

TODAY

Today is Tuesday, July 6, the 187th day of 2021. There are 178 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On July 6, 1854, the first official meeting of the Republican Party took place in Jackson, Michigan.

ON THIS DATE:

In 1777, during the American Revolution, British forces captured Fort Ticonderoga.

In 1885, French scientist Louis Pasteur tested an anti-rabies vaccine on 9-year-old Joseph Meister, who had been bitten by an infected dog; the boy did not develop rabies.

In 1917, during World War I, Arab forces led by T.E. Lawrence and Auda Abu Tayi captured the port of Aqaba from the Ottoman Turks.

In 1933, the first All-Star baseball game was played at Chicago's Comiskey Park; the American League defeated the National League, 4-2.

In 1942, Anne Frank, her parents and sister entered a "secret annex" in an Amsterdam building where they were later joined by four other people; they hid from Nazi occupiers for two years before being discovered and arrested.

In 1944, an estimated 168 people died in a fire that broke out during a performance in the main tent of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1957, the Harry S. Truman Library, the nation's first presidential library, was dedicated in Independence, Missouri.

In 1971, jazz trumpeter and singer Louis Armstrong died in New York at age 69.

In 1988, 167 North Sea oil workers were killed when explosions and fires destroyed a drilling platform.

In 2005, New York Times reporter Judith Miller was jailed after refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating the leak of undercover CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity (Miller was jailed for 85 days before agreeing to testify).

In 2015, Pope Francis received a hero's welcome in Guayaquil, Ecuador's biggest city, as he celebrated the first public Mass of his South American tour.

Ten years ago: Jury selection began in the perjury trial of former baseball pitcher Roger Clemens, who was accused of lying under oath to Congress when he denied ever using performance-enhancing drugs during his career.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama scrapped plans to cut American forces in Afghanistan by half before leaving office. Double-amputee Olympian Oscar Pistorius was sentenced to six years in a South African prison for murdering girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. Philando Castile, a Black elementary school cafeteria worker, was killed during a traffic stop in the St. Paul suburb of Falcon Heights by Officer Jeronimo Yanez. The augmented-reality game Pokemon Go made its debut in the U.S., Australia and New Zealand.

One year ago: The Trump administration formally notified the United Nations of its withdrawal from the World Health Organization; President Donald Trump had criticized the WHO's response to the coronavirus pandemic. (The pullout was halted by President Joe Biden's administration.)

LOTTERY

Friday, July 2, 2021

Megamillions

08-31-32-34-45

Megaball: 19

Megaplier: 2

Jackpot: \$82 million

Lucky Lines

01-05-10-15-20-23-25-31

Jackpot: \$15,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 3-2-5-2

4 p.m.: 6-1-9-8

7 p.m.: 1-8-0-2

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

Saturday, July 3, 2021

Powerball

26-40-41-55-65

Powerball: 24

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$113 million

Megabucks

0-14-17-21-28-41

Jackpot: \$4.9 million

Lucky Lines

03-05-11-15-19-22-25-29

Jackpot: \$16,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 8-1-6-5

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

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

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

Win for Life

06-10-34-53

Sunday, July 4, 2021

Lucky Lines

04-06-11-14-18-24-26-29

Estimated jackpot: \$17,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 7-5-9-2

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

7 p.m.: 2-7-8-3

10 p.m.: 7-1-2-0

‘An amazing experience’

Opera House Youth Actors win outstanding ensemble award from national festival

By CARLOS FUENTES

The Observer

ELGIN — Youth musical actors from the Opera House Youth Actors group in Elgin attended the Junior Theater Festival in Sugar Land, Texas, June 25-27 and came back to Oregon with a Freddie G. Excellence in Ensemble Work award from the national festival.

The ensemble, which has members from Wallowa County, Union County and Umatilla County, won the award despite their lack of live performances since the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It was really just refreshing to see everything going back to normal and watching our youth participate in a competition like this,” Terry Hale, director of OHYA, said. “I’m really proud of them because they worked so hard to get there. Half of the group was new and they had to deal with a lot.”

The group performed a 15-minute version of “The Little Mermaid Jr.,” which they had rehearsed for more than three months. They were one of 50 groups attending the festival in person, in addition to seven groups who joined virtually.

