

## TODAY

Today is Thursday, June 24, the 175th day of 2021. There are 190 days left in the year.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

**On June 24, 1948,** Communist forces cut off all land and water routes between West Germany and West Berlin, prompting the western allies to organize the Berlin Airlift.

## ON THIS DATE:

**In 1497,** the first recorded sighting of North America by a European took place as explorer John Cabot spotted land, probably in present-day Canada.

**In 1807,** a grand jury in Richmond, Virginia, indicted former Vice President Aaron Burr on charges of treason and high misdemeanor (he was later acquitted).

**In 1880,** "O Canada," the future Canadian national anthem, was first performed in Quebec City.

**In 1940,** France signed an armistice with Italy during World War II.

**In 1947,** what's regarded as the first modern UFO sighting took place as private pilot Kenneth Arnold, an Idaho businessman, reported seeing nine silvery objects flying in a "weaving formation" near Mount Rainier in Washington.

**In 1957,** the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Roth v. United States*, ruled 6-3 that obscene materials were not protected by the First Amendment.

**In 1964,** AT&T inaugurated commercial "Picturephone" service between New York, Chicago and Washington, D.C. (the service, however, never caught on).

**In 1973,** President Richard Nixon concluded his summit with the visiting leader of the Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev, who hailed the talks in an address on American television.

**In 1983,** the space shuttle Challenger — carrying America's first woman in space, Sally K. Ride — coasted to a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

**In 1992,** the Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, strengthened its 30-year ban on officially sponsored worship in public schools, prohibiting prayer as a part of graduation ceremonies.

**In 2015,** a federal judge in Boston formally sentenced Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev to death for the 2013 terror attacks. (A federal appeals court later threw out the sentence; the Supreme Court this fall will consider reinstating it.) Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley became the first southern governor to use his executive power to remove Confederate banners, as four flags with secessionist symbols were taken down from a large monument to rebel soldiers outside the state capitol in Montgomery.

**In 2018,** women in Saudi Arabia were able to drive for the first time, as the world's last remaining ban on female drivers was lifted.

**Ten years ago:** A defiant U.S. House voted overwhelmingly to deny President Barack Obama the authority to wage war against Libya, but Republicans fell short in an effort to actually cut off funds for the operation.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama created the first national monument to gay rights, designating the site of the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan. Republican Donald Trump, visiting Scotland, hailed Britain's vote to leave the European Union, drawing parallels to the anger driving his own presidential campaign.

**One year ago:** Three white men were indicted on murder charges in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man who was shot while running in a neighborhood near Georgia's coast. Wisconsin's governor activated the National Guard to protect state properties after a night of violent protests that included the toppling of two statues outside the state Capitol.

## LOTTERY

## Monday, June 21, 2021

**Megabucks**  
01-07-08-21-25-46  
Estimated jackpot: \$4.4 million

## Lucky Lines

03-07-12-14-18-23-26-30  
Estimated jackpot: \$68,000

## Win for Life

51-57-62-74

## Pick 4

1 p.m.: 5-2-7-6

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

7 p.m.: 3-9-0-2

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

## Tuesday, June 22, 2021

## Mega Millions

01-26-48-51-59  
Mega Ball: 25  
Megaplier: 4  
Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

## Lucky Lines

03-07-09-13-19-22-27-29  
Estimated jackpot: \$69,000

## Pick 4

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

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

7 p.m.: 8-4-2-1

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

## Fires prohibited at Morgan Lake

By DAVIS CARBAUGH

The Observer

LA GRANDE — In an effort to limit the possibility of human-caused wildfires, the La Grande Parks and Recreation Department announced Tuesday, June 22, fire restrictions for Morgan Lake.

The restrictions come on the heels of the Oregon Department of Forestry's regulated use closure that went into effect at 12:01 a.m. June 23.

Morgan Lake is protected by ODF and therefore the La Grande Parks and Recreation Department is following the guidelines in prohibiting open fires. The fire ban typically comes in late July or early August, marking an exceptionally early decision this year. "Every year we shut down fire, however this year is the earliest I can remember since I've been here for seven years," said La Grande Parks and Recreation Director Stu Spence.

