

TODAY

Today is Thursday, July 1, the 182nd day of 2021. There are 183 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On July 1, 2015, after more than a half-century of hostility, the United States and Cuba declared they would reopen embassies in each other's capitals, marking a historic full restoration of diplomatic relations between the Cold War foes.

ON THIS DATE:

In 1863, the pivotal, three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, resulting in a Union victory, began in Pennsylvania.

In 1867, Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect.

In 1903, the first Tour de France began. (It ended on July 19; the winner was Maurice Garin.)

In 1944, delegates from 44 countries began meeting at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, where they agreed to establish the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

In 1946, the United States exploded a 20-kiloton atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

In 1962, the African nations of Burundi and Rwanda became independent of Belgium.

In 1963, the U.S. Post Office inaugurated its five-digit ZIP codes.

In 1966, the Medicare federal insurance program went into effect.

In 1973, the Drug Enforcement Administration was established.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated federal appeals court judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, beginning an ultimately successful confirmation process marked by allegations of sexual harassment. Actor Michael Landon, 54, died in Malibu, California.

In 1997, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule after 156 years as a British colony.

In 2019, 15-year-old Coco Gauff, the youngest player to qualify at Wimbledon in the professional era, defeated 39-year-old Venus Williams in the first round, 6-4, 6-4. Los Angeles Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs, 27, was found dead in his room at the Texas hotel where the team was staying; the medical examiner found that Skaggs had a toxic mix of alcohol and the painkillers fentanyl and oxycodone in his body.

Ten years ago: Leon Panetta took over as U.S. secretary of defense after 2-1/2 years as director of the CIA. Six weeks after ex-California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger revealed that he'd fathered a child with a member of his household staff, Maria Shriver filed divorce papers seeking to end their 25-year marriage. The NBA locked out its players, a long-expected move that put the 2011-12 season in jeopardy. (The lockout ended in Dec. 2011 with the adoption of a new collective bargaining agreement.)

Five years ago: New laws targeting abortion took effect in about one-fifth of the states, initiating another wave of restrictions just days after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Texas measure that had led to the closing of several clinics.

One year ago: The mayor of Richmond, Virginia, which was the Confederate capital, ordered the removal of all Confederate statues from city land; hours later, crews removed a statue of Gen. Stonewall Jackson. Police in Seattle forcibly cleared the city's "occupied" protest zone under orders from the mayor after two recent fatal shootings in the area. Police in San Francisco said they would stop releasing the mug shots of people who'd been arrested unless they posed a threat to the public; they said it was part of an effort to stop perpetuating racial stereotypes.

LOTTERY

Monday, June 28, 2021

Megabucks

06-15-16-18-20-44

Estimated jackpot: \$4.7 million

Lucky Lines

04-08-11-13-18-21-28-29

Estimated jackpot: \$11,000

Win for Life

45-58-72-74

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 5-3-1-8

4 p.m.: 9-9-0-8

7 p.m.: 1-7-1-7

10 p.m.: 8-9-4-9

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Mega Millions

07-38-50-52-69

Mega Ball: 21

Megaplier: 3

Estimated jackpot: \$72 million

Lucky Lines

01-05-11-15-20-22-25-31

Estimated jackpot: \$12,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 0-7-6-7

4 p.m.: 6-4-7-8

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

10 p.m.: 9-1-3-1

SAR trains at Salt Creek Summit

The Observer

ENTERPRISE — Search and Rescue team members from Wallowa, Union, Baker and Umatilla counties honed their skills in the Salt Creek Summit area of Wallowa County. About 60 SAR volunteers and instructors from the four counties participated June 24-27 in the multi-day training, which was hosted by Wallowa County Search and Rescue volunteers.

"Our numbers were down a little from what we expected, but it's a little late in the season," Paige Sully, the event coordinator for WCSAR, said. "But all in all I think it was great."

Training included swiftwater rescue, tactical fast tracking, advanced incident command, hasty-team and K-9 land searches, rescuing injured hikers from remote locations and coordination with Civil Air Patrol aircraft.

"It was a very good training," said Jim Akenson, who serves as a WCSAR incident commander and participated in the Incident Command training. "It was fundamental and advanced all rolled into one. As an incident commander, it's good to see more and more people coming on who can take leadership roles. Everybody I observed did really well."