“Being back after a year filled with so much uncertainty felt amazing,” Hunter Adams, member of the youth musical group, said. “The environment was so full of love and support. I’ve never seen



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Moss Morris, playing Ursula, extends a hand to Ariel, played by Maddie Nordtvedt, during a rehearsal of “The Little Mermaid Jr.” behind the Elgin Opera House on Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

a competition like this, where everyone just wants everyone else to do well so badly, even more than we want ourselves to do well.”

Each performance was adjudicated by two judges, who praised OHYA’s performance for the group’s careful attention to detail.

“These students told this beautiful story which charmed the audience,” Cindy Ripley, senior educational consultant of iTheatrics, said in a press release. “Bravo to this group’s immaculate attention to every tool in the craft of theatre.”

Moss Morris, of La Grande, and Adams were distinguished as Junior Theater Festival All-Stars for their individual performances. According to Adams, a 2021 Elgin High School graduate, earning

this award at the end of his junior theater career meant a lot.

“It just felt really good to be validated by judges who are professionals,” Adams said. “It was an amazing experience to win, and I’m really proud of everyone who was there.”

Along with performing and attending other shows, students participated in workshops to develop their performance skills. According to Adams, these classes were great opportunities to improve his own practices.

“We got to do a dance workshop with a dancer for ‘Hamilton’ on Broadway, and it was so interesting and we all learned a lot,” Adams said.

According to choreographer and OHYA

alumna Abigail Hale, the group’s determination was inspiring.

“I felt really proud of them while I was watching them perform,” she said. “They worked so hard for such a long time, and they truly deserved it.”

Although Adams is saying goodbye to the Elgin Opera House as a performer, he will co-direct OHYA’s performance of “James and the Giant Peach” with Abigail Hale. He has hopes of performing on Broadway and is confident that the Opera House group will continue to succeed.

“I have no doubt that the group is going to do amazing things,” Adams said. “I’m so proud of everyone, and we’ve really shown what a group from a small town can do.”

La Grande area sees much warmer temperatures than normal in June

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande area experienced much warmer than normal temperatures during the month of June, according to preliminary data received by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service Office in Pendleton.

The average temperature during the month was 70.2 degrees, 8.5 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 87.4 degrees, 12.7 degrees above normal, according to the monthly

climate summary.

The highest temperature was 110 degrees recorded on June 30.

This was the warmest June on record, the report said. The previous warmest was in 2015 with an average of 69.3 degrees recorded.

Low temperatures averaged 53 degrees, 4.3 degrees above normal. The lowest temperature for the month was 36 degrees, recorded on June 7.

Precipitation for the month totaled 0.33 inches, which was 1.21 inches below normal, the report said. Measurable precipitation — at least 0.01 inch

— was received on four days, with the heaviest, 0.20 inches, reported on June 15.

Precipitation for the year is 6.26 inches, which is 3.08 inches below normal. Since October 2020, the water year precipitation in La Grande has been 10.84 inches, 3.48 inches below normal.

The outlook for July from NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Normal highs for La Grande are 85.4 degrees and normal lows are 53.9 degrees. The 30-year normal precipi-

tation is just under 0.68 inches.

Wallowa County also experienced much warmer temperatures for the month.

The average temperature for Joseph during the month of June was 62.2 degrees, 5.8 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 79.6 degrees, 9.5 degrees above normal. The highest temperature was 102 degrees on June 30.

Low temperatures averaged 44.7 degrees, 2 degrees above normal. The lowest temperature for the month was 29 degrees, recorded on June 7.

NEWS BRIEFS

Police respond to a number of fireworks calls

LA GRANDE — A ban on fireworks in La Grande did not stop a large number of people from celebrating the Fourth of July in traditional fashion.

The Union County Dispatch Center received at least 40 calls of people using fireworks in La Grande on Sunday, July 4. The first call came in at 5:32 p.m. and the rest were received between 8:52 p.m. and 11:41 p.m.

Union County Sheriff Cody Bowen said that he and his deputies counseled many people using fireworks but said no citations were issued.

Bowen said he didn’t want his deputies issuing citations because the ban on fireworks, which took effect Tuesday, June 29, is a city of La Grande ordinance and he did not feel it was the sheriff’s office’s place to enforce a city ordinance.

Bowen said that when people were caught using fireworks they were reminded that use is illegal in La Grande and that if they were caught again using them they could be cited.

The ban on fireworks was put in place because of the elevated fire risk due to dry conditions.

Bowen said some of the calls about illegal fireworks came from the north end of the La Grande area where people could use them

legally because they were outside city limits.

