

## TODAY

Today is Tuesday, June 8, the 159th day of 2021. There are 206 days left in the year.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

**On June 8, 1968,** authorities announced the capture in London of James Earl Ray, the suspected assassin of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## ON THIS DATE:

**In 1864,** Abraham Lincoln was nominated for another term as president during the National Union (Republican) Party's convention in Baltimore.

**In 1915,** U.S. Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan resigned over what he viewed as President Woodrow Wilson's overly belligerent attitude toward Germany following the sinking of the RMS Lusitania.

**In 1953,** the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that restaurants in the District of Columbia could not refuse to serve Blacks. Eight tornadoes struck Michigan's Lower Peninsula, killing 126 people.

**In 1962,** 20th Century Fox fired Marilyn Monroe from its production "Something's Got to Give," saying she was unreliable. (Fox later changed its mind, but Monroe died before filming could resume, and the movie was abandoned.)

**In 1966,** a merger was announced between the National and American Football Leagues, to take effect in 1970.

**In 1967,** during the six-day Middle East war, 34 American servicemen were killed when Israel attacked the USS Liberty, a Navy intelligence-gathering ship in the Mediterranean Sea. (Israel later said the Liberty had been mistaken for an Egyptian vessel.)

**In 1972,** during the Vietnam War, an Associated Press photographer took a picture of a screaming 9-year-old girl, Phan Thi Kim Phuc, as she ran naked and severely burned from the scene of a South Vietnamese napalm attack.

**In 1978,** a jury in Clark County, Nevada, ruled the so-called "Mormon will," purportedly written by the late billionaire Howard Hughes, was a forgery.

**In 1995,** U.S. Marines rescued Capt. Scott O'Grady, whose F-16C fighter jet had been shot down by Bosnian Serbs on June 2. Mickey Mantle received a liver transplant at a Dallas hospital; however, the baseball great died two months later.

**In 1998,** the National Rifle Association elected actor Charlton Heston to be its president.

**In 2009,** North Korea's highest court sentenced American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee to 12 years' hard labor for trespassing and "hostile acts." (The women were pardoned in early August 2009 after a trip to Pyongyang by former President Bill Clinton.)

**In 2015,** siding with the White House in a foreign-policy power struggle with Congress, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that Americans born in the disputed city of Jerusalem could not list Israel as their birthplace on passports.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Millicent Martin is 87. Singer Nancy Sinatra is 81. Actor Kathy Baker is 71. Country musician Tony Rice is 70. Rock singer Bonnie Tyler is 70. Actor-director Keenen Ivory Wayans is 63. Musician Nick Rhodes (Duran Duran) is 59. Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., is 51.

## LOTTERY

## Friday, June 4, 2021

## MegaMillions

04-30-34-41-64

Megaball: 8

Megaplier: 3

Jackpot: \$56 million

## Lucky Lines

03-06-09-14-19-22-26-30

Jackpot: \$51,000

## Pick 4

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

4 p.m.: 0-8-1-6

7 p.m.: 0-2-4-2

10 p.m.: 1-6-0-2

## Saturday, June 5, 2021

## Powerball

44-52-54-64-69

Powerball: 26

Power Play: 3

Jackpot: \$20 million

## Megabucks

12-18-33-40-41-45

Jackpot: \$3.7 million

## Lucky Lines

04-07-09-16-19-24-25-29

Jackpot: \$52,000

## Pick 4

1 p.m.: 5-5-3-6

4 p.m.: 4-8-3-7

7 p.m.: 2-0-1-7

10 p.m.: 3-4-4-2

## Win for Life

11-23-53-65

## Sunday, June 6, 2021

## Lucky Lines

01-08-09-14-18-23-28-31

Estimated jackpot: \$53,000

## Pick 4

1 p.m.: 5-7-4-6

4 p.m.: 6-7-6-9

7 p.m.: 1-6-2-8

10 p.m.: 5-7-2-1

## Apartments project ahead of schedule

By CARLOS FUENTES

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Progress on a new apartment complex previously home to The Observer is nearing completion more quickly than expected, according to CB Development Group project manager Jason Pennington.

"Everything's been going pretty smooth," he said. "There's some covered parking and other stuff on the outside that still has to be done, but I'm guessing by the end of July we can head inside and finish developing the interior."

The 20-unit apartment complex, situated at 1406 Fifth St., La Grande, likely will be finished before its original November deadline. Pennington said he believes it might be completed as early as August. Partially as a result of this quicker timeline, the costs of the project are lower than the \$2.2 million budget originally estimated.

"It'll be under that," the contractor said. "I think just because of good luck and trying to be as efficient as we can with materials and supplies. Hopefully it comes in underneath that estimate, but we won't know until the end."

CB Development Group, a real estate company that specializes in commercial and residential sites, bought the property from Western Communications, former owner of The Observer, on Jan. 8 for \$450,000. CB Construction is the contracting company leading the devel-



Carlos Fuentes/The Observer

**Construction workers with CB Development Group work outside of the soon-to-be apartment building on Fourth Street in La Grande on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. The former Observer office will become apartments upon completion, which may finish ahead of the November deadline, according to the developers.**

opment of the building.