June 26 was devoted to classes, most with hands-on field experience.

Tactical tracking, taught by Clifford Pease and Leon Kershaw, proved one of the more popular classes. Both men track wanted suspects and escaped prisoners for the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies. Their "fast tracking" techniques have allowed them to follow and apprehend escaped convicts more than 40 miles in three days.

"It's important to pay



Traci Murray/Contributed Photo

Wallowa County Search and Rescue swiftwater team member Kyle Bratcher waits for a rescue line during the swiftwater class in the pond near Salt Creek Summit on Saturday, June 26, 2021.



Traci Murray/Contributed Photo

Wallowa County Search and Rescue packing instructor Jim Akenson, center, shows WCSAR volunteers Mike Musia, left, and John Shull the fine points of packing a mule in the EOSAR packing class on Friday, June 25, 2021.

attention to the small things that people leave along their path, including actual tracks as well as bent twigs, scuffs and other (signs)," Pease said. "It's often possible to determine a general path and send a team ahead along that line to pick up (tracks) farther ahead and close the

time-distance gap. You can find the lost person quicker that way."

The trackers also worked with Wallowa County's two tracking K-9 teams — Heather Howard and her dog, Gracie, and Edward "Vern" Vernarsky and his dog, Trooper.

"I really thought the

tracking class was great," said Holly Akenson, WCSAR K-9 team leader. "There were a lot of really good on-the-ground things."

Swiftwater rescue training, led by a team of instructors from Wallowa County, took place in the pond near Salt Creek Summit. SAR volunteers fine-tuned skills that included accurately throwing rescue ropes.

SAR hasty, medical and K-9 teams coordinated by incident command and SAR members from multiple counties spread out in a mock search and rescue exercise on June 27 in the Salt Creek Summit area. Civil Air Patrol brought in two aircraft — one from Boise and another from Redmond — to aid in searching for several "lost hikers," some of whom were "injured." The search and rescue efforts were all successful within the three hours allotted for the exercise.

"Learning to work with and practicing with our neighboring counties for mutual aid just makes us more ready when we have a big search and we all need to work together. This way we all know each other, we've worked together, and I think that's really beneficial," Akenson said.

A 'major step in the right direction'

Oregon higher ed leaders see funding as a plus for colleges, universities

By MEERAH POWELL

Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — Oregon's public universities and community colleges will receive the full amounts of funding they requested from the state.

The passage of a higher education budget bill as the Oregon Legislature wrapped up its work over the weekend gives the

public universities \$900 million and the community colleges about \$703 million for the upcoming two-year budget period. Those funds will be distributed to the individual institutions by the state's Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

"As Oregon moves forward out of the pandemic, wildfire devastation and impact on the

economy, our 17 community colleges stand ready to support students," Cam Preus, executive director of the Oregon Community College Association, said in a statement.

Along with meeting the institutions' full budget requests, Oregon higher education also saw some other advancements this legislative session — including bills focused on the success of underrepresented students.

"The 2021 session was a much needed bright spot

for Oregon's public university students," said Tom Insko, president of Eastern Oregon University and chair of the Oregon Council of Presidents.

Insko said in a statement that the Legislature not only made investments into university operations and financial aid programs, but also pushed forward policies including "basic needs navigators, streamlined transfer of credits and a task force to look at how best to serve underrepresented students."

NEWS BRIEFS

ODF urges caution over the holiday weekend

LA GRANDE — As the weather heats up around the region, fire managers are concerned about the potential for human-caused fires, according to a press release from the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Fuel conditions have reached levels that firefighters do not normally contend with until much later in the summer. The measurements that firefighters use to estimate fire potential are setting records for this time of year, the release said. With these record-setting conditions, ODF is urging extreme caution when heading out over the Fourth of July weekend.

"Our measurements of fire danger are currently setting new records. This is significant given the time of year," said Logan McCrae, La Grande Unit forester. "Our charts are showing conditions more aligned with what we expect to see in August. It is very dry out there. It looks like it could be a long fire season for our folks, and we need help from everyone to set a pace that we can keep up with."

