

TODAY

In 1788, Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

In 1945, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, were executed by Italian partisans as they attempted to flee the country.

In 1947, a six-man expedition set out from Peru aboard a balsawood raft named the Kon-Tiki on a 101-day journey across the Pacific Ocean to the Polynesian Islands.

In 1952, war with Japan officially ended as a treaty signed in San Francisco the year before took effect. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as Supreme Allied commander in Europe; he was succeeded by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered U.S. Marines to the Dominican Republic to protect American citizens and interests in the face of a civil war.

In 1967, heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali was stripped of his title after he refused to be inducted into the armed forces.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter accepted the resignation of Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, who had opposed the failed rescue mission aimed at freeing American hostages in Iran. (Vance was succeeded by Edmund Muskie.)

In 1986, the Soviet Union informed the world of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl.

In 1990, the musical "A Chorus Line" closed after 6,137 performances on Broadway.

In 1994, former CIA official Aldrich Ames, who had passed U.S. secrets to the Soviet Union and then Russia, pleaded guilty to espionage and tax evasion, and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

In 2001, a Russian rocket lifted off from Central Asia bearing the first space tourist, California businessman Dennis Tito, and two cosmonauts on a journey to the international space station.

In 2011, convicted sex offender Phillip Garrido and his wife, Nancy, pleaded guilty to kidnapping and raping a California girl, Jaycee Dugard, who was abducted in 1991 at the age of 11 and rescued 18 years later. (Phillip Garrido was sentenced to 431 years to life in prison; Nancy Garrido was sentenced to 36 years to life in prison.)

In 2015, urging Americans to "do some soul-searching," President Barack Obama expressed deep frustration over recurring Black deaths at the hands of police, rioters who responded with senseless violence and a society that would only "feign concern" without addressing the root causes.

Ten years ago: Syria derided United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as biased and called his comments "outrageous" after he blamed the regime for widespread cease-fire violations.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump reaffirmed his support for gun rights, telling attendees of a National Rifle Association convention in Atlanta that "the eight-year assault on your Second Amendment freedoms has come to a crashing end."

One year ago: In his first address to Congress, President Joe Biden called for an expansion of federal programs to drive the economy past the pandemic and broadly extend the social safety net on a scale not seen in decades. Federal agents raided the New York home and office of Rudy Giuliani, former President Donald Trump's personal lawyer; they seized computers and cellphones.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III is 92. Actor-singer Ann-Margret is 81. Actor Paul Guilfoyle is 73. Former "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno is 72. Rock musician Chuck Leavell is 70. Actor Mary McDonnell is 70. Rock singer-musician Kim Gordon (Sonic Youth) is 69. Actor Nancy Lee Grahn is 66. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan is 62. Rapper Too Short is 56. Actor Bridget Moynahan is 51. Actor Chris Young is 51. Rapper Big Gipp is 50. Actor Jorge Garcia is 49. Actor Elisabeth Rohm is 49. Actor Penelope Cruz is 48. Actor Nate Richert is 44. TV personalities Drew and Jonathan Scott are 44. Actor Jessica Alba is 41. Actor Harry Shum Jr. is 40. Actor Jenna Ushkowitz is 36. Actor Aleisha Allen is 31.



The Observer/Dick Mason

Bryce Sullivan does finishing work on a juniper table in the woodshop of his family's home. He made the table for his senior project at Imbler High School, in honor of his grandfather Walt Sullivan.

'He is a giver'

Bryce Sullivan's senior project completed in memory of his grandfather

By DICK MASON
The Observer

IMBLER — Students at Imbler High School have had to complete senior projects as a graduation requirement since at least 2000. Hundreds of senior projects have been completed since then, few of which have had a more compelling backstory than one being completed by Bryce Sullivan.

The senior is putting finishing touches on a table made of juniper wood, made in honor of his late grandfather Walt, a dedicated volunteer for the Imbler School District.

Woodworking was one of Walt Sullivan's hobbies and he had a dream of making a table from the wood of a juniper tree. Finding a juniper tree large

enough to make a large table was a challenge.

"My grandfather and some of his friends looked 20 years for a juniper that would be big enough," Bryce Sullivan said.

Walt Sullivan's friends finally found a tree about a dozen years ago near Burns. The juniper, which was 300 years old, was cut down and much of its wood was brought back to Sullivan's home in Summerville.

