

TODAY

Today is Thursday, June 17, the 168th day of 2021. There are 197 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On June 17, 1994, after leading police on a slow-speed chase on Southern California freeways, O.J. Simpson was arrested and charged with murder in the slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. (Simpson was later acquitted in a criminal trial but held liable in a civil trial.)

ON THIS DATE:

In 1775, the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill resulted in a costly victory for the British, who suffered heavy losses.

In 1885, the Statue of Liberty arrived in New York Harbor aboard the French ship *Isere*.

In 1933, the "Kansas City Massacre" took place outside Union Station in Kansas City, Mo., as a group of gunmen attacked law enforcement officers escorting federal prisoner Frank Nash; four of the officers were killed, along with Nash.

In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Abington (Pa.) School District v. Schempp*, struck down, 8-1, rules requiring the recitation of the Lord's Prayer or reading of Biblical verses in public schools.

In 1967, China successfully tested its first thermonuclear (hydrogen) bomb.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon's eventual downfall began with the arrest of five burglars inside the Democratic headquarters in Washington, D.C.'s Watergate complex.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan announced the retirement of Chief Justice Warren Burger, who was succeeded by William Rehnquist.

In 2009, President Barack Obama extended some benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees. Nevada Sen. John Ensign resigned from the GOP leadership a day after admitting an affair with a former campaign staffer.

In 2012, Rodney King, 47, whose 1991 videotaped beating by Los Angeles police sparked widespread outrage and who struggled with addiction and repeated arrests, died in Rialto, California, in an apparent accidental drowning.

In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-2 that states can't demand proof of citizenship from people registering to vote in federal elections.

In 2015, nine people were shot to death in a historic African-American church in Charleston, South Carolina; suspect Dylann Roof was arrested the following morning. (Roof was convicted of federal hate crimes and sentenced to death; he later pleaded guilty to state murder charges and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.)

In 2019, Iran announced that it was breaking compliance with the international accord that kept it from making nuclear weapons; the announcement meant that Iran could soon start to enrich uranium to just a step away from weapons-grade levels. The Trump administration followed Iran's announcement by ordering 1,000 more troops to the Middle East.

Ten years ago: The United Nations endorsed the rights of gay, lesbian and transgender people for the first time ever, passing a resolution hailed as historic by the U.S. and other backers and decried by some African and Muslim countries.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, his wife and their daughters traveled to Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico as part of a long Father's Day weekend that was also designed to draw attention to America's natural wonders.

One year ago: Prosecutors in Atlanta brought murder charges against white police officer Garrett Rolfe in the fatal shooting of a Black man, Rayshard Brook.

LOTTERY

Monday, June 14, 2021

MegaBucks

12-15-23-29-38-45

Estimated jackpot: \$4 million

Lucky Lines

02-08-09-16-17-23-27-32

Estimated jackpot: \$61,000

Win for Life

09-25-48-76

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 3-0-8-1

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

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

10 p.m.: 7-6-5-0

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mega Millions

18-22-27-38-52

Mega Ball: 11

Megaplier: 4

Estimated jackpot: \$22 million

Lucky Lines

03-06-12-14-20-24-26-32

Estimated jackpot: \$62,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 3-8-0-9

4 p.m.: 3-6-8-2

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

10 p.m.: 2-2-6-5

Veterans continue Flag Day tradition

Nearly 50 American flags retired during Flag Day ceremony

By DICK MASON
The Observer

UNION — The scene, for those who looked closely, was a study in contrast.

About 50 aging American flags were being retired during a ceremony conducted in Union by members of VFW High Valley Post 4060 and American Legion Post 43 the morning of Monday, June 14. The flags were tattered, torn and soiled but the veterans firing a blank-shot rifle volley in honor of them were attired impeccably in military dress uniforms.

The men, joined by a number of other veterans, were conducting a retirement ceremony for used flags, one of many conducted throughout the United States as part of an annual Flag Day tradition.

"We do it because of a sense of respect for our flags and country," said John Craig, finance officer and past commander of La Grande American Legion Post 43.

The retired flags had flown many places including cemeteries, post



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Union pose for a photo after they — along with American Legion Post 43 — finished ceremoniously burning aging American flags at the VFW building in Union on Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

offices and the homes of veterans.

"A lot of us own our own flag poles," said Larry Forrest, commander of VFW High Valley Post 4060.

Flags flown on poles are among the most vulnerable to damage because they may be frequently exposed to wind.