The restrictions will ban smoking, camp fires,



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

**In an effort to limit the possibility of human-caused wildfires, the La Grande Parks and Recreation Department announced Tuesday, June 22, fire restrictions for Morgan Lake.**

charcoal fires and fire-works in order to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfires. Portable cooking stoves that use liquid or bottled fuels will still be allowed for campers and day trippers.

The ODF restrictions also apply to its protected lands across Malheur, Baker, Wallowa, Union, Morrow, Grant and Umatilla counties.

In addition to open fires, the ODF statement restricts the use of non-industrial chain saws between the hours of noon and 8 p.m., unless an ax, shovel and fire extinguisher is present with the operator of the saw.

Mowing dry grass is also prohibited between the hours of noon and 8 p.m., unless being performed on commercial

crops and agriculture.

While traveling, possession of a shovel and one gallon of water or one 2-1/2 pound fire extinguisher is required. This restriction does not apply only on state highways, county roads and driveways.

The full list of restrictions can be found on the ODF Northeast Oregon District website.

## Search and rescue training planned this weekend

10 Eastern Oregon counties, including Union, Wallowa, expected to take part in exercises

The Observer

ENTERPRISE — Eastern Oregon Search and Rescue will hold an annual training at Salt Creek Summit from Friday, June 25 through Sunday, June 27, according to a press release.

Travelers taking the USFS 39 Road to Halfway or Hells Canyon this weekend can expect some delays, along with ATVs, pickups, people and maybe even extra help if trouble occurs.

"This training is a huge value to all of our volunteers to be able to network and train with multiple agencies from Northeast Oregon," Wallowa County SAR Capt. Brent Neely said. "Participating counties frequently call on each other for mutual aid for specialized rescues or extended searches and having experience training with each other's teams is invaluable."

There may be significant traffic and UTV/ATV congestion in and around



Wallowa County Search and Rescue/Contributed Photo

**The Wallowa County Search and Rescue ropes team practices a rescue earlier this year. The county SAR team will host teams from all over Eastern Oregon at Salt Creek Summit for training this weekend.**

the Salt Creek Summit parking area during the training time. The parking lot will be open to the public, but parking may be limited due to the volume of SAR equipment and tents staged there.

About 100 SAR volunteers from 10 Eastern Oregon counties (Baker,

Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Union, Umatilla, Wallowa and Wheeler) are expected to take part in the exercises. Most will be camping in the Salt Creek Summit area, near where most of the training will take place. Wallowa County SAR volunteers are

## WHO TO CONTACT

For more information, contact Ellen Morris Bishop, Wallowa County SAR public relations, at 541-398-1810 or paleobishop@gmail.com; or Paige Sully, Wallowa County SAR, at 541-426-0535.

hosting the event.

The training includes work in fast-tracking, responding to a swift-water (water rescue) emergency, advanced incident command, land searches, K-9 land searches, civil air patrol searches and searching using a drone.

"If you plan to recreate or travel in this area, please be aware of this training," WCSAR event coordinator Paige Sully said. "However serious it may appear, we are not engaged in an actual search and rescue incident response."

The Wallowa County SAR volunteers have developed the training exercises that also include equine packing and rescue.

"There are thousands of volunteer hours that go into planning and training at this event," Neely said. "I want to say 'thank you' to all the SAR members for the personal time, energy, and money they donate to make our north-east Oregon SAR teams the best they can be."

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Baker City man accused of construction fraud

BAKER CITY — A Baker City man is accused of receiving money from clients for construction projects that he failed to start or finish.



Hackett

Kenneth Edward Hackett, 51, of 2755 Eighth St., was arrested Saturday, June 19, in Baker City on two counts of aggravated theft and one count of first-degree theft.

The warrant from Baker County Circuit Court stems from investigations by the Baker City Police and Baker County Sheriff's Office related to construction fraud complaints, according to a press release from Ray Duman, interim administrator for the Baker City Police.

The two agencies investigated two incidents with a combined loss of \$78,000, according to the press release. A third case, from Union County, was also reported to Baker City Police.

Three other cases reported to Baker City Police were settled by civil action between the residents and Hackett, according to the press release.

