

TODAY

Today is Saturday, June 19, the 170th day of 2021. There are 195 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On June 19, 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War was over, and that all remaining slaves in Texas were free — an event celebrated to this day as “Juneteenth.”

ON THIS DATE:

In 1775, George Washington was commissioned by the Continental Congress as commander in chief of the Continental Army.

In 1911, Pennsylvania became the first state to establish a motion picture censorship board.

In 1917, during World War I, King George V ordered the British royal family to dispense with German titles and surnames; the family took the name “Windsor.”

In 1944, during World War II, the two-day Battle of the Philippine Sea began, resulting in a decisive victory for the Americans over the Japanese.

In 1945, millions of New Yorkers turned out to cheer Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was honored with a parade.

In 1953, Julius Rosenberg, 35, and his wife, Ethel, 37, convicted of conspiring to pass U.S. atomic secrets to the Soviet Union, were executed at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, New York.

In 1964, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was approved by the U.S. Senate, 73-27, after surviving a lengthy filibuster.

In 1975, former Chicago organized crime boss Sam Giancana was shot to death in the basement of his home in Oak Park, Illinois; the killing has never been solved.

In 1987, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Louisiana law requiring any public school teaching the theory of evolution to teach creation science as well.

In 2009, Texas billionaire R. Allen Stanford was indicted and jailed on charges his international banking empire was really just a Ponzi scheme built on lies, bluster and bribery. (Stanford was sentenced to 110 years in prison after being convicted of bilking investors in a \$7.2 billion scheme that involved the sale of fraudulent certificates of deposits.)

In 2013, actor James Gandolfini, 51, died while vacationing in Rome.

In 2014, Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California won election as House majority leader as Republicans shuffled their leadership in the wake of Rep. Eric Cantor's primary defeat in Virginia.

Five years ago: LeBron James and his relentless Cavaliers pulled off an improbable NBA Finals comeback to give the city of Cleveland its first title since 1964 as they became the first team to rally from a 3-1 finals deficit by beating the defending champion Golden State Warriors 93-89. Anton Yelchin, a rising actor best known for playing Chekov in the new “Star Trek” films, was killed by his own car as it rolled down his driveway in Los Angeles; he was 27.

One year ago: Americans marked Juneteenth, a holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, with new urgency and protests demanding racial justice. Demonstrators across the country defaced and toppled statues and busts of former U.S. presidents, a Spanish missionary and Confederate figures. The mayor of Louisville, Kentucky, said Brett Hankison, one of the three police officers involved in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor, would be fired. A day before President Donald Trump's indoor rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the state reported its second-biggest daily increase in its coronavirus case load.

LOTTERY

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 Megabucks

13-23-26-31-46-48

Jackpot: \$4.2 million

Lucky Lines

03-08-11-16-18-24-25-29

Estimated jackpot: \$63,000

Powerball

19-29-34-44-50

Powerball: 25

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$52 million

Win for Life

27-52-58-75

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 4-9-0-2

4 p.m.: 5-2-8-5

7 p.m.: 0-4-3-8

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

Thursday, June 17, 2021 Lucky Lines

01-07-10-15-20-22-25-31

Jackpot: \$64,000

Pick 4

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

4 p.m.: 2-8-3-0

7 p.m.: 8-5-1-7

10 p.m.: 4-9-5-0

History center coming into focus

Wallowa group's vision for new home nears fruition

By RONALD BOND

Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — The Wallowa History Center's vision for its new home is moving closer to reality.

Board President David Weaver said last week the center will have its site plan and exhibit plan for the four-building home of the center at 1st and Madison streets in Wallowa by next month, and at that point, they can move to the next step of restoring the old Forest Service buildings and converting them into a history hub.

“By July 1, we'll have all those products, and then we'll start chipping away at moving forward with that bigger plan,” Weaver said. “It's a long-term process. We'll start looking at which pieces we want to tackle, and start the capital fundraising. We're four to five years out. So we'll start doing some of the identified restoration work.”