"The way the wind blows around here it does not take long for a flag to get tattered," Forrest said.

All of the flags retired were burned at the conclusion of the retirement ceremony while adhering to the U.S. Flag Code.

Veterans with VFW High Valley Post 4060 and American Legion Post 43 collect tattered, torn and soiled flags each year for the June 14 retirement ceremony. Anyone with American flags that need to be retired is encouraged to give them to VFW High Valley Post 4060 and American Legion Post 43 since this guarantees they will be treated with care as they are retired.

"Do not throw them away," said Bob Kennon, second vice commander of American Legion Post 43.

VFW High Valley

Post 4060 and American Legion Post 43 conducted separate retirement ceremonies for many years on Flag Day before joining six years ago. One reason for the change is that a number of local veterans belong to both service organizations.

"We have a lot of dual members," Kennon said.

Flag Day's story, according to americash-isotry.gov, dates back at least to 1916 when President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation establishing a national Flag Day on June 14.

Island City adopts \$2.9M budget for 2021-22

That's up more than \$343K from previous year

By DICK MASON
The Observer

ISLAND CITY — Buoyed by conservative budgeting and COVID-19 relief funding, the 2021-22 budget picture for Island City looks solid.

The Island City City Council voted Monday, June 14, to adopt a total budget of more than \$2.9 million, up over \$343,000 from the current year's spending plan. The budget will allow the city to maintain all of



Howton

its programs and staff, according to Island City Recorder Karen

Howton.

The spending plan was adopted following a budget hearing nobody spoke at.

The budget includes \$221,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding, the COVID-19 pandemic relief bill Congress passed earlier this year. Island City will be able to spend the money for items and projects related to COVID-19. Spending the American Rescue Plan Act funding will not be easy, Howton said,

because of the extensive federal government rules and regulations that must be adhered to.

Howton said the city's solid budget picture reflects conservative budgeting in recent years.

"We have really been cutting a lot of fat out of the budget," she said.

The beneficial impact of the cuts is now becoming apparent.

"It has taken a few years to come to light, but we are now seeing the headway we are making," Howton said.

Island City's expenses have not been heightened significantly during the pandemic. One reason is that a limited amount of

personal protection equipment has been required. Major protective equipment purchases were not needed because the city has a small staff and works in an office building that allows employees to easily stay at least 6 feet apart and meet other social distancing standards, Howton said.

The city's COVID-19 expenses included costs for equipment to allow city council meetings to be conducted online through Zoom. The city used a portion of \$50,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funds it qualified for in the spring of 2020 to pay for the equipment.

NEWS BRIEFS

Fire crews battling blaze near Ukiah

UKIAH — Firefighters responded to the North Fork John Day River area for a report of a fire on Monday, June 14, according to a press release from the Oregon Department of Forestry.

The Bone Canyon Fire, which is 12 miles southwest of Ukiah, is about 99 acres in size, fire managers reported on June 15. There are no evacuations and no structures are threatened at this time.

The fire is burning on steep slopes and rugged terrain in grass, brush and timber. The cause of the fire is lightning that passed through the area on June 13.

The terrain and strong, gusty winds associated with the passing cold front hampered efforts by firefighters on the ground. Four single-engine airtankers, three helicopters and one air attack aircraft assisted ground resources June 14 with the fire.

Additional resources are responding June 15 to assist Pendleton ODF firefighters, including two Interagency Hotshot crews, two Oregon Department of Corrections crews, one Oregon Youth Authority crew, one Umatilla National Forest crew, two Oregon Youth Authority engines and one Oregon Department of Forestry engine.

Motorcycle crash near La Grande injures woman

LA GRANDE — A Colorado woman was injured Sunday, June 13, near La Grande, when the three-wheeled motorcycle she was driving crashed and ejected her.

Oregon State Police reported the crash occurred at approximately 1:25 p.m. on the eastbound side of Interstate 84 near milepost 273.



ODF/Contributed Photo

Fire crews are battling the Bone Canyon Fire, which is 12 miles southwest of Ukiah and about 99 acres in size, according to fire managers. There are no evacuations and no structures are threatened at this time.

Joyce Ann Vanleur was driving the three-wheeled vehicle with Carol and David Hoefflein, both 70 and of La Grande, traveling behind her.

The trooper arrived at the crash and found Vanleur injured on the ground next to the motorcycle.

