNTY

Creating memories at the lake

Camp for disabled children holds open house

By BILL BRADSHAW, Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA LAKE — Memories were created Saturday, May 29, when the Creating Memories for Disabled Children camp held a Founders Day open house attended by more than 100 people.

"It's just an open house for people to come and see the place," said Jack Burgoyne, a Creating Memories board member. "We've had it closed for so many years. Now we're open up to the public; people have complained that we closed the way to walk to the falls ... but you couldn't open it to some people and not others."

In fact, the former Boy Scout camp with a trail to Wallowa Falls remains closed to the public, since its primary purpose is to provide a place for an outdoors vacation for the disabled.

"It's not just for kids; it's families," Burgoyne said.

Creating Memories began as a nonprofit in 2012. The group took over the former Scout camp in 2014 and has a 50-year lease on the property with an option for another 50-year lease from the Blue Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts.

The organization to assist disabled children can be traced back to 1960, when Ken Coreson, one of the founders of Creating Memories, worked to do just that in Alaska, taking kids hunting and fishing. "That's been my whole career," Coreson said.

Setting up camp

Coreson moved to Oregon in about 2004 and his work with children developed into Creating Memories in 2012.



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Music provided by a group organized by Jay Connolly, owner of J's Place in Enterprise, entertained the more than 100 people who turned out Saturday, May 29, 2021, for the Founders Day event at the Creating Memories for Disabled Children camp above Wallowa Lake.

But when the nonprofit took over the camp, it had deteriorated after years of neglect.

"We've had the park closed because when we took it over, there was a lot of graffiti written on the walls, there'd been a campfire set in the lodge, the walls were all blackened from smoke," Burgoyne said. "It was terrible."

Now, they have three A-frame cabins and five teepees that can be used by children with special needs and their families. One of the A-frames and the lodge are still works in progress.

"We're looking at about \$350,000 to finish it," Burgoyne said of the lodge.

The lodge and the cabins are being completely refurbished, mostly through donations of cash and volunteer labor, although some specialized work has been done by contractors.

"We basically gutted out all the cabins. ... They're named after different people," Burgoyne said.

He said families can contact him online to reserve a free stay at the camp. All they need to do

is bring their own bedding, towels and food. In addition to the lodging in a beautiful forested campground alongside the upper Wallowa River, there is a pontoon boat that takes visitors out on Wallowa Lake from the nearby marina for fishing or just a ride on the water.

For those who are able, a short hike to Wallowa Falls is nearby.

"We have taken some hunting. We have kids who want to go hunting," Burgoyne said.

In fact, some of the disabled have become volunteers. One youth, who lost both arms in a hay-baling accident at age 17, now helps at Creating Memories' fishing derby on Brownlee Reservoir. Equipped with prosthetic arms, he helps run the derby including tying fishing tackle.

Showing what's available

During the open house, one disabled boy was packed in on his father's back and another handicapped man who serves on the group's board sang with a seven-person band organized by Jay Con-

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, call Jack Burgoyne, a Creating Memories board member, at 541-398-0169 or visit the camp's Facebook page.

nolly, owner of J's Place in Enterprise. After listening to the music for a while, many enjoyed a free barbecue of hamburgers and hot dogs.

Burgoyne said the event was an overall success.

"It was successful because people saw (the camp) for the first time and said, 'What can I do to help?'" he said.

In fact, Creating Memories received cash or pledged donations and offers of volunteer labor. Others signed up with their email addresses to help at the camp or on the pontoon boat on the lake.

But the main thing was to show what's available at the camp for young people who live with disabilities and their families.

"It's a great thing for families of children with special needs," Burgoyne said.

La Grande area sees above average temps in May

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande area experienced warmer than normal temperatures during the month of May, according to preliminary data received by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service Office in Pendleton.

The average temperature during the month was 56.5 degrees, 2.1 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 71.4 degrees, 4.7 degrees above normal, according to the monthly climate summary.

The highest temperature was 86 degrees recorded on May 17.

Low temperatures averaged 41.5 degrees, 0.6 degrees below normal. The



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

An old barn rests in the warm sun in a field outside of Elgin on Highway 82 Thursday, May 20, 2021. May brought above-average temperatures for the Grande Ronde Valley on top of drought conditions, according to weather experts in Pendleton.

lowest temperature for the month was 33 degrees, recorded on May 5.

Precipitation for the

month totaled 0.55 inches, which was 1.44 inches below normal, the report said. Measurable precipita-

tion — at least 0.01 inch — was received on four days, with the heaviest, 0.25 inches, reported on May 25.

Precipitation for the year is 5.93 inches, which is 1.87 inches below normal. Since October 2020, the water year precipitation in La Grande has been 10.51 inches, 2.27 inches below normal.

The outlook for June from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Normal highs for La Grande rise from 70 degrees at the start of June to 80 degrees at the end of the month. Normal lows rise from 46 degrees to 52 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is just under 1.54 inches.

Merkley addresses issues in town hall

By BILL BRADSHAW, Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Thanks for his past work, forest, climate change, the Snake River dams — and the ever-increasing price of candy — were among the focuses of a Wallowa County virtual town hall held by U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, on Tuesday, June 1, that was attended by more than 20 callers.



"My dad told me there used to be penny candy," said one Enterprise sixth-grader. "Why is the price going up?"