The center began leasing the property — which includes four buildings — from the city about three or four years ago, Weaver said. Previously, it had been deeded to the Forest Service.



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain

There are some items in place in what will be the research library for the Wallowa History Center.

“This was the Bear-Sled Ranger District,” he said.

Among the features of the center's home once it is complete will be a research library for individuals to dig — both online and through print resources — through history of the city. There also will be an interpretive center.

For now, though, getting some of the basics taken care of on-site is the focus.

“The stages that we have been in now, we sort of have the collection moved in there and set up shop for

that, and did the electrical work, and the plumbing work, installation (and a) new exterior window,” Weaver said of the building that previously served as the ranger's office and will be where the research library is.

Weaver said the hope is that when the center is complete, it will be a location that doesn't take away from the Wallowa County Museum, but that makes photos, artifacts and more accessible.

“Our plan is basically to have a timeline around Wallowa history in this building centered around

natural resources,” he said. “It won't be a museum, because we already have a good museum, and it's great up there.”

Mary Ann Burrows, the center's director, in addition to having a location for history memorabilia, wants to see the buildings restored to what they once were.

“The house is in really bad shape,” she said. “It is going to take multiple years to complete the project because there is so much work that needs to be done. It's an addition to our area for people that are interested in history.”

Highway road repairs start in Union County

By CARLOS FUENTES

The Observer

UNION COUNTY

— The Oregon Department of Transportation is starting several paving projects on sections of OR-82, OR-204 and OR-237 in June.

On June 16, workers started patching pavement on Wallowa Lake Highway (OR-82) between mileposts 45 and 49.5. Construction crews will be active through June 19, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Drivers can expect delays up to 20 minutes.

Starting June 21, crews

will be paving the Weston-Elgin/Tollgate Highway (OR-204) between mileposts 40.25 and 20.8. Workers will be paving Mondays through Fridays, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., with an estimated completion date in early September, 2021. Drivers can expect up to 20 minute delays.

According to ODOT spokesperson Tom Strandberg, the work along Highway 204 will take several months because of flood damage in 2020. Between late July and early August, Morning Creek Sno-Park, Woodland Sno-Park and Andies

Prairie Sno-Park will be closed due to chip sealing operations.

Work on the La Grande-Baker Highway (OR-237) will start on Tuesday, June 22, between mileposts 23 and 20, three miles southwest of Union. ODOT engineer Mike Remily said they will be resurfacing the road on Tuesday and Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and expect to finish Wednesday evening. Delays are estimated to be as high as 20 minutes.

“Please slow down, pay extra attention as crews repair and resur-

face damaged pavement to extend the life of the roadway,” ODOT said in a press release. “The result will be safer, smoother highways for all travelers. ODOT and our contractor thank everyone for their patience and understanding.”

Strandberg encourages drivers to stay extra cautious and to use Tripcheck.com to find any construction delays on their route.

“There's a lot of construction going on in Eastern Oregon right now, so if you see an orange vest or cones, slow down and pay attention,” he said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Volunteers needed for annual bike ride

LA GRANDE — La Grande Parks and Recreation is looking for volunteers and participants for the Grande Tour Annual Bike Ride on June 26-27.

The 134-mile ride will begin on Saturday, June 26, at 7:30 a.m. at Riverside Park. From there, cyclists will follow the Scenic Bikeway route through La Grande, Union, North Powder and end at Geiser-Pollman Park in Baker City. On Sunday, bicyclists will ride through Union and Cove before returning to La Grande.

In previous years, the event has brought in up to 20 riders, and organizer Jessie Wilson said she hopes to get as many participants as possible. Registration is \$65 and available on the La Grande Parks and Recreation website until June 20.

Along the route, volunteers at designated stations will provide riders with snacks, drinks and some shade to rest. The parks and rec department is looking for organizations to sponsor and set up six stations. Each group is asked to provide their own snacks and drinks.

