

TODAY

Today is Saturday, June 12, the 163rd day of 2021. There are 202 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On June 12, 1987, President Ronald Reagan, during a visit to the divided German city of Berlin, exhorted Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

ON THIS DATE:

In 1630, Englishman John Winthrop, leading a fleet carrying Puritan refugees, arrived at the Massachusetts Bay Colony, where he became its governor.

In 1939, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was dedicated in Cooperstown, New York.

In 1942, Anne Frank, a German-born Jewish girl living in Amsterdam, received a diary for her 13th birthday, less than a month before she and her family went into hiding from the Nazis.

In 1963, civil rights leader Medgar Evers, 37, was shot and killed outside his home in Jackson, Mississippi. (In 1994, Byron De La Beckwith was convicted of murdering Evers and sentenced to life in prison; he died in 2001.)

In 1964, South African Black nationalist Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life in prison along with seven other people, including Walter Sisulu, for committing sabotage against the apartheid regime (all were eventually released, Mandela in 1990).

In 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Loving v. Virginia*, unanimously struck down state laws prohibiting interracial marriages.

In 1971, Tricia Nixon and Edward F. Cox were married in the White House Rose Garden.

In 1981, major league baseball players began a 49-day strike over the issue of free-agent compensation. (The season did not resume until Aug. 10.)

In 1991, Russians went to the polls to elect Boris N. Yeltsin president of their republic.

In 1994, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were slashed to death outside her Los Angeles home. (O.J. Simpson was later acquitted of the killings in a criminal trial but was eventually held liable in a civil action.)

In 2004, former President Ronald Reagan's body was sealed inside a tomb at his presidential library in Simi Valley, California, following a week of mourning and remembrance by world leaders and regular Americans.

In 2015, Joyce Mitchell, a worker at the maximum-security Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York, was arrested on charges of helping two convicted killers escape; Mitchell later pleaded guilty to promoting prison contraband and was sentenced to 2 1/3 to seven years in prison.

Today's Birthdays: Songwriter Richard M. Sherman is 93. Sportscaster Marv Albert is 80. Singer Roy Harper is 80. Actor Roger Aaron Brown is 72. Actor Sonia Manzano is 71. Rock musician Bun E. Carlos (Cheap Trick) is 70. Country singer-musician Junior Brown is 69. Singer-songwriter Rocky Burnette is 68. Actor Timothy Busfield is 64. Singer Meredith Brooks is 63. Actor Jenilee Harrison is 63. Rock musician John Linnell (They Might Be Giants) is 62. Actor John Enos is 59. Rapper Grandmaster Dee (Whodini) is 59. Actor Paul Schulze is 59. Actor Eamonn Walker is 59. Actor Paula Marshall is 57. Actor Frances O'Connor is 54. Actor Rick Hoffman is 51. Actor-comedian Finesse Mitchell is 49. Actor Mel Rodriguez is 48. Actor Jason Mewes is 47. Actor Michael Muhney is 46. Blues musician Kenny Wayne Shepherd is 44. Actor Timothy Simons is 43. Actor Wil Horneff is 42. Singer Robyn is 42.

LOTTERY

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

Megabucks

02-03-14-22-23-43

Jackpot: \$3.9 million

Lucky Lines

02-08-10-16-19-23-28-29

Estimated jackpot: \$56,000

Powerball

19-28-46-50-54

Powerball: 9

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$31 million

Win for Life

20-42-45-47

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 6-3-2-9

4 p.m.: 1-4-4-3

7 p.m.: 3-2-8-2

10 p.m.: 2-5-2-9

Thursday, June 10, 2021

Lucky Lines

01-06-10-16-20-24-26-29

Estimated jackpot: \$57,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 8-2-9-8

4 p.m.: 5-6-6-0

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

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



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

This building at the home of the Wallowa History Center will eventually be converted into an interpretive center.

Milestone celebration

Wallowa History Center celebrates 20th year with open house

By RONALD BOND

Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — The Wallowa History Center is closing in on its 20th anniversary celebration, and will be hosting an open house in celebration on the Fourth of July.

The celebration will take place in conjunction with the town's Fourth of July Parade at the home of the center at the corner of 1st and Madison streets in Wallowa, the former home of the U.S. Forest Service station.

The open house will

feature displays and give visitors an opportunity to look at the location that will be in the process of being converted into a library, interpretive center and more in the next few years.

"We have a brochure.

You can read the brochure (and) do a tour of the facility up there," center director Mary Ann Burrows said.

The center has undergone a lot of growth since its beginning 20 years ago. Burrows said it started with not much more than a display board that was set up at the Wallowa County Library.

"We really started out on the Fourth of July with one of our first displays," she said. "We had a presentation board with materials in the library, and just

moved on from there. We got a 501(c)3 to buy a computer and some materials."

David Weaver, president of the board for the center, credited both Burrows and Mark Highberger for their efforts in growing the center.

"They started out really small and have moved around over time previously before landing here," he said, "and kind of really expanding the work they have done. Both Mark and Mary Ann are really instrumental. ... Mary Ann is the heart of the organization. It was her inspiration that got it going, and she knows a ton about Wallowa County history."

Part of what got Burrows started building up the center was seeing a loss of town history.

"There were so many of

the older families that were leaving. Nothing was being saved," she said. "I've always been a history buff. I hated to see the history of the town disappearing."

Highberger said Burrows would gather information and track down old photographs of the area. She even salvaged archivable items that were being thrown away.

"She did that by going through archives, talking to people, rescuing a lot of material from places like the city dump," he said.

Many of the items the center has collected over the past 20 years will be on display when the new center is complete.