"He was really excited about it," Bryce Sullivan said.

Walt Sullivan, who was an Imbler School Board member, wasn't able to start building the table because of failing health. He died in 2017, and even though he had not been well, his death came sooner than doctors anticipated. The sudden loss left his grandson with a sense of regret.

"I never got to say goodbye to him," Bryce Sullivan said.

Today, he views his

senior project as a way to send a message to his grandfather that he was not able to five years ago.

"Now, I feel like I am saying goodbye," the IHS senior said.

The younger Sullivan did much of his work on the project in the school's woodshop his junior and senior years. Doug Hislop, the high school wrestling coach and interim superintendent, noted he often saw the student working on the table when the wrestling team's practice started after school. Two hours later, wrestlers would be leaving school but not Bryce, who would still be busy in the woodshop.

"It was a dedication of love," Hislop said. Hislop vividly remembers how badly Walt Sullivan wanted to build the table.

"It was on his bucket list," the superintendent said. Hislop said he has never had a school board member more dedicated

than Walt Sullivan, who regularly visited his office at least once a week to discuss school district matters. Hislop said it was never because he was upset but because he wanted to discuss, in a positive manner, ways to keep the Imbler School District's programs operating at a high level.

Walt Sullivan was also involved in raising money for the Imbler Education Foundation, which provides scholarships to graduates and supports Imbler School District programs. Sullivan made generous donations to the foundation, Hislop said.

"Walt Sullivan is probably the reason we have an education foundation," he said.

Bryce Sullivan recently sold the table at a raffle and has donated all the proceeds to Imbler High School's FFA chapter, an organization his grandfather was a strong supporter of.

"He is a giver. He would give you the shirt off his back," Hislop said of the IHS senior. "He is a special young man."



W. Sullivan



B. Sullivan

Judge denies lower bail for La Grande man charged with multiple sex crimes

The Observer

LA GRANDE — A La Grande man who faces nearly 30 counts of sex crimes was arraigned Monday, April 25, in Union County Circuit Court.

Union County Circuit Court Judge Thomas Powers denied a request to reduce the \$300,000 bail set for Joel Phoenix Rogers, 19, arrested on charges of 28 counts of sex crimes and two counts of strangulation.

Powers said he set bail at \$300,000 based on criminal classification of the charges Rogers faces and their felony scale.

"I did not pull the number out of thin air," the judge said during the hearing.

Rogers' attorney, Jared Boyd, asked that the bail be reduced. He said there is no way that Rogers could afford the minimum of \$30,000 he would need to make the 10% level needed for his release. People who are jailed after being arrested in Oregon can be released if they pay 10% of the bail set for them.

Boyd, in asking for reduced bail, added that Rogers previously has had no real criminal history and he has not had any contact with the victim in

this case since Nov. 18, 2021.

Powers said it would be best not to lower the bail considering the serious nature of the charges and the possibility that Rogers, if convicted of just a few of the most serious charges he faces, will face extensive jail time.

Rogers will next appear in court on May 23 for a plea hearing.

Rogers, 19, was arrested by the La Grande Police on April 22 after a secret indictment warrant was released two days earlier and has been lodged in the Union County Jail since then.

Police booked Rogers in

the Union County Jail on the following: three counts of first-degree rape; five counts of second-degree rape; two counts of strangulation; three counts of first-degree sex abuse; five counts of second-degree sex abuse; two counts of first-degree sodomy; four counts of luring a minor; four counts of using a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct; and two counts of attempted third-degree sodomy.

The state alleges Rogers committed the crimes between July 1 and Nov. 18, 2021, according to Union County Circuit Court documents. The victim was a juvenile.

LOTTERY

Monday, April 25, 2022
Megabucks
10-12-13-19-25-44
Estimated jackpot: \$4.6 million
Lucky Lines
2-6-10-16-17-24-26-32
Estimated jackpot: \$13,000
Win for Life
3-39-48-50
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 1-3-4-7
4 p.m.: 5-1-3-3
7 p.m.: 6-7-2-6
10 p.m.: 3-8-5-1
Tuesday, April 26, 2022
Mega Millions
5-7-19-46-69
Mega Ball: 2
Megaplier: x4
Estimated jackpot: \$31 million
Lucky Lines
1-5-11-14-19-21-26-32
Estimated jackpot: \$14,000
Pick 4
1 p.m.: 9-8-6-2
4 p.m.: 8-6-2-8
7 p.m.: 7-0-6-6
10 p.m.: 0-5-5-0

Red Cross blood drive sees large turnout

Next drive scheduled for June

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — A total of 74 units of blood were donated Tuesday, April 19, during a blood drive held by the American Red Cross at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise.

