

## TODAY

Today is Thursday, Aug. 12, the 224th day of 2021. There are 141 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History**  
On August 12, 1985, the world's worst single-aircraft disaster occurred as a crippled Japan Airlines Boeing 747 on a domestic flight crashed into a mountain, killing 520 people. (Four people survived.)

## ON THIS DATE

In 1902, International Harvester Co. was formed by a merger of McCormick Harvesting Machine Co., Deering Harvester Co. and several other manufacturers.

In 1909, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home to the Indianapolis 500, first opened.

In 1939, the MGM movie musical "The Wizard of Oz," starring Judy Garland, had its world premiere at the Strand Theater in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, three days before opening in Hollywood.

In 1953, the Soviet Union conducted a secret test of its first hydrogen bomb.

In 1960, the first balloon communications satellite — the Echo 1 — was launched by the United States from Cape Canaveral.

In 1964, author Ian Fleming, 56, the creator of James Bond, died in Canterbury, Kent, England.

In 1981, IBM introduced its first personal computer, the model 5150, at a press conference in New York.

In 1994, in baseball's eighth work stoppage since 1972, players went on strike rather than allow team owners to limit their salaries. (The strike ended in April 1995.)

In 2000, the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk and its 118-man crew were lost during naval exercises in the Barents Sea.

In 2013, James "Whitey" Bulger, the feared Boston mob boss who became one of the nation's most-wanted fugitives, was convicted in a string of 11 killings and dozens of other gangland crimes, many of them committed while he was said to be an FBI informant. (Bulger was sentenced to life; he was fatally beaten at a West Virginia prison in 2018, hours after being transferred from a facility in Florida.)

In 2017, a car plowed into a crowd of people peacefully protesting a white nationalist rally in the Virginia college town of Charlottesville, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and hurting more than a dozen others. (The attacker, James Alex Fields, was sentenced to life in prison on 29 federal hate crime charges, and life plus 419 years on state charges.)

**Ten years ago:** A divided three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta struck down the centerpiece of President Barack Obama's sweeping health care overhaul, the so-called individual mandate. (The mandate was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2012.)

**Five years ago:** A judge in Milwaukee overturned the conviction of Brendan Dassey, who was found guilty of helping his uncle kill a woman in a case profiled in the Netflix series "Making a Murderer," ruling that investigators coerced a confession using deceptive tactics. (The ruling was later overturned by a federal appeals court.)

**One year ago:** Appearing together for the first time as running mates, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris put aside their one-time political rivalry to deliver an aggressive attack on the character and performance of President Donald Trump; because of the coronavirus, their appearance came in a mostly empty high school gym in Delaware. Trump again pressed Congress to steer future coronavirus funding away from schools that did not reopen in the fall. Seattle's school board voted unanimously to begin the academic year with remote teaching only.

## LOTTERY

## Monday, Aug. 9, 2021

**Megabucks**  
3-10-28-29-37-40  
Estimated jackpot: \$1.6 million  
**Lucky Lines**  
4-6-9-15-19-22-25-30  
Estimated jackpot: \$53,000  
**Win for Life**  
37-47-64-77  
**Pick 4**  
1 p.m.: 7-4-4-5  
4 p.m.: 8-8-6-1  
7 p.m.: 3-7-1-2  
10 p.m.: 2-0-4-1

## Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021

**Mega Millions**  
29-45-50-59-62  
Mega Ball: 12  
Megaplier: 2  
Estimated jackpot: \$225 million  
**Lucky Lines**  
3-5-12-13-17-23-25-32  
Estimated jackpot: \$54,000  
**Pick 4**  
1 p.m.: 4-1-8-3  
4 p.m.: 5-7-5-8  
7 p.m.: 4-0-9-9  
10 p.m.: 0-2-6-5

## Elgin Museum receives historic wagon

By DICK MASON The Observer

ELGIN — Buffalo hides, cannonballs and a 1976 Datsun.

All three are part of the colorful but mysterious story of the latest addition to the Elgin Museum complex.

The new museum piece is a wagon that has bad wheels but easily gets imaginations rolling. The 10-foot wagon, made of iron and wood, is believed to have hauled buffalo hides in the 1800s and ammunition during the Civil War, according to Brian Shaw of La Grande, who donated it to the Elgin Museum in July.