According to Pennington, there are many individuals hoping to secure one of the units in the apartment complex, which will have two three-bedroom apartments, 10 studio singles, six two-bedroom units and two one-bedroom units. Each unit offers keypad entrances, complete laundry sets and covered parking. Sizes will range from 650 square feet in a studio to 1,400 square feet in the three-bedroom units.

According to Derek Howard, president of CB Construction, this location is ideal for an apartment complex for several reasons. "The location of it is

prime to live in, because it's close to downtown, it's close to the hospital, it's close to EOU," he said. "It's going to enhance the overall look and feel of that area of La Grande and it's going to be a benefit to the whole community."

Along with location, Howard cites a shortage of housing in the area for the high demand. According to a 2019 Housing Needs Analysis, La Grande must increase its housing units by 800 over the next 20 years to meet growing demand.

"The upscale sector of multi-family housing really hasn't seen a whole lot come in," Howard said. "Nice working professional apartments just aren't really avail-

able here, so I think it's a market that's attracting quite a bit of business."

Prior to being home to The Observer, the lot was occupied by the first LDS Church in La Grande until its move in the 1970s to its current location on Gekeler Lane. The church was torn down in 1984, a year before The Observer office was built on the site.

The Observer spent 35 years in the building before moving to its new location on Jefferson Avenue, and Pennington said he is glad that it will be put to good use.

"I am very excited to see this project be finished and put to use," he said.

## Umatilla County Sheriff's Office mourns loss of deputy

## Jason Post, 34, dies while recreating in Wallowa County

East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office identified Jason Post as the deputy who drowned Saturday, June 5, in Wallowa County.

Post, 34, leaves behind a wife and baby girl.

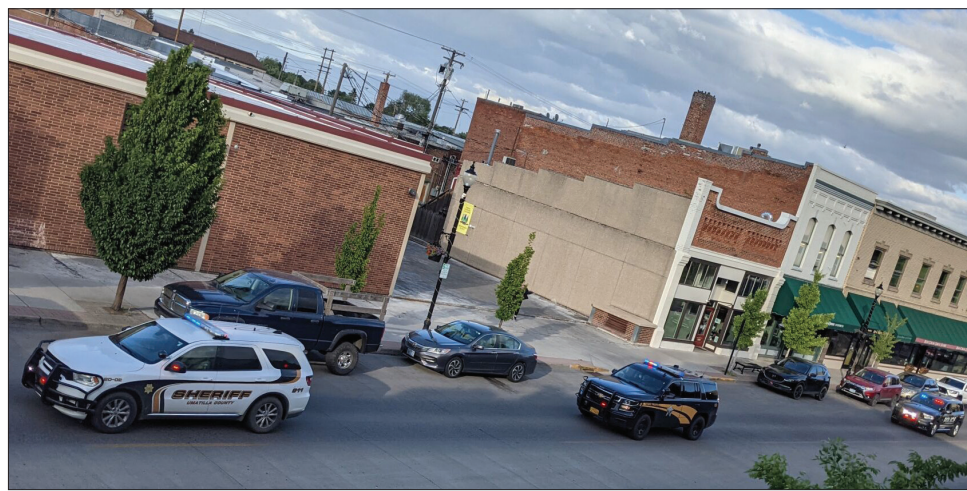
The sheriff's office reported Post and three other adults entered a craft on the water near the Minam Store at Minam State Park and an accident threw them into the water.

"Deputy Jason Post did not reach shore and his body was found shortly afterward," according to a press release from the sheriff's office.

Post began his career in 2010 as a reserve officer for the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office and in 2013 was hired as a full-time patrol deputy. He was a field training officer and a mentor to many officers.

"He was well respected and loved throughout the entire law enforcement community," the press release stated.

Umatilla County Parole and Probation in mid-April



Phil Wright/East Oregonian/East Oregonian

**A Umatilla County Sheriff's Office vehicle drives Saturday, June 5, 2021, along Adams Avenue, La Grande, in a procession with state and local law enforcement to escort the body of Umatilla County Parole and Probation deputy Jason Post to the county line. Post drowned earlier that day in Wallowa County.**

hired Post as a probation officer.

"He was known for his devotion to his family," according to the press release, "and he was very open about making the career change so he could focus on family and spend more time with them."

Umatilla County sheriff's deputies and other law enforcement agencies escorted Post's body from the Loveland Funeral Chapel, La Grande, to home in Pendleton, where local law enforcement and first responders gathered to honor him.



Post

"Thank you for the overwhelming support that was demonstrated by so many of our extended law enforcement family yesterday as we brought him home," the sheriff's office stated. "We express our deepest condolences to his entire family. We are your family and our hearts are broken."

Umatilla County sheriff's Lt. Sterrin Ward on June 7 reported staff from the sheriff's office and parole and probation met that morning for a debrief of the events from the weekend.

