

TODAY

In 1587, Virginia Dare became the first child of English parents to be born in present-day America, on what is now Roanoke Island in North Carolina. (However, the Roanoke colony ended up mysteriously disappearing.)

In 1894, Congress established the Bureau of Immigration.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Proclamation of Neutrality, aimed at keeping the United States out of World War I.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing American women's right to vote, was ratified as Tennessee became the 36th state to approve it.

In 1963, James Meredith became the first Black student to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in Bethel, New York, wound to a close after three nights with a mid-morning set by Jimi Hendrix.

In 1983, Hurricane Alicia slammed into the Texas coast, leaving 21 dead and causing more than a billion dollars' worth of damage.

In 1993, a judge in Sarasota, Florida, ruled that Kimberly Mays, the 14-year-old girl who had been switched at birth with another baby, need never again see her biological parents, Ernest and Regina Twigg, in accordance with her stated wishes. (However, Kimberly later moved in with the Twiggs.)

In 2004, in Athens, Paul Hamm (hahm) won the men's gymnastics all-around Olympic gold medal by the closest margin ever in the event; controversy followed after it was discovered a scoring error cost Yang Tae-young of South Korea the title.

In 2005, a judge in Wichita, Kansas, sentenced BTK serial killer Dennis Rader to 10 consecutive life terms, the maximum the law would allow.

In 2011, Vice President Joe Biden met with Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping in Beijing.

In 2014, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon ordered the National Guard to Ferguson, a suburb of St. Louis convulsed by protests over the fatal shooting of a Black 18-year-old, Michael Brown.

In 2020, Democrats formally made Joe Biden their 2020 presidential nominee at their all-virtual national convention. The Republican-led Senate intelligence committee concluded that the Kremlin had launched an aggressive effort to interfere in the 2016 presidential contest on behalf of Donald Trump, and that the Trump campaign's interactions with Russian intelligence services had posed a "grave" counterintelligence threat.

Today's Birthdays: Former first lady Rosalynn Carter is 95. Actor-director Robert Redford is 86. Actor Henry G. Sanders is 80. Actor-comedian Martin Mull is 79. Rock musician Dennis Elliott is 72. Comedian Elaine Bosler is 70. Actor Denis Leary is 65. Actor Madeline Stowe is 64. Former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is 61. ABC News reporter Bob Woodruff is 61. The former president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, is 60. Actor Adam Storke is 60. Actor Craig Bierko is 58. Rock singer-musician Zac Maloy (The Nixons) is 54. Rock singer and hip-hop artist Everlast is 53. Rapper Masta Killa (Wu-Tang Clan) is 53. Actor Christian Slater is 53. Actor Edward Norton is 53. Actor Malcolm-Jamal Warner is 52. Actor Kaitlin Olson is 47. Rock musician Dirk Lance is 46. Actor-comedian Andy Samberg (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 44. Country musician Brad Tursi (Old Dominion) is 43. Actor Mika Boorem is 35. Actor Maia Mitchell is 29. Actor Madelaine Petsch is 28. Actor Parker McKenna Posey is 27.

CORRECTIONS
The Observer works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-963-3161.

LOTTERY

Monday, Aug. 15, 2022 Megabucks
22-30-32-37-44-46
Estimated jackpot: \$4.8 million

Lucky Lines
4-5-12-16-18-24-26-29
Estimated jackpot: \$13,000

Win for Life
2-27-69-76

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 4-7-0-3
4 p.m.: 4-7-6-6
7 p.m.: 6-9-5-8
10 p.m.: 8-9-0-3

Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022 Mega Millions
33-35-41-45-51
Mega Ball: 1
Megaplier: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$99 million

Lucky Lines
3-7-11-16-17-22-25-31
Estimated jackpot: \$14,000

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 2-4-1-3
4 p.m.: 3-9-2-9
7 p.m.: 8-2-2-5
10 p.m.: 5-0-7-6

Shedding light on suicide prevention

Wallowa County Center for Wellness set to host second-annual vigil on World Suicide Prevention Day

By SHANNON GOLDEN
The Observer

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness will be holding its second annual Out of the Dark luminary vigil Saturday, Sept. 10, in honor of National Suicide Prevention Month.

The event coincides with World Suicide Prevention Day, a yearly worldwide awareness event geared towards spreading a singular message — suicide can be prevented.

Tosca Rawls, the center's public relations and development director, hopes the event will allow community members to remember those who they have lost, bring people together, and perhaps foster hope by showing that support is readily available.