Shaw obtained the wagon about four years ago in a trade with a movie producer who then lived in Starkey and has since moved to Arizona. The man told Shaw the wagon was used to haul ammunition, which could have included cannonballs during the Civil War but did not say if it was used by the Union or the Confederate army.

He also told Shaw the wagon was used to transport buffalo hides in the sandhills of Nebraska, a state where wild bison were once abundant.

Little else is known about the wagon's history.

## A unique trade

Shaw gave the movie producer his orange 1976 Datsun for the wagon. He made the trade after the movie producer expressed an interest in his old vehicle.

"He once had one just like it and wanted mine for



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

**A Civil War-era ammunition wagon sits outside the Elgin Museum and Historical Society on Friday, Aug. 6, 2021. The wagon is a new piece at the museum after being donated by Brian Shaw.**

sentimental reasons," Shaw said.

Shaw donated the wagon because he wanted to help the museum. He said he did not have the means to restore it.

Charlie Horn, the curator for the Elgin Museum, said restoring the wagon's wheels would be costly but he hopes it someday can be done. Repairing the wheels, Horn said, would allow more people to see the wagon.

"It could then appear in parades," he said. The wagon looks like it was designed to be pulled by four horses but Horn said it is easy to imagine a time when additional ones were needed during the Civil War.

"It probably needed more horses when it was carrying cannonballs," said Horn, a member of the Elgin Museum and Historical Society Board.

Another feature that intrigues Horn is the wagon's suspension system, which includes metal shock absorbers. Each is composed of 14 curved pieces of layered metal.

"You do not see something like this everyday," he said.

## Settling in at the museum

A new sign identifying the wagon and explaining its history accompanies the wagon. The sign was paid for by Horn and David Reed of Elgin, also a member of the Elgin Museum and Historical Society Board. The sign is a replica of one that came with the wagon. Shaw said the design of the sign makes him feel like it had been publicly displayed somewhere else.

The wagon was transported to the Elgin

Museum with major help from Rick Muilenburg of La Grande and Marshal Kilby of Summerville. Muilenburg operated, free of charge, a forklift he provided to load the wagon onto a flatbed trailer owned by Kilby, a member of the Elgin Museum and Historical Society Board.

Gerald Hopkins, president of the Elgin Museum and Historical Society, said that lowering the wagon onto the pickup was hair-raising because of the wagon's weight.

"I was afraid it would go right through it," he said.

The ammunition wagon is on display outside the Elgin Museum. It is next to the old city jail the Elgin Museum and Historical Society restored about two years ago.

"It is a precious piece," Hopkins said. "I think people will really like it."

## Blue Mountain Scenic Byway gets road work

## Crews to begin chip sealing next week

The Observer

PENDLETON — Work to chip seal almost 33 miles of the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway, which is being funded by the Great American Outdoors Act, will begin on Monday, Aug. 16, and is expected to finish on Monday, Aug. 30.

Crews will begin by cleaning the road surface in the week leading up to Aug. 16. The work

is going to be done between mileposts 0 and 32.94, according to Darcy Weseman, public affairs officer for the Umatilla National Forest.

The Forest Service has wanted to get this project done for over a decade, but it wasn't until this year that the funding became available, Weseman said.

"We've had deferred maintenance for several years," she said. "It's been on our list, so we were happy to put it in for consideration last fall."

Over the two-week construction period, crews will be sealing cracks and

patching potholes before chip sealing the entire 33-mile stretch of the road, beginning about 5 miles south of Ukiah and ending just west of Forest Service Road 51, which is the boundary for the Umatilla and the Wallowa Whitman National Forests.

During construction, flaggers and pilot cars will control traffic, causing short delays, according to Weseman.

The Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law in August 2020, with the purpose of designating \$1.9 billion in yearly funding for maintenance

work on federal parks and lands, according to the National Park Service website.

Project proposals were sent in September 2020 and were approved with the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which was passed on Jan. 4, 2021, according to Weseman.

In addition to the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway chip seal project, the Umatilla National Forest received funding to replace the Burnt Cabin Trail Bridge on the Walla Walla Ranger District, according to a press release from the Forest Service.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Police raid two marijuana grow sites in Union

UNION — Oregon State Police and Union County Sheriff's Office found and searched two illegal marijuana grow sites in Union, according to a press release on Wednesday, Aug. 11.

The two operations were at separate properties. Oregon State Police was issued a search warrant after an investigation into the two unlicensed operations.