The Hoeffleins reported the motorcycle was going 70 mph when it crashed and Vanleur was wearing a helmet, according to OSP. They said the motorcycle swerved right, then left before it exited the road, overturned and ejected Vanleur.

Medics arrived, treated the victim and took her to Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande.

OSP in recent weeks has responded to several crashes on I-84, including on June 7 at 3:15 a.m. when a Ford F150 pickup crashed on the westbound side in the same area as the motorcycle crashed.

Carl A. Adair, 44, of Salem, drove

off the shoulder, overcorrected, crossed the freeway and rolled the pickup onto its top. Adair was injured, OSP reported, and an ambulance took him to Grande Ronde Hospital. State police also reported he may have fallen asleep.

An illegal U-turn on the freeway led to a two-vehicle crash June 1.

According to state police, Shane E. Savage, 46, of Snowflake, Arizona, was driving a Honda Passport eastbound in a right-turn only lane when he decided to return to the Flying J Travel Center, La Grande.

He made a U-turn, state police reported, right into the path of a car. Everett told the trooper at the scene that his driver's license expired in 2016. The trooper cited Everett for the illegal U-turn, no driver's license and driving uninsured.

Excavator topples, operator suffers injuries in wreck

LOSTINE — An excavator operator suffered a broken clavicle and other minor injuries Sunday, June 13, when the machine he operated toppled down a steep embankment on the outskirts of Lostine.

The Joseph Fire Department responded to a mutual aid call at 3:30 p.m. that day for the wreck.

"The operator was digging out a new road and went over the edge," according to the fire department, "riding the excavator until it stopped in some trees."

The Wallowa County Sheriff's Office, Lostine Fire Department and other agencies also responded. Rescue personnel established a rope rescue system and made swift work of getting to the operator. The ambulance from Enterprise brought the man to an air ambulance, which flew him to a hospital in Lewiston, Idaho.

— The Observer

Elgin event returns

Riverfest car show highlights the weekend festivities

By DICK MASON
The Observer

ELGIN — Riverfest is set to roll again in Elgin this weekend after a one-year hiatus.

An annual event celebrating Elgin, Riverfest is set to return Saturday, June 19 after being canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The centerpiece of Riverfest will again be its car show, to be conducted on a field near the Elgin Community Center. The car show is annually one of the first to be conducted in Northeast Oregon and draws at least 70 vehicles a year.

Steve Oliver, of the Elgin Lions Club, said 23 people have entered vehicles in the car show, more than normal four days before the show.

"Most of the people who enter come the day of the show," he said.

Oliver said entries in car shows around the Northwest are on the rise in the past month compared to 2019, the last year car shows were really held. He said this may indicate more people are anxious to get out and participate in activities after being forced to stay home for much of 2020 due to the pandemic.

Oliver and his wife, Kathy, president of the Elgin Lions Club, will again have cars displayed in the show. His car will be a 1965 Ford Thunderbird and hers a 1972 Volkswagen.

Another attraction to the car show is an Oldsmobile Tornado from five decades ago whose owner lives in Echo.

"You don't see that many around," Oliver said.

The car show is one of a limited number conducted on grass fields instead of asphalt lots or streets. Oliver said this makes it more popular because it allows it to be conducted in a cooler environment. Car show visitors, he said, and participants enjoy having the show in a field instead of on pavement.

Oliver is encouraging attendees to bring canopies to protect themselves from the sun and heat. The National Weather Service is forecasting sunny and clear skies on June 19 in Elgin and a high temperature of 89 degrees.

Kathy Oliver said it will be easy to hold the event at the site and meet social distancing standards for COVID-19. She said the field is spacious enough that vehicles can be at least 6 feet apart from one another. The car show also will have signs reminding people to practice social distancing.

The car show will open at 9 a.m., following the start of the Firemen's Breakfast at 7 a.m. The Elgin Fire Department will serve the breakfast, which will be served outdoors adjacent to its station through 11 a.m.

A quilt show will be held in Elgin High School's gym starting at 9 a.m. A new event this year will be an art show in the Elgin Opera House which will begin in the morning.

The Elgin Museum is another site that will also be open in conjunction with Riverfest. Visitors will also have a chance to visit an old restored jail outside the museum. The structure is one of Elgin's earliest jails, which the Elgin Museum and Historical Society renovated more than a year ago.

Visitors to Riverfest will also have a chance to go to many local yard sales. Copies of a yard sale map will be provided.