For the team at WVCW, this year's vigil is just one of the many suicide prevention education and outreach efforts it provides for residents in Wallowa County.

"Our community has been deeply affected by a rise in completed suicides in the last two years," Rawls said. "We also just want to shed some light on the issue and reduce the stigma in talking about it."

Those who attend the vigil can expect to see hundreds of bags, filled with battery-powered tea lights, illuminating the lawn and walkways in front of the Wallowa County Courthouse in Enterprise.

Rawls said last year's vigil was a powerful way to show just how many people have been affected by suicide. She noted that, for the



Tosca Rawls/Contributed Photo
Community members walk alongside illuminated bags during the first annual Out of the Dark luminary vigil in Enterprise, hosted by the Wallowa County Center for Wellness on Sept. 30, 2021.

SEEKING SUPPORT?

If you or someone you know is seeking local crisis support, call Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness Crisis Line at 541-398-1175. For anyone in Wallowa County who isn't in crisis but is seeking additional resources, the WVCW has same-day service available 541-426-4524. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255, text HOME to 741741 or visit SpeakingOfSuicide.com/resources for additional resources.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information or questions about the event, contact Tosca Rawls or Amy Busch at 541-426-4524 ext. 1031. Visit the Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness website at wvcenterforwellness.org for a current list of upcoming suicide prevention and education events.

moment, the center plans to make it an ongoing annual event.

"I think that when people saw the amount of lights, it had a real impact," she said. "I think that it gave people an opportunity to remember those who had been lost."

Between Aug. 17 and Sept. 7, community members are encouraged to visit locations around Joseph and Enterprise to pick up

bags to decorate for the vigil. The bags can either be decorated on-site, or personalized and returned before Sept. 7.

Last year, Rawls said the bags were covered in messages and noted remembering those who had been lost, pictures of hearts and rainbows and messages of hope.

Displays with bags to decorate for the event will be at the following locations: Wallowa Memorial Hospital lobby, the Joseph Center, Enterprise's Building Healthy Families, the Enterprise Public Library, Winding Waters Clinic, Wallowa Public Library or the

Hearts for Health Building at 606 Medical Parkway, Enterprise.

This vigil is one of many that will be held across the country to bring awareness to suicide prevention and offer support for community members who have been impacted by suicide. Rawls said the event will begin at dusk, and that there is no formal schedule.

"People can absolutely come and go as they would like," she said.

WVCW dedicated its work in 2022 and 2023 to suicide prevention education and outreach. They have held several free classes and trainings — open to the public — surrounding how to recognize signs of suicide, talk to those at risk and get help for individuals in crisis.

"Our hope for impact is that we can continue to raise awareness around suicide prevention and to focus our efforts on providing treatment."

Utah murder suspect found dead near Joseph

Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The body of a Utah fugitive who was wanted for murder is believed to have been found along Hurricane Creek Road west of Joseph, according to a Tuesday, Aug. 16, press release from the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office.

Michael Grant Asman, 35, of Heber City, Utah, was wanted for the murder of Julie Ann Burns on July 14 in Wasatch County, Utah.

At about 1 p.m. Aug. 15, a sheriff's deputy and Oregon State Police responded to a report of an abandoned 2005 Chevrolet

Silverado pickup parked on the shoulder of Hurricane Creek Road near the trailhead. The license plate on the vehicle was registered to Asman. A Wasatch County warrant charged Asman with homicide, stating that his whereabouts were unknown.



Asman

When Asman's pickup was found, OSP Sgt. Grant Jackson and Wallowa County Deputy Sheriff Paul Pagano determined the vehicle had not been moved for some time. They

searched through a wooded area to the creek and found a decomposing corpse with a gunshot wound to the head and a Glock model 27, 40-caliber Smith and Wesson pistol by the left shoulder of the road.

Wallowa County Medical Examiner Gary Zeigler responded to the scene.

Law enforcement officers from Wasatch County, flew into the Joseph Airport and joined the investigation. They believed the corpse to be that of Asman.

Sheriff Joel Fish said it was a "domestic violence relationship." He said Asman and Burns had been married, even though they

did not share a surname.

According to Law and Crime online, when officers responded to a domestic violence call, they found Burns in her home apparently dead of a gunshot wound to the head. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

The couple's children were in the house at the time, Law and Crime said, and were sent upstairs while Asman and Burns argued. One child said Asman had a gun and they heard what they believed to be a gunshot. Asman led the children out and told them not to look at their dead mother.