During the search, investigators found 2,168 marijuana plants and at least \$4,000 in cash. They also seized one weapon.

No arrests were made at the time of the search, but the Union County District Attorney's Office is now investigating the case.

## Brown declares state of emergency due to heat

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown declared a state of emergency in Oregon on Tuesday, Aug. 10, to ensure additional resources are available to respond to forecasted excessively high temperatures, according to a release from the governor's office.

The emergency declaration was triggered by the need for state agencies to assist local and Tribal jurisdictions in providing for the health and safety of their residents, the release said. Multiple days of extreme heat with little or no cooling overnight may also impact critical infrastructure, causing utility outages and transportation disruptions.

Brown has directed the Office of



Oregon State Police/Contributed Photo

**Oregon State Police and Union County Sheriff's Office found and searched two illegal marijuana grow sites in Union, according to a press release on Wednesday, Aug. 11.**

Emergency Management to activate the state's Emergency Coordination Center to coordinate essential protective measures, the release said. She has also directed state agencies to provide any assistance requested by OEM to support response efforts.

## Union County records 17 new COVID-19 cases

UNION COUNTY — The Oregon Health Authority announced 17 new cases of COVID-19 in Union County for Tuesday, Aug. 10, according to a press release.

The Aug. 10 total comes after the county announced 65 new cases on Monday, Aug. 9. The Aug. 9 total included new infections recorded by counties for the three-day period from Aug. 6 to Aug. 8.

The new cases bring Union County's total to 1,847 known cases since the pandemic began last year. The county did not report any new deaths, leaving the county's total at 28.

Union County's total is part of 2,329 confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 reported across the state, bringing the state total to 232,436, according to OHA.

The state also reported nine new COVID-19 deaths, raising Oregon's death toll to 2,912.

Wallowa County recorded eight new cases on Aug. 10 and seven new cases on Aug. 9, bringing its total to 271 since the pandemic started. There have been six deaths in the county related to the pandemic, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

— The Observer

## Ready to raise a glass

By DAVIS CARBAUGH The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon Beer Festival, a La Grande favorite, is bringing the party back after being canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The event is returning to the Union County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Aug. 14, but there will be a slightly different approach



Scroggins

in order to address concerns over COVID-19. Even with mask mandates in place, the festival

organizers are expecting a large, safe turnout.

"Due to the uptick in cases, we're going to be requiring people to wear masks while they're inside the beer halls getting their beer, but outside on the grounds, masks will be optional," said Taylor Scroggins, executive director at La Grande Main Street Downtown, the event's organizer.

Beer at the festival will be served in the Mount Emily and Mount Harris halls at the fairgrounds, with the remainder of the festival taking place outdoors. The organizers are ready for a steady turnout.

"Right now, we're on track with previous years as far as our presale tickets go," Scroggins said. "We are probably expecting in the 500 to 700 range, depending on how many people buy tickets at the gate. It can vary, but that's what we're looking at right now."

With a large turnout expected, those in charge are prepared to put on a safe event, given the recent surge in COVID-19 cases. According to Scroggins, the event organizers will work to funnel participants out of the beer halls in order to avoid large crowds indoors.

"We will be encouraging guests to get their beers and take them outside to drink, in order to keep people out in the open air," he said. "Studies have shown that outdoor transmission is exceedingly rare, so that's really what we're hoping for."

Other than the COVID-19 protocols, the beer festival will return much of the same events and features as previous years.

Festival organizers decided to bring back VIP tickets for the first time since 2018, which will include a party on Aug. 13 on the rooftop of Market Place Fresh Foods.

More than 30 different beers and ciders will be featured at the festival, with brewers and representatives present to discuss their brews.

In addition to the beer and cider tasting, The Wasteland Kings and Coyote Kings will both be performing live music at the festival.

M.J. Goss Motors is also sponsoring a free shuttle service that will go from the Union County Fairgrounds all the way through downtown La Grande and up to the hotels near Island Avenue every half hour.

The festival starts at 1 p.m. on Aug. 14 and will run until 9 p.m., two hours later than previous years. Even with the precautionary measures in place, Eastern Oregon Beer Festival officials are hoping for a strong showing after a year off.

"I think there will be a lot of people who are really excited to come back for the event," Scroggins said. "I've been getting very good feedback around town."