

TODAY

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Saturday, July 17, the 198th day of 2021. There are 167 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History

On July 17, 1975, an Apollo spaceship docked with a Soyuz spacecraft in orbit in the first superpower link-up of its kind.

ON THIS DATE

In 1821, Spain ceded Florida to the United States.

In 1862, during the Civil War, Congress approved the Second Confiscation Act, which declared that all slaves taking refuge behind Union lines were to be set free.

In 1918, Russia's Czar Nicholas II and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks.

In 1936, the Spanish Civil War began as right-wing army generals launched a coup attempt against the Second Spanish Republic.

In 1944, during World War II, 320 men, two-thirds of them African-Americans, were killed when a pair of ammunition ships exploded at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in California.

In 1945, following Nazi Germany's surrender, President Harry S. Truman, Soviet leader Josef Stalin and British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill began meeting at Potsdam in the final Allied summit of World War II.

In 1962, the United States conducted its last atmospheric nuclear test to date, detonating a 20-kiloton device, codenamed Little Feller I, at the Nevada Test Site.

In 1967, after seven dates, Jimi Hendrix quit as the opening act for the Monkees following a concert at Forest Hills Stadium in New York. (Although greatly admired by the Monkees, Hendrix had received a less than enthusiastic reception from their fans.)

In 1981, 114 people were killed when a pair of suspended walkways above the lobby of the Kansas City Hyatt Regency Hotel collapsed during a dance.

In 1996, TWA Flight 800, a Europe-bound Boeing 747, exploded and crashed off Long Island, New York, shortly after departing John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 230 people on board.

In 1997, Woolworth Corp. announced it was closing its 400 remaining five-and-dime stores across the country, ending 117 years in business.

In 2014, Eric Garner, a Black man accused of selling loose, untaxed cigarettes, died shortly after being wrestled to the ground by New York City police officers; a video of the take-down showed Garner repeatedly saying, "I can't breathe." All 298 passengers and crew aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 were killed when the Boeing 777 was shot down over Ukraine.

Ten years ago: Japan won the Women's World Cup in Frankfurt, Germany, stunning the United States 3-1 in a penalty shootout after coming from behind twice in a 2-2 tie.

Five years ago: Three Baton Rouge law enforcement officers investigating a report of a man with an assault rifle were killed, less than 2 weeks after a Black man was shot and killed by police in the city in a confrontation that sparked protests.

One year ago: Civil rights icon John Lewis, whose bloody beating by Alabama state troopers in 1965 helped galvanize opposition to racial segregation, and who went on to a long and celebrated career in Congress, died at the age of 80. Militarized federal agents deployed by President Donald Trump to Portland, Oregon, again fired tear gas to break up crowds of protesters. Oregon's attorney general sued the Department of Homeland Security and the Marshals Service, alleging that unidentified federal agents had grabbed people off the streets of Portland with no warrant or explanation.

LOTTERY

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Megabucks

08-09-13-18-24-44

Jackpot: \$5.4 million

Lucky Lines

02-05-09-13-20-21-28-32

Estimated jackpot: \$27,000

Powerball

33-46-52-59-62

Powerball: 10

Power Play: 2

Jackpot: \$150 million

Win for Life

33-49-52-77

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 7-6-4-2

4 p.m.: 3-9-6-2

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

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

Thursday, July 15, 2021

Lucky Lines

01-06-12-16-20-22-26-30

Estimated jackpot: \$28,000

Pick 4

1 p.m.: 8-3-3-6

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

7 p.m.: 8-6-7-5

10 p.m.: 2-9-1-3



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

J.W. Emory, left, with Waylon McClure, Clayton McClure, Darren Rodgers and Brayden Johnston take advantage of the Elgin Corner Market's offer of free cold treats on Wednesday, July 14, 2021. Dozens of kids visited the store — some more than once — as the store celebrated its 100th year of business in Elgin.

Elgin Corner Market celebrates 100 years

By CARLOS FUENTES

The Observer

ELGIN — If you've spent much time in the Grande Ronde Valley, there's a good chance you've been to the Elgin Corner Market.