Leave it to a sixth-grader to fluster a U.S. senator. "I've never been asked about the price of candy, but you're right, it goes up," Merkley agreed.

He recalled similar stories from his mother of inexpensive goods during the Great Depression. Ultimately, he blamed it on inflation.

"There's no such thing as penny candy anymore," the senator agreed, saying inflation is now low and he doesn't expect it to go up much.

"The good news is you won't see (the) price of candy going up too much," he said.

Introduced by Wallowa County Commissioner Todd Nash, who expressed the commission's appreciation of the work of Merkley and his fellow Democrat Sen. Ron Wyden in facilitating the moving of federal funds to the local level, Nash noted Merkley is an Oregon native who grew up the son of a millwright in a working-class environment. His approximately 40-year career in politics led to his being Oregon's junior U.S. senator in 2009.

Merkley first introduced Maria Weer, executive director of Building Healthy Families of Enterprise, and congratulated her on the work BHF has done, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

One questioner expressed his appreciation for Merkley opposing Trump administration efforts regarding climate change.

"I appreciate you've been outspoken. ... We have no time to waste on climate change," the caller said, adding he was particularly concerned about rules limiting the harvest of forests.

Merkley said more research is needed.

"We need guidance on the different types of forests. How do you combine multiple use of forests?" he said. "Carbon storage and forest resilience have to be part of that, as well as thinning. ... All those pieces are part of the formulation."

Stacy Green, of Enterprise, who heads the Mentor Match Teen Entrepreneurs program, asked if Merkley had any influence that could help provide funding for the teens.

Merkley admitted he hadn't heard of the program, but has worked with other youth programs and would check with the federal Small Business Administration to see if funding could be made available.

"I'm looking for one of your students to appear on Shark Tank," the senator joked.

County Commissioner John Hillcock asked Merkley if he could streamline the difficulties local governments have in using the federal funds provided. Sometimes, Hillcock said, the required deadlines make it impossible to use the funds in time. He mentioned a generator Wallowa Memorial Hospital is trying to get as an example.

Merkley said deadlines have repeatedly been extended and more along that line can be done.

Another youth asked the senator's advice for young people in small towns.

Reflecting on his own background, Merkley recalled advice from his father.

"Really seize the opportunities provided by public schools," Merkley said. His dad told him, "It's up to you, how much you want to learn."

LOTTERY

Megabucks 5-32-34-36-41-45

Estimated jackpot: \$3.5 million

Lucky Lines 3-8-9-14-18-22-26-31

Estimated jackpot: \$47,000

Win for Life 12-27-59-69

Pick 4 1 p.m.: 1-7-0-3

4 p.m.: 8-9-9-7

7 p.m.: 0-1-9-8

10 p.m.: 3-7-2-1

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Mega Millions 7-11-33-58-63

Mega Ball: 23

Megaplier: 2

Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

Lucky Lines 4-7-9-13-20-24-28-31

Estimated jackpot: \$48,000

Pick 4 1 p.m.: 4-5-3-7

4 p.m.: 5-5-7-0

7 p.m.: 0-1-1-4

10 p.m.: 5-2-8-0

NEWS BRIEFS

Couple hurt when ATV rolls

SUMPTER — A Condon woman sustained a fractured femur, and her husband had a leg fracture and a torn knee ligament, but their young grandson was not hurt Sunday, May 30, when their four-wheeler rolled about 50 feet down a steep slope in the mountains above Sumpter.

Betty Jo Reed, 60, was rescued by members of the Baker County Sheriff's Office's search and rescue team, and taken by Life-Flight helicopter to Saint Alphonsus Hospital in Boise.

Reed had surgery on her injured leg May 30, according to the couple's daughter, Melissa Reed.

The accident happened on a forest road near Silver

Creek, about 5 miles northwest of Sumpter, according to a press release from the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

Robert Reed, 64, was driving a Polaris ATV, with his wife and their grandson, who's 3-1/2, as passengers.

While Robert Reed was turning the vehicle around, the child grabbed the throttle and the vehicle went off the road down the embankment, rolling about three times, according to the press release. All three people were thrown from the four-wheeler.

The grandson was wearing a helmet, according to the press release.

The sheriff's office was assisted by the Powder River Rural Fire Protection District, Baker City

Fire and Rescue, Sumpter Fire Department, Baker County Search and Rescue and Life Flight.

School district hires new director of student success

LA GRANDE — La Grande School District Superintendent George Mendoza announced on Tuesday, June 1, the hire of Jose de Jesus Melendez at the new director of student success.

Melendez, who will begin his duties on July 1, replaces current director Scott Carpenter, who is moving into the director of secondary programs/assistant superintendent role in the La Grande School District.

"(Melendez) will be providing leadership in our district's K-5 curricu-

lum, K-5 data and assessment, directing the operation of our title programs and services, overseeing our K-8 behavior systems and will be seeking to improve our attendance, achievement and graduation rates," Mendoza said. "Jose de Jesus comes to us with a wealth of varied experience and I look forward to his help in support of our district's strategic plan."

Melendez is currently the superintendent of schools in Kahlotus, Washington. Prior to his current position, Melendez served for nine years as a district-level director in Oregon and Washington, and has been a principal in Idaho and Oregon. He also has teaching experience at numerous grade levels.

—EO Media Group