

TODAY

Today is Tuesday, June 22, the 173rd day of 2021. There are 192 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On June 22, 1970, President Richard Nixon signed an extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that lowered the minimum voting age to 18.

ON THIS DATE:

In 1611, English explorer Henry Hudson, his son and several other people were set adrift in present-day Hudson Bay by mutineers aboard the *Discovery*.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated for a second time as Emperor of the French.

In 1937, Joe Louis began his reign as world heavyweight boxing champion by knocking out Jim Braddock in the eighth round of their fight in Chicago. (A year later on this date, Louis knocked out Max Schmeling in the first round of their rematch at Yankee Stadium.)

In 1940, during World War II, Adolf Hitler gained a stunning victory as France was forced to sign an armistice eight days after German forces overran Paris.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the "GI Bill of Rights."

In 1945, the World War II battle for Okinawa ended with an Allied victory.

In 1969, singer-actor Judy Garland died in London at age 47.

In 1977, John N. Mitchell became the first former U.S. Attorney General to go to prison as he began serving a sentence for his role in the Watergate cover-up. (He was released 19 months later.)

In 1981, Mark David Chapman pleaded guilty to killing rock star John Lennon. Abolhassan Bani-Sadr was deposed as president of Iran.

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul*, unanimously ruled that "hate crime" laws that banned cross burning and similar expressions of racial bias violated free-speech rights.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama announced in a White House address that he would pull home 33,000 troops from Afghanistan by the following summer. James "Whitey" Bulger, the longtime fugitive Boston crime boss and fixture on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list, was arrested in Santa Monica, California.

Five years ago: Rebellious Democrats launched a 25-hour round-the-clock sit-in on the House floor to demand votes on gun-control bills, forcing exasperated Republicans to recess while cutting off cameras showing the protest. Dennis Hastert arrived at a Minnesota prison to serve his 15-month sentence in a hush-money case involving revelations that the former House speaker had sexually abused at least four boys when he coached wrestling at an Illinois high school.

One year ago: Mourners filed through Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church for a public viewing of Rayshard Brooks, a Black man who'd been fatally shot in the back by a white police officer after a struggle. President Donald Trump said the United States had done "too good a job" on testing for cases of COVID-19 and that it had more cases than other countries because it did more testing.

LOTTERY

Friday, June 18, 2021

Megamillions

14-36-44-46-53

Megaball: 18

Megaplier: 2

Jackpot: \$40 million

Lucky Lines

03-05-11-14-17-21-28-31

Jackpot: \$65,000

Pick 4

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

4 p.m.: 8-6-5-8

7 p.m.: 9-8-5-9

10 p.m.: 9-8-6-7

Saturday, June 19, 2021

Powerball

04-22-35-38-39

Powerball: 20

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$52 million

Megabucks

11-15-16-21-44-46

Jackpot: \$4.2 million

Lucky Lines

02-08-12-15-18-22-26-32

Jackpot: \$67,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 3-0-3-6

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

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

10 p.m.: 3-7-6-2

Win for Life

01-13-36-46

Sunday, June 20, 2021

Lucky Lines

02-08-12-15-18-22-26-32

Estimated jackpot: \$67,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 3-0-3-6

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

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

10 p.m.: 3-7-6-2

A moving Father's Day tribute

Cyclist rides mountain bike for eight hours as tribute to late father

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — La Grande cyclist Elijah Romer saluted his late father at the Mount Emily Recreation Area on Sunday, June 20.

Romer rode his mountain bike on MERA's trails for eight hours over a 12-hour period as a tribute to his

father, Larry Romer, who died 18 years ago.

Romer, who has three children, made his Father's Day rides with fellow dads, children and others at MERA. He started his treks at 6:30 a.m. and did not complete them until about 6:30 p.m., covering 55 miles and climbing a total of 10,000 feet. He emerged from the rides energized.