But on this Fourth of July, visitors will get to see what the future holds for a place designed to preserve the past.

Council holding special session on floodplain map

New maps have been in the works for several years

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande City Council meets Monday, June 14, at 6 p.m. to consider revisions to the Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain map.

The council will discuss the updated map and vote on whether or not to send it to FEMA to begin the official federal process of creating the new floodplain map.

According to La Grande Community Development Director Michael Boquist, the new maps have been in

HOW TO WATCH

The La Grande City Council's June 14 meeting will be held virtually. The meeting can be viewed on Eastern Oregon Alive TV and public comments regarding the floodplain mapping will also be answered during the meeting.

the works for several years and the original designs are from the mid-1970s.

La Grande-based Anderson Perry & Associates performed most of the engineering on the city and crafted the modeling for how stormwater would flow through the city. The Army Corps of Engineers worked on the Taylor Creek section along 12th Street through the Sunny Hills subdivision.

Some major changes on

the FEMA floodplain map center in the southwest part of La Grande, where Mill Creek flows toward the neighborhoods surrounding Eastern Oregon University. Several areas in this region that were previously not identified in the floodplain

would now be included. Areas near where Deal Canyon approaches toward N Avenue on the west side of La Grande would be reduced closer to where the channel is located.

Another major area of change on the floodplain map is on the east end of La Grande north of Gekeler Lane, near the drive-in theater. Recent improvements to the Gekeler Lane stormwater channels led to a significant reduction in the size of the floodplain areas in the new proposed plan.

The proposed floodplain remapping also includes the addition of AH zones, which address areas without flowing water that are in low enough elevations to cause buildups of water in the event of a flood.

Additionally, the city's public works department has been working on updating storm drainage and culvert plans to improve their infrastructure toward a long-term planning process.

NEWS BRIEFS

OTEC asks member-owners to be on the lookout for trees near power lines

BAKER CITY — Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is asking member-owners to be on the lookout for trees or branches hanging or leaning too close to power lines, according to a press release from the cooperative.

Trees that grow too close to power lines can cause outages or create other hazardous conditions.

"Although most trees do not present a problem, some of them grow into or crowd power lines or other utility equipment," said Maaik Schotborgh, OTEC's safety and loss control manager. "When greenery becomes too close for comfort, we have to address it because overgrowth can interfere with power distribution and create a hazard for those on the ground."

Tree branches that come in contact with power lines can interfere with electrical service. For example, the lights in a home or business may flicker when tree branches brush power lines during high winds. Stormy weather can also cause limbs to break off and land on lines.

To report a tree or limb near a power line, call OTEC at 541-523-3616 and the cooperative will come out and fix the problem.



Joseph Hathaway/Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is asking member-owners to be on the lookout for trees or branches hanging or leaning too close to power lines.

Team 7 releases management of fires to local control

ENTERPRISE — Interagency Team 7 turned back management of the Joseph Canyon and Dry Creek fires to local agencies at 6 a.m. Friday, June 11, according to a press release.

Interagency Team 7 took over management of the blazes on June 7, but favorable weather conditions helped fire crews gain the upper hand.

The Joseph Canyon Fire, which was caused by overnight lightning last week, has burned more than 7,600 acres but is 95% contained, the press release said. The fire is approximately 23 miles southwest of Lewiston, Idaho.

The Dry Creek Fire, also caused by overnight lightning last week, has burned nearly 1,600 acres and also is 95% contained. The fire is located in a remote, rugged part of Hells Canyon, northeast of Joseph.

— The Observer

County earns 'Bright Spot' honor

Wallowa County one of 54 communities in nation recognized

By CARLOS FUENTES

The Observer

WALLOWA COUNTY — The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading announced last month that Wallowa County has been named a 2021 Bright Spot Community due to its efforts in keeping students engaged after COVID-19 forced school doors to shut.

Wallowa County is one of 54 communities that were recognized nationwide, and the only one in Oregon.

Every year, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading announces a list of Bright Spot communities based on school district achievements in early STEM curriculum, attendance, literacy rates and other criteria. This year, the organization highlighted communities that adapted to COVID-19 by introducing programs which effectively aided distance learning.

Community organization Building Healthy Families is partially responsible for these efforts due to their collaboration with local libraries around Wallowa County to provide children, specifically pre-kindergartners, with "to-go" reading kits.

"This has been a very challenging time to serve families and children in Wallowa County," Maria Weer, executive director of BHF, said. "Many of our usual activities have had to be reformatted because of COVID-19."

Soon after Wallowa County announced its transition to online learning, Building Healthy Families introduced "Story Time To Go" bags at Enterprise and Wallowa County libraries, which children and their families pick up every Monday to receive a new book and activities. The program has been ongoing since March of 2020, and the transition from in-person activities to this distanced version has increased community engagement, according to BHF Special Projects Coordinator Autumn Wilburn.

"In 2019, on an average month we were serving 64 families, and last September, we were able to provide 72 families with these activities," she said.

Building Healthy Families, founded in 1999 and based in Enterprise, has helped families throughout Eastern Oregon with its many support programs, including after-school tutoring programs, a youth entrepreneurship program and numerous parent education workshops.

The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is a collaborative effort by funders, nonprofit partners, business leaders, government agencies, states and communities to ensure that more children in low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college. CGLR focuses on promoting early school success as an important building block of more hopeful futures for children in economically challenged families and communities.

"The program has been a major success, mainly because every book that a child reads improves their literacy skills," Wilburn said. "We've gotten so much positive feedback from families, so even with libraries in the area opening back up, there's no reason to stop the program yet."