A unit is approximately 1 pint, said Alicia Hayes, Wallowa County Red Cross coordinator for the blood drive.

She said 87 people signed up to donate. "It was one of our biggest turnouts," she said.

Rebecca Frolander, one of the volunteer donors, said

she's been donating blood since she was 18.

"I regularly donate blood. I feel it's something I can do to help people for just a little bit of my time," she said. "One of the workers said that for every blood donation, you can help three people."

Hayes said the short-staffed crew ran about 45 minutes behind. "That was very unusual. They got backed up so we had to reschedule six," she said. "We were booked solid."

The blood drive ran from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hayes said donated blood covered the entire gamut of types, O (the universal donor), A, B and AB (the universal recipient), as well as positive and negative

Rh factors.

"O negative is particularly coveted," being the one that can be given to all others, but all types were received, Hayes said.

"It was pretty even across the board," she said.

Hayes said the American Red Cross tries to hold three or four blood drives a year in Enterprise. The next will be in June, followed by one in September.

"Weather permitting, we'll have one in November," she said.

Hayes said the COVID-19 pandemic led to lower turnouts of volunteers. In fact, the Red Cross even canceled its spring blood drive of 2020, when the pandemic started. The local situation is much like

the national shortage.

"A big part of that is COVID — it scares people from donating," she said. "It's not that there were a lot of restrictions. It's just that people were uncomfortable with it."

Hayes said the blood collected can help local medical facilities, but at times outside sources may be contacted.

"Wallowa County only keeps a certain amount of blood on hand, so if they had a situation where they needed a lot, they'd have to request it from other areas," she said.

Hayes expressed her appreciation to all who donated.

"We greatly appreciate their gift of life," she said.

IN BRIEF

Joseph council work session canceled

JOSEPH — A work session planned for Monday, April 25, was canceled when the Joseph City Council was to discuss American Rescue Plan Act funds and System Development Charges.

The work session was canceled due to "unforeseen emergencies," according to a press release.

Discussion and voting on the ARPA funds and discussion of the SDC fees will take place at a special session to be held April 28 at 6 p.m.

Voting on potential SDC fees will take place at the May 5 council meeting.

Intro to native languages offered

JOSEPH — A virtual lecture as an introduction to Nez Perce and other Sahaptin languages will be held Saturday, May 14, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. presented by the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, according to a press release.

Angel Sobotta will conduct the lecture. She is a Nez Perce mother, dancer, language instructor and PhD student at the University of Idaho.

A Nez Perce language program app is available on your phone. The cost of the lecture is \$30.

This interactive lecture will cover:

- Nez Perce and other Sahaptin languages: How close are they? What do they share or what makes them different?
- Accepted linguistic spellings and pronunciations so that we can follow words on maps, words that come up in tribal papers, etc.
- Common greetings and place names, especially names of places in Oregon and Idaho.
- Family names — how are they passed down and carried on? What names can a family choose from? Are native names used more now than in previous decades?
- Next steps for those who want to really learn the language.

To register, contact Cheryl Coughlan at the center at 541-432-0505, by email at director@josephy.org or stop in at 403 N. Main St. in Joseph.

Applications for Dunn scholarship available

WALLOWA COUNTY — Applications are now being accepted for the Bruce Dunn Scholarship Fund, which, according to a press release, is open to college students who graduated from a Wallowa County high school and who are pursuing an education in natural resources.

Applications, which are on the Wallowa Resources website, will be accepted through July 15.

Preference will be given to those students entering their junior or senior year of college who are planning a career in "forestry, wildlife, fisheries, soils, hydrology, or other related fields," the release states.

The fund was started by Bruce Dunn's wife, Jane, and his friends following his death in August 2018. Bruce Dunn was a forester with both the U.S. Forest Service and with private companies. He oversaw RY Timber properties for more than three decades, and helped start the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee.

"Through this scholarship the hope is to continue educating and training tomorrow's natural resource professionals in order for them to best serve Wallowa County's land-based economy," a statement from the press release reads.

Visit wallowaresources.org for more information.

—EO Media Group