According to the Oregon Contractor Construction Board, Hackett has never been a licensed contractor in Oregon. The agency fined Hackett

five times between 2009 and 2021 for working without a license, and he owes \$25,491 in penalties.

People are encouraged to report possible incidents involving Hackett to the Baker City Police (541-523-3644) or Baker County Sheriff's Office (541-523-6415).

## La Grande to host workshop on substance use and DUI

LA GRANDE — Jermaine Galloway, founder of Tall Cop Says Stop, will host a workshop on substance use and inebriated driving trends from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, June 26, at La Grande High School.

The session will focus on new trends in underage alcohol use, drug concealment methods, identifying intoxicated drivers and more. This will be Galloway's second training in La Grande.

The workshop is intended for law enforcement officers, first responders, educators, government officials and counselors, and is open to the public.

Any questions regarding the event or registration can be directed to Billie-Jo Nickens at 541-786-5915.

## Gun discharged during domestic dispute

NORTH POWDER — A man was arrested in North Powder on Monday, June 21, after the Union

County Sheriff's Office responded to a domestic dispute where a firearm was discharged.

Nobody was injured but the man, whom police declined to identify, was arrested on a charge of menacing and transported to Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande, for a mental health evaluation.

A woman in the residence was able to escape the residence unharmed, according to Union County Sheriff Cody Bowen.

## Crews to start pavement upgrade on June 24

MEACHAM — Motorists on Interstate 84 can expect delays starting on Thursday, June 24, as work crews begin a pavement asphalt overlay in the Meacham area, according to an Oregon Department of Transportation press release.

Crews will start applying the pavement asphalt overlay on Kamela Road and Old US Highway 30 starting at I-84 Exit 243, going through Kamela and ending at the I-84 Interchange at Meacham.

Traffic will be controlled by flaggers and pilot cars during work hours and travelers can expect up to 20-minute delays, according to the release. The work, which will not affect Interstate 84 traffic, is expected to be complete no later than June 30.

— *The Observer*

## Gripes continue to hound council

Alleged accusations levied by Councilor Bingham denied by local businessman

By BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The dysfunction in Joseph City Hall continues.

Another executive session to deal with complaints against city officials and/or employees is scheduled for 5 p.m. Monday, June 28, at the Joseph Community Events Center. The executive session will be followed by an open session to make any decisions desired by the city council.

The most recent complaint was a letter submitted to the Chieftain by local businessman Gary Bethscheider. The letter states that Councilor Kathy Bingham accused Bethscheider of making an obscene gesture at her during a February council meeting.

"This past week, I was approached by Mayor (Belinda) Buswell, who made me aware that Kathy Bingham had accused me of 'flipping her off' at the last city council meeting," Bethscheider's letter states. "Kathy made these false claims to (then) City Administrator Larry Braden days after the city council meeting. In turn, Larry asked Mayor Buswell to inquire further with me about this accusation."

In his letter, Bethscheider denied Bingham's accusation and repeated the denial in an interview with the Chieftain last week. In the letter, he said there were three other people with the same line of sight as Bingham who said they didn't see any such action.

In his letter, Bethscheider said he believes such a "false accusation" by Bingham is "absolutely unacceptable" and that Bingham should be removed from the council. He said such an accusation could damage his reputation both as a person and as a businessman.

Bethscheider said in a June 18 email he has yet to hear from the city on his complaint against Bingham other than that the city is trying to investigate in the "proper manner."

Bingham declined to comment on the issue. When contacted by phone on June 16, Bingham hung up. She did not respond to other emails and phone calls.

Buswell has not responded to emails and phone messages.

Following a June 3 executive session, Pro-Tem Administrator/Recorder Brock Eckstein said he had no documented claims of harassment by council members. However, in an email June 15, he confirmed that he knows of Bethscheider's Feb. 21 letter and its content. He said that other letters of complaint have been received, but he could not discuss their content, who they are from or whom they accuse.

"The city is treating these complaints with privacy to those in question until they can be fully investigated and vetted through the council," Eckstein said in his email. "Anything that you release in your article should make note of that as we are not trying to violate any privacy laws with this and we are not releasing a press release regarding these complaints until after the executive session."

Eckstein has said in the past that options the council can consider do not extend to removing one of its own.