A staple of the city, the shop celebrated its 100 year anniversary on Wednesday, July 14, with decorations and free ice cream.

"It's definitely a fixture here in Elgin," owner Brad McLaughlin said. "Everybody knows what Corner Market is and they come down here for snacks and goodies, and we try to contribute to causes and be a good community member. I think it's an important part of the community."

McLaughlin has been the market's owner for 17 years, since he bought the business from Bill and Debbie Johnson, who ran the store for a decade.

"There's only been five or six owners in 100 years,



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Elgin Corner Market owner Brad McLaughlin poses for a photo behind the counter on Wednesday, July 14, 2021. The store celebrated its centennial year with gifts of free ice cream to patrons.

which is really not that much," McLaughlin said. "When this store became available, I had an opportunity to take over thanks to my parents' help."

Gene Livingston, long-time customer and Elgin resident, said the service is what makes the store so great.

"I've been coming here for 10 years," Livingston said. "It's an icon, every-

body comes here. It's a great store and Brad's a great guy."

Although the exact day of the anniversary is unknown, McLaughlin decided to celebrate on July 14 because of its personal significance.

"My dad always would sit out here and buy kids ice cream," he said. "Today's his birthday, so we decided to celebrate

100 years today because he loved sitting out here on the bench and buying kids ice cream bars."

The market has always had close ties with the Elgin community. Earlier this year, the business donated the breakfast supplies for the Firemen's Breakfast at the Elgin Riverfest.

"It's a good place to be," McLaughlin said. "My wife teaches here at the elementary school, and we just love it out here. The community has been great."

Along with the community, McLaughlin credits the market employees with keeping the store running smoothly during a pandemic and labor shortage.

"It's hard to get good people right now, but we have an exceptional group," McLaughlin said. "Lots of businesses are trying to hire, it's kind of a weird moment, but thank goodness we have a good group."

Elgin council to discuss \$2.5 million grant

Funds would help mitigate the floodplain impact on sewer system

By CARLOS FUENTES

The Observer

ELGIN — The Elgin City Council will hold a public meeting to discuss an application for a Community Development Block Grant.

Elgin will use the grant to mitigate the floodplain impact on its sewer system, according to Elgin City Councilor J.T. Thorne. The city council is asking the public for its input on

IF YOU GO

What: Elgin City Council meeting
Where: Elgin City Hall, 790 S Eighth Ave.
When: 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 21

the fund's allocation. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 21, at Elgin City Hall.

"The purpose of this hearing is for the city council to obtain citizen views and to respond to questions and comments about: community development and housing needs, especially the needs of low- and moderate-income persons, as well as other needs in the community

that might be assisted with a Community Development Block Grant project," Thorne said in a statement.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is providing \$12 million for the grants, which are allocated for improvements on public facilities and housing projects specifically in rural Oregon communities.

Cities can apply for grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$2.5 million. Elgin will be applying for the maximum amount of \$2.5 million, according to Thorne.

The council estimates that of the 1,730 residents who will benefit from the project, 47% are classi-

fied as low income. Such a major project might negatively impact some of these residents, but the city has a plan to minimize harm.

"Permanent involuntary displacement of persons or businesses is not anticipated as a result from the proposed project," Thorne's statement said. "If displacement becomes necessary, alternatives will be examined to minimize the displacement and provide required/reasonable benefits to those displaced."

If approved for the grant, funding would become available in November 2021. As of now, there is no timeline for the project.

NEWS BRIEFS

ODFW removes fishing limits in parts of Wallowa, Baker counties

LA GRANDE — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has lifted size and daily fishing limits in parts of Wallowa and Baker counties due to severe drought conditions and high temperatures, which often lead to degraded water quality and increased fish deaths.

In Wallowa County, limits will be lifted until Sept. 30, when experts predict that drought conditions will improve. The limits apply to Honey-moon Pond, Tee Pee Pond, McGraw Pond, Salt Creek Summit Pond and Kinney Lake.