NEWS BRIEFS

Bike club wins grant for Bikes to Kids

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa Mountains Bicycle Club has secured a grant from the Lewis-Clark Valley Healthcare Foundation to support getting used, donated bikes to underserved kids throughout Wallowa County, according to a press release.

Club volunteers will repair and upgrade donated or discarded bikes and then work with local schools and social service agencies to identify youths who would benefit from having a bike.

"The benefits to bike riding for kids goes way beyond the fun they provide," said Angela Mart, WMBC board president. "Biking regularly improves cardiovascular health, reduces the risk of diabetes, increases autonomy, builds confidence, strengthens social connections and gets kids outdoors."

The club aims to have 20 bikes donated in the coming year to deserving youth throughout Wallowa County.

Anyone with an unused bike to donate can reach out to the club at wallowamountainsbicycleclub@gmail.com or call 503-703-2001

or if you'd like to build your skills in maintaining your own bike and perhaps volunteer to upgrade bikes with the club team, contact the club.

West Nile virus detected in more Union County mosquitoes

IMBLER — West Nile virus has been detected in mosquitoes at two additional testing sites in Union County, according to a press release from the Union County Vector Control District.

The additional positive tests make three so far in the county, following a pair of positive tests earlier this month. All three positive tests have been in different parts of the Imbler area, the press release said.

The virus is spread by mosquitoes and is spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most infected people will show little or no signs of disease.

Health officials are advising Union County residents to take precautions against mosquitoes to avoid the risk of infection, including eliminating sources of standing water; using mosquito repellants containing DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus or

Picardin; wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants in mosquito-infested areas; and making sure screen doors and windows are in good repair and fit tightly.

Photo camp plans final show Aug. 20

JOSEPH — The final show of the National Geographic Photo Camp Oregon will take place at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture, 403 N. Main St., Joesph.

The camp is led by National Geographic Explorers and photographers Sara Hylton and Tailr Irvine.

The workshop brought together 12 young people from indigenous communities who have called this area home for centuries, with a meaningful introduction to photojournalism as a career and a platform to share their voices.

The theme of the camp focused on ways that the Wallowa River and other waterways connect communities in the region.

For more information, call 240-421-9520 or email jeffadl@ngs.org.

Report: More wolves, beavers needed in West

The Observer

CORVALLIS — Oregon State University scientists are proposing management changes on western federal lands that they say would result in more wolves and beavers and would reestablish ecological processes.

In a paper published earlier this month in *BioScience*, "Rewilding the American West," co-lead author William Ripple and 19 other authors suggest using portions of federal lands in 11 states to establish a network based on potential habitat for the gray wolf — an apex predator able to trigger powerful, widespread ecological effects.

In those states the authors identified areas, each at least 5,000 square kilometers, of contiguous, federally managed lands containing prime wolf habitat. The states in the proposed Western Rewilding Network, which would cover nearly 500,000 square kilometers, are Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

"It's an ambitious idea, but the American West is going through an unprecedented period of converging crises including extended drought and water scarcity, extreme heat waves, massive fires and loss of biodiversity," said Ripple, professor of ecology in the OSU College of Forestry.

Gray wolves were hunted to near extinction in the West but were reintroduced to parts of the northern Rocky Mountains and the Southwest starting in the 1990s through measures made possible by the Endangered Species Act.

"Still, the gray wolf's current range in those 11 states is only about 14% of its historical range," said co-lead author Christopher Wolf, a postdoctoral scholar in the College of Forestry. "They probably once numbered in the tens of thousands, but today there might only be 3,500 wolves across the entire West."

Beaver populations, once robust across the West, declined roughly 90% after settler colonialism and are now nonexistent in many streams, meaning ecosystem services are going unprovided, the authors say.

By felling trees and shrubs and constructing dams, beavers enrich fish habitat, increase water and sediment retention, maintain water flows during drought, improve water quality, increase carbon sequestration and generally improve habitat for riparian plant and animal species.

"Beaver restoration is a cost-effective way to repair degraded riparian areas," said co-author Robert Beschta, professor emeritus in the OSU College of Forestry. "Riparian areas occupy less than 2% of the land in the West but provide habitat for up to 70% of wildlife species."

Similarly, wolf restoration offers significant ecological benefits by helping to naturally control native ungulates such as elk, according to the authors. They say wolves facilitate regrowth of vegetation species such as aspen, which supports diverse plant and animal communities and is declining in the West.

The paper includes a catalogue of 92 threatened and endangered plant and animal species that have at least 10% of their ranges within the proposed Western Rewilding Network; for each species, threats from human activity were analyzed.