"The family and agency

are beginning the process of planning for a ceremony, but at this time no finalized announcements have been made," Ward reported. "We will have further information shortly as arrangements are made."

The Wallowa County Sheriff's Office Umatilla County Sheriff's Office or other law enforcement agencies have yet to provide details on the accident that led to Post's death.

Ashly Lehman, wife of Pendleton police Sgt. Jon Lehman, set up a fundraiser at [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) for the benefit of Post's wife, Rosana, and their baby, Dalilah.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## COVID-19 vaccination events move to CHD

LA GRANDE — The COVID-19 vaccination events at the Riviera Activity Center are being moved to the Center for Human Development in La Grande starting Friday, June 11, according to a press release.

The vaccines will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at a walk-in clinic every Friday from 2-4 p.m. The reason for the move is the decreasing demand for vaccines, according to CHD's COVID-19 tracker Erin Elder.

"Now that we don't have as many people coming in, there isn't that same need for the large vaccination site that was running before," she said.

For those with scheduled appointments past June 11, appointment times will be kept at the Center for Human Development, 2301 Cove Ave., the release said. The clinic is offering the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna

and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, according to Elder.

Prior registration is not required, according to the release, but online registration is available for a shorter in-person wait time. Children younger than 15 need in-person parental consent, while those ages 15 to 17 are able to sign their own consent form. No insurance information is necessary.

For more information, go to [chdc.org/covid19-vaccine](http://chdc.org/covid19-vaccine) or call CHD at 541-962-8800.

## ODOT holding curb ramp upgrade online open house

WALLOWA COUNTY — People with mobility issues soon will have a much easier time getting to and from sidewalks in Eastern Oregon, according to an Oregon Department of Transportation press release.

Starting in 2022, ODOT will repair and upgrade hundreds of sidewalk curb ramps along state highways in sev-

eral communities in Umatilla, Morrow, Wallowa and Baker counties.

The work is part of a statewide effort to bring curb ramps into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards to improve mobility and safety.

To provide updated information and collect feedback, ODOT is currently holding an online open house through Friday, June 18. During this time, residents can visit <https://tinyurl.com/EasternOregonADA2022> to review project information, maps, photos and videos or submit questions and feedback after reviewing the information.

Most projects are being designed this year, with construction beginning in 2022. Eastern Oregon communities that are part of this 2022 construction project include Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Ukiah, Milton-Freewater, Helix, Athena, Wallowa, Lostine, Joseph, Heppner, Lone, Lexington and Baker City.

— The Observer

## WALLOWA COUNTY

## Written complaints against council lacking

By BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The can got kicked down the road again, but without as much force as might have been expected, Thursday, June 3, as the Joseph City Council heard Pro-Tem Administrator/Recorder Brock Eckstein say he has no documented claims of harassment by council members.

This came in open session after an executive session in which he explained to the approximately 40 residents in the audience on behalf of the council.

"I know a lot of you are frustrated over potential allegations of harassment from council members to city staff," Eckstein said. "I can assure you these are being handled in the proper way."

He explained that the "proper way" means that people are given due process when accused. He said when a written complaint — not just hearsay — is filed against anybody, the defendant is allowed two weeks to respond.

"The council receives the same correspondence. They'll get two weeks to think about it," Eckstein said. "Once that two weeks has passed, both parties will get 15 minutes in executive session with the council to pitch their side, whether they're the accuser or the defendant. Once both of those 15-minute sessions expire, they'll each get five minutes rebuttal and then they'll both be excused and the council will come to a consensus, and their official conclusion must be done in open session."

He said the process might not satisfy all, but it's "the right and legal way to do it." At present, it's all hearsay, he said. "Right now, all of this harassment stuff is 'he-said, she-said' stuff. That's not how we operate. That's not how anyone should operate," he said. "It's got to be a written complaint from a citizen, a councilor or an employee. As of right now, I haven't received any of that."

In addressing the audience, he empathized with those feeling frustrated.

"I realize some of you are feeling that frustration because nothing's happening," Eckstein said. "Well, no one's stepping forward, to be quite honest."

The harassment concerns arose when Parks Director Dennis Welch made such allegations that led to his having to take sick time off from March to May. That was followed April 1 by former Administrator/Recorder Larry Braden alerting the council of harassment violations during a council meeting, and then he submitted his resignation April 16 for those same reasons.

Since then, Welch has returned to work after talking with Eckstein. Braden has declined to specify the type of harassment or from whom.

But it appears disputes are occurring among city staff, Eckstein said. "There have been allegations at the city level among city staff, and those are being handled in the exact same way I just explained," he said. "So once those time frames have expired, a decision will be made and you'll know what that decision is."

He asked for the citizenry's indulgence. "I would just ask you to exercise patience as we make sure that everybody — the accuser and the defendants in any case — are given their fair chance to speak and respond to issues," Eckstein said. "If you were in that situation, I guarantee you'd want the same thing."