“This is an opportunity for all of those who are sponsoring a pit stop to support our local outdoor events while providing information about their organization or program,” Wilson said in a press release. “It is also an excellent opportunity for a service project for anyone looking for those opportunities.”

To sponsor a booth, volunteers can contact Wilson at 541-962-0514.

OTEC conducting power pole inspections, testing throughout summer

BAKER CITY — Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is gearing up to begin its annual pole-testing program throughout the cooperative's service territory, including Union County.



Greg Folkins Photography/Contributed Photo

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is gearing up to begin its annual pole-testing program throughout the cooperative's service territory, including Union County.

Osmose Utility Services, a contracted service with the cooperative, will begin inspecting and testing utility poles for strength and potential rot, determining and treating ailing poles. Testing, which is mandated by the Public Utility Commission, will begin the week of Monday, June 21, in Grant and Harney counties, then will move to Baker and Union counties over the next few months.

“Testing requires digging around our power poles and this means that in some instances Osmose employees will be working in OTEC member-owners' yards and maybe even driving 4-wheelers across open fields testing each power pole,” said Jay Tanzey, OTEC superintendent of the Baker District.

Taney said both OTEC and Osmose will both do their best to

make contact with each property owner prior to work being started.

“If a rancher is out in the fields or a family isn't home for one reason or another, we are just wanting to give a heads up that they will be working in the area,” he said.

OTEC's power pole-testing program calls for each pole to be inspected and treated on a 10-year cycle. Approximately 10% of the system is inspected each year to identify any poles that need to be replaced and to extend the lives of those poles that remain in service. OTEC maintains more than 44,000 poles, so around 4,400 poles will be tested this summer.

“This inspection helps to safely maintain reliability and keeps costs down for our members,” Tanzey said.

— The Observer

Drought could impact anglers

Conditions could mean changes to fish management

By RONALD BOND

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Drought conditions throughout Oregon, including in Wallowa County, could have an impact on anglers this season — especially if rain doesn't come during the early stages of summer and temperatures stay warm.

That was part of the message in an update shared recently by Kyle Bratcher, the acting district fish biologist in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Enterprise office.

“Currently most of the state is under drought status and we're expecting low flows throughout much of the summer,” Bratcher said in an email. “We're now warning of potential changes in fish management to mitigate for warm conditions and to protect vulnerable fish populations.”

Bratcher said in most Wallowa County rivers, flows have been lower and pretty moderate.

“It looks like we're going to hit base flows earlier than we normally do,” he said. “I think we're going to be base flows by late June to early July.”

In 2020, he said, the base flow wasn't reached until almost August.

“That means the fish is spending like six weeks in hotter temperatures (last year) as opposed to 8-10 weeks,” which could be the potential this year if temperatures rise, he said.

Base flow, he said, is “basically the lowest flow you see.” At that point, snowmelt from the mountains has ceased and a river is no longer rising.

The biologist said that warming water temperatures have a major impact on fish, especially if they are in hot water for too long.

“Really what happens (is) hot water holds less oxygen,” he said. “Fish will tend to move into faster-flowing areas. They are burning more energy to stay in (these faster and more) oxygenated areas. It makes their immune systems a little more vulnerable, and they'll get attacked by parasites. At certain times, they'll stop feeding altogether.”

Hot water could lead to actions

If the drought conditions do worsen, there are a number of steps ODFW can take at the state or local level when it comes to fish management.

Bratcher said that changes haven't been implemented in Wallowa County since 2015, which was a very low water year. That summer, anglers were required to stop fishing by 2 p.m. daily. The move would likely be the first restriction implemented this summer if necessary.

According to the ODFW website, some of the other options include bag limit removal, early release of fish, relocation of fish or trout stocking changes.

Actions like removing the bag limit would only be implemented if there was an increased likelihood of fish dying in the water. He said, though, there is likely just one location that could happen in Wallowa County.

“The bag limit lifting is typically in places where we stock fish. It could occur at Kinney Lake. If we know those fish are going to die up there, (we'll do that),” he said.