The fuel conditions combined with a nationwide draw on firefighting resources have fire managers worried about additional starts. The weather forecast for this weekend calls for continued hot and dry conditions with a high probability of lightning later in the week and throughout

the weekend causing additional worry.

"There's a good chance we will already be fighting fire due to the lightning that is forecasted," McCrae said. "At this point, we need everyone to be extra cautious as they head out to camp or enjoy the woods this weekend. Leaving the fireworks home, avoiding parking in tall grass, and carrying a few firefighting tools with you are all recommended."

Baker City mayor running for governor

BAKER CITY — Baker City Mayor Kerry McQuisten is aiming for a much higher political office — Oregon governor.



McQuisten

On her campaign website — kerrymcquisten.com — McQuisten writes: "Campaigns always claim that change is needed. This time, it couldn't be more true! Oregonians need a leader who will get our children back in school, fight for medical freedoms, protect our individual constitutional rights, prevent criminals from burning and destroying our once-flourishing cities, remind Oregonians of their inherent pio-

neer spirit, and prevent the kind of rule we've seen from ever happening again."

McQuisten was elected to the Baker City Council in November 2020.

Her fellow councilors elected her as mayor in January 2021 (in Baker City's form of government, elected councilors, not voters, choose the mayor).

Liberty Theatre wins Wildhorse grant

LA GRANDE — The Wildhorse Foundation has awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Liberty Theatre Foundation to complete the theater's sound and light system.

The grant, the fourth the Liberty has received from Wildhorse but first for the sound system, provides the funding necessary to complete the system, according to Ashley O'Toole, chairman of the Liberty Foundation.

"We're extremely grateful to the Wildhorse Foundation," O'Toole said. "They have come to our aid previously and have really helped us on the path to completing the historic theater's renovation. We thank them for their continued support, and for the continued partnership."

Work on the renovation has been progressing significantly this year. O'Toole said they are hoping to have the bulk of renovations completed by the end of the year.

— The Observer

New clinic to open in Wallowa

Full-service health care returns in 2022

By RONALD BOND

Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — For the first time in a decade, residents of Wallowa will have access to a full-service medical clinic in their hometown.

Wallowa Memorial Hospital and Clinics has purchased the building at 701 W. Highway 82 in Wallowa — formerly the home of Fox Archery — and will convert it into Wallowa Memorial Medical Clinic — Wallowa, which it hopes to have fully operational by early 2022.

"The people of Wallowa deserve to have a premier clinic that does not require an hour round-trip trek to garner health care services," WMH CEO Larry Davy said in a press release. "We have received numerous requests to build in Wallowa over the past 10 years, and we have been looking for the perfect location for quite some time."

WMH recently purchased the former Olive Branch Family Health Clinic in Wallowa, but has a need for more space.

"It's a very small one-room space, so we're not able to have more than one provider," Wallowa Memorial Communications Director Brooke Pace told the Chieftain. "It makes it very limited — the number of patients we can see in that facility. This will allow us to have multiple providers, be open more days a week, and provide the primary care needs the community of Wallowa needs."

In addition to being more-frequently open — the new clinic will be open five days a week — Pace said part of what defines the new clinic as a full-service location is "we will also have behavioral health services more regularly available, increased vaccine capability, and we are also exploring ways to provide pharmacy services to the area."

In the press release, both Davy and Ron Fox, the former owner of the archery business that once called that building home, cited the added travel as one of the detriments of not having a clinic in town.

"We have a lot of elderly folks here and sometimes it is hard for them to get a ride in to see their doctor," Fox said. "In emergency situations, it can take an hour or so to get into Enterprise. "My family has had to use the hospital several times and it sure would have been nice to have a clinic close."

Pace pointed to the building's accessibility, space for parking and the ability to add on at a later date as what appealed to Wallowa Memorial about the location.

Pace said it's too early to tell what modifications will need to be made to the building or how much room it will have.

"We're still in the design phases to see how many exam rooms we will be able to put there," she said. "We just started working with the architect last week."

The building is 3,250 square feet, and was purchased for \$175,000, Pace said. She added that an evaluation is being done on the building to see if the size will be enough or if there will be a need for immediate expansion. The amount approved for purchase and remodel of the building was \$1.1 million, Pace said.

Once the new building is up and running, the current location the clinic is operating temporarily out of will be closed.