In Baker County, limits will be lifted until Oct. 10 on Phillips Reservoir near Mason Dam and Hudspeth Road, Thief Valley Reservoir and Powder River between Thief Valley Reservoir and Phillips Reservoir.

There are two exceptions to the rule — bull trout and tiger muskies must be released.

"ODFW encourages anglers to keep any fish that they catch not otherwise listed in the exceptions, and practice 'if you don't know, let it go' in areas you may encounter fish listed as exceptions," the fish and wildlife department said in a statement.

Burn ban proposal to be discussed

LA GRANDE — The Union County Board of Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday, July 19, in the Joseph Building, 1106 K Ave., La Grande.

The county commissioners will discuss a proposal by La Grande Rural Department Chief Craig Kretschmer for a countywide burn ban. The ban would mean the use of burn barrels, now allowed during limited hours in the morning, and backyard recreational fires for activities like roasting marshmallows, also now permitted, would be prohibited, Kretschmer said.

Board of commissioners meetings are now open to in-person

attendance. Meeting participation will also be available via Zoom teleconference.

To listen to the meeting, call: (253) 215-8782 or (301) 715-8592 and enter meeting ID number: 814 2000 6863. Individuals who do not get through the first time are encouraged to try a second time.

Water main break repaired in Island City

ISLAND CITY — The water main break in Island City, first reported Wednesday, July 14, has been repaired and water service has been restored to all Island City residents.

If people find sediment in their water they should run cold water until their lines are clear, according to a news release from the city of Island City.

The break occurred at about 3 p.m. July 14. Crews shut off water in different areas of the city until the break was completely fixed.

— The Observer

Umatilla National Forest closed

Risk of fire prompts immediate closure

The Observer

PENDLETON — Persistent extreme hot and dry conditions, large wildfires, limited firefighting resources and concern for public safety prompted U.S. Forest Service officials on Friday, July 16, to temporarily close the entire Umatilla National Forest effective immediately.

"The objective of the closure is to proactively protect public and firefighter safety as the Forest continues to actively suppress large wildfires on the Forest, while also responding to new smoke reports," according to the press release from the Umatilla National Forest.

The fire danger rating on the Umatilla National Forest is "extreme." Hot and dry conditions have challenged firefighters battling the Lick Creek and Green Ridge fires on the Umatilla's Pomeroy Ranger District. And on July 15 the Elbow Creek Fire emerged on the Walla Walla Ranger District, rapidly growing and threatening nearby communities. Overnight, humidity levels have remained low, allowing fires to spread actively.

"These conditions have created an unprecedented potential for extreme fire spread and intensity," the press release stated. "With three active large wildfires on the Umatilla National Forest, compounded by multiple active large wildfires burning across the region, firefighting resources are stretched. Forest officials have implemented the closure for public and firefighter safety."

The full closure means people are prohibited from entering any part of the Umatilla National Forest at any time, including National Forest lands, roads, trails and recreational facilities. County, state or federal roads are open.

Forest Service personnel will attempt to reach as many people as possible to begin vacating campsites and informing anyone camping in the forest. People should cancel plans to visit the Umatilla National Forest for the next several weeks. This is a temporary closure, the Forest Service stated, and staff will assess conditions and lift the closure once the conditions moderate.

Violating closures and fire restrictions carries a mandatory appearance in federal court, punishable as a Class B misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or up to six months in prison, or both.

A detailed map and description of the closure area is available on the Umatilla National Forest website and at any national forest office. Closure barriers and signs will be posted on the ground.

The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group has elevated the National Preparedness Level to 5 — the highest level of wildland fire activity — due to significant fire activity in multiple areas, an increase in incident management team mobilization and heavy shared resource commitment to large fires nationally.

LEARN MORE

LICK CREEK FIRE: inciweb.
nwcg.gov/incident/7615/
GREEN RIDGE FIRE: inciweb.
nwcg.gov/incident/7628/
ELBOW CREEK FIRE: blue-mountainfireinfo.blogspot.