Fortunately, none of the fireworks ignited any fires. The La Grande Fire Department reported at 10:40 a.m. Tuesday, June 5, that there were no fires overnight.

Break-in at Hobby Habit in La Grande

LA GRANDE — The Hobby Habit, 411 Fir St., La Grande, was hit by criminal mischief and theft late last week.

The Hobby Habit’s display window was broken late in the evening of Wednesday, June 30, or early in the morning of Thursday, July 1. Thieves made off with merchandise in the display window worth \$435. The thieves who broke the window never entered the store, according to the La Grande Police Department.

Josiah Brown, owner of the Hobby Habit, said he received a text from somebody he knew telling him of the broken window at 4:30 a.m. July 1. Brown soon had the window replaced. The cost of repairing the damage was about \$500.

Entries taken for Festival of the Arts

JOSEPH — Submissions are now being accepted for the 39th annual Wallowa Valley Festival of the Arts that will be Sept. 11-19 at the Josephy

Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph.

Deadline for submissions is Aug. 1. Acceptance emails will be sent Aug. 9-13. A maximum of three pieces will be accepted. There is a \$30 entry fee.

The fine-art show opens what some call a “season of art” in Wallowa County. There will be an extended En Plein Air Competition Sept. 11-17, a Fine Art Show and silent auction Sept. 17-19 and the Summer Arts Classic Concert set for Sept. 19.

Categories for this year’s festival include:

- Sculpture: Any three-dimensional work in wood, clay, stone, bronze or other metal.
- Painting: Oil, acrylic or watercolor.
- Drawing: Pastel, pencil, graphite, charcoal, ink or any combination thereof.
- Printmaking: Woodblock, engraving, etching, monoprint, aquatint, linotype, lithography, silkscreen or digital art prints.
- Photography: Any photograph that begins with the capture of the image through a lens, including digitally altered photography.
- Other: Glass, jewelry, fiber arts, ceramics or mixed media.

For more information, call the Josephy Center at 541-432-0505 or visit www.josephy.org/festival-of-the-arts.

— The Observer

Deputy honored by county leaders

Jennifer Harmon received award for outstanding achievements

By BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — A Wallowa County sheriff’s deputy was honored last month with an award for outstanding achievement, when Deputy Jennifer Harmon received



Harmon

the “Golden Feather of Achievement Award” from the Wallowa County commissioners.

“We’ve got kind of a special thing here and this is the first time that I’ve ever been involved in an outstanding employee recognition award,” Commissioner Todd Nash said. “It’s certainly well deserved.”

After listing the deputy’s achievements, Nash turned it over to Commissioner Susan Roberts.

“This is the first-ever Golden Feather of Achievement Award,” she said as she handed it to Harmon, accompanied by a room full of applause. “We had our local glassblower make this and they will be rarely handed out.”

Reading from a list he’d been given, Nash said, “Jennifer Harmon is a single mother of two. She takes care of one household, 20 chickens, three ducks, one dog and two cats, from what I understand. Besides her daily work routine, she has completed Oregon State Search and Rescue Training, Oregon Child Forensic Investigation Training, Oregon Crisis Intervention Training, Oregon Police Officer Reserve Training — she’s currently working on the Field Training Officer manual — Interstate Compact Rules and Regulations Training, Federal Emergency Management Agency 100/200/700 and 800 trainings and Wilderness First Aid.”

Harmon said later those achievements were accomplished just this year.

“I’ve been pretty busy this year,” she said.

Personal recollections reflect achievements

Nash had his own recollections.

“Jennifer, we really appreciate all your work and I will add one little story about Jennifer,” the commissioner said. “We got some material added to the fairgrounds down here in the arena, and there was a lot of rocks and debris and stuff in there. Jennifer brought a convict crew (the Wallowa County Work Crew of those on probation or sentenced to community service) to help get some of the foreign material out of there, and the guys worked pretty hard. I helped for just a little bit and it was a hot, hot, hot day — in the 90s, maybe pushing 100 degrees. We were kind of getting toward the end and I asked, ‘How long are these guys supposed to work out here?’ and she said, ‘As long as I tell them to.’ She commands a lot of respect. There wasn’t any flak. We really appreciate all your diligent work.”

Prior to working for the sheriff’s office, Harmon worked for the District Attorney’s Office as an office receptionist, file clerk and assistant, she said. Then, the sheriff’s office drew her attention and she’s been there six years.

“As I learned more about it, I became more interested and started shadowing people at the sheriff’s office until I decided what I wanted to do,” she said.