"I feel awesome, a lot better than I thought I would. At the end, I almost wanted to continue. I was in a zone," said Romer, who grew up in La Grande and has a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in teaching from Eastern Oregon University.

Eighteen years ago

'The service delivery doesn't change'

Cutting middleman the main difference between county, state running mental health

By RONALD BOND

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — In May, the Wallowa County commissioners voted to hand over the county's mental health authority to the state level at the Oregon Health Authority.

What does that really mean for Wallowa County? Very little, according to Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness Executive Director Chantay Jett, saying it essentially just eliminates a middleman.

"That's just it. Nothing really changes. Honestly, there is really no changes," she said. "It's positive. It takes out the county, who has had a big

administrative burden (on) them.

"The service delivery doesn't change. The relationship with Oregon Health Authority doesn't change. And how we are held to compliance standards does not change."

In fact, Jett said what the county's basic service in being a mental health authority was to be a "holding tank" for funding to be sure the center was in compliance.

Even the communication stream with the state will not change.

"We are still reviewed in the same way. It was a pass-through of the funds having the counties be involved and having the county serve as the

mental health authority," she explained. "Now it just takes out that middle person, and we are just dealing now directly with the state."

Jett explained in an email what happened when a county transfers control to the state.

"A county government that chooses not to operate or contract for a community mental health program (CMHP) is not a local mental health authority (LMHA). The term LMHA becomes moot, and OHA takes responsibility for direct oversight of the Community Mental Health Program," Jett wrote. "In this case, OHA is contracting directly with Wallowa

Valley Center for Wellness, a private nonprofit to continue functioning as the local Community Mental Health Program."

She cited Douglas, Klamath and Curry counties as having made this move in the past decade, with positive results.

"I haven't spoken with them directly, (but) we sit in a lot of state meetings together," Jett said, referencing the other counties. "I haven't heard any negative comments from them regarding contracting from OHA. This has come up in conversation, just not direct conversation. It seems to work fine."

The center assists about 900 people in Wallowa County annually, Jett said.



Dick Mason/The Observer

La Grande cyclist Elijah Romer, left, and Steve Pinther leave Mount Emily Recreation Area's Owsley Canyon trailhead on Sunday, June 21, 2021. Romer rode his mountain bike on MERA's trails for eight hours over a 12-hour period as a tribute to his father, Larry Romer, who died 18 years ago.

Romer was in no condition to do what he did on Father's Day. He was at a low point in his life after his father's death. Romer then saw something that almost made him feel like his father was speaking to him — a mountain bike his dad had left him. Romer, then overweight, gave serious thought to taking up mountain biking and then did after receiving strong encouragement from his friend, Whit Hartz, of La Grande. "I decided I wanted to take control of my own life and leap onto the bike," he said.

Romer said the many long rides that followed helped him cope with the loss of his father.

"It helped me with my grieving. It put me on a path toward healing," he said.

Romer lost 40 pounds soon after becoming a serious cyclist and later became an elite amateur national class cyclist.

The rides Romer led at MERA were meant to encourage people to make their mental and physical health a priority, just as he did after seeing his father's mountain bike.

"A healthy you helps make a healthy community," he said.

A community is filled with people helping others, Romer said, something they cannot do unless they have addressed their own needs.

"In order to take care of others, you must take care of yourself first. Change starts with you," said Romer, who spoke not only to people riding with him, but also to those at the MERA's Owsley Canyon trailhead.

The cyclist described the challenge as epic in nature. Romer said he wasn't sure if he was up to it, but that it is important for everyone to take on such challenges because it leads to self discovery.

"Once in a while it is important to do something you didn't think possible. When you push yourself to your limit and beyond you will find someone hiding within. That person is your true self," he said.

LA GRANDE

Local writer to have film debut

Film airs June 23 as part of two-hour program dedicated to George Venn

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — George Venn, of La Grande, is one of Northeast Oregon's most prominent literary figures.

The author is set to make his film debut on Wednesday, June 23.

Portions of the writer and poet's life work will

be highlighted in a new 22-minute film "George Venn: The Literary Lion of La Grande."

The film, produced by Erik Schultz, of Portland, will be shown as part of a two-hour online program dedicated to Venn and put on by Literary Arts, a Portland nonprofit dedicated to the arts.

The online program will run from 7-9 p.m. It will begin with a showing of "The Literary Lion of La Grande" and will be followed by a question and answer session with Venn and Schultz.

"I am quite pleased to be so honored," Venn said, noting that tribute is especially meaningful because he has lived in the Grande Ronde Valley for five decades.

The film by Schultz will explore Venn's upbringing, his environmental work, his writing process and legacy. Its features will include Venn reading his poems at Catherine Creek, Morgan Lake and High Valley.

Venn said Schultz hopes to make a longer version of the film later if funding can be raised for it. Schultz is the founder of Paper Flames, a film and photography company, and co-founder of a live music series, The Portland Sessions.

Venn earlier taught at Eastern Oregon University for at least 32 years where he was a writer in residence.

Since 1970, he has written a number of books, including "West of Paradise" (1999), a finalist for the Oregon Book Award in 2000, and "Marking the Magic Circle" (1988), which won the Silver Medal from Literary Arts.

He has edited more than 16 works, including the 2,000 page, six-volume "Oregon Literature Series."

As a poet, he has been awarded the Pushcart Prize and the Andres Berger Prize from Northwest Writers, Inc.

His prose has been published in at least 30 periodicals and anthologized in at least 16 collections.

Venn's most recent work involved the editing of the book "Endless Pressure, Endlessly Applied: The Autobiography of an Eco-Warrior" about Brock Evans.

The book won the national Book Excellence Award for Autobiography earlier this year.

The Book Excellence Award is an international competition.

HOW TO WATCH?

People can preregister to see the free event online at <https://literary-arts.org/event/george-venn-the-literary-lion-of-la-grande-film-and-qa/>

Lostine community gets its own fire truck

Chieftain staff

LOSTINE CANYON — A dozen residents of the Lostine Canyon Firewise Community met for an orientation to its "new" fire truck Monday, June 14, and learned about the truck retired from a Washington state fire department.

Lostine Canyon resident Gary Willis obtained the truck from the Coulee City Fire Department in Washington, that donated it to the community. The truck had reached the end of its professional career but now has a new life as Lostine Canyon Firewise's "Brush 1," spokesman Ron Polk said in a press release.

After receiving some needed rehab work, Willis drove Brush 1 to the Los-



Lostine Canyon Firewise Community/Contributed Photo

Gary Willis demonstrates how to use Brush 1 on Monday, June 14, 2021, when the Lostine Canyon Firewise Community welcomed area residents to show its new fire truck.

tine Canyon community where it will be permanently housed.

The 1988 Ford F-350 4X4, has only 31,000 miles on it. Willis selected the truck because it is easy to

operate, in great shape and is the perfect equipment for a quick response to a brush fire. The immediate availability of the truck will allow residents to contain a fire for the 15 minutes

NEWS BRIEF

Fire weather warning issued across Eastern Oregon

LA GRANDE — The National Weather Service in Pendleton has issued a fire weather warning for the evening of Tuesday, June 22, across several counties in Eastern Oregon.

The areas that might be affected are parts of Deschutes National Forest, Fire Weather Zone 640 of

the Central Mountains of Oregon, Southern Blue and Strawberry Mountains, Central Blue Mountains and the Wallowa District.

The NWS released the warning due to high chances of lightning across Central Oregon and the Northeast Mountains, in addition to recent hot temperatures.

"The main concern is that there's a possibility of lightning starting a fire and the winds

pushing those fires," said Rob Brooks, meteorologist with the National Weather Service. "It's very dry and there is a chance of a dusty firestorm."

Lightning activity in the area is expected to reach a lightning activity level between three and four, which means scattered thunderstorms, moderate rain and winds as high as 50 mph.

— The Observer