

## TODAY

In 1861, Union Gen. John C. Fremont instituted martial law in Missouri and declared slaves there to be free. (However, Fremont's emancipation order was countermanded by President Abraham Lincoln.)

In 1941, during World War II, German forces approaching Leningrad cut off the remaining rail line out of the city.

In 1945, U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur arrived in Japan to set up Allied occupation headquarters.

In 1963, the "Hot Line" communications link between Washington and Moscow went into operation.

In 1967, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Thurgood Marshall as the first Black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1983, Guion S. Bluford Jr. became the first Black American astronaut to travel in space as he blasted off aboard the Challenger.

In 1991, Azerbaijan declared its independence, joining the stampede of republics seeking to secede from the Soviet Union.

In 1992, the television series "Northern Exposure" won six Emmy Awards, including best drama series, while "Murphy Brown" received three Emmys, including best comedy series.

In 1993, "The Late Show with David Letterman" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1997, Americans received word of the car crash in Paris that claimed the lives of Princess Diana, her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, and their driver, Henri Paul. (Because of the time difference, it was August 31 where the crash occurred.)

In 2005, a day after Hurricane Katrina hit, floods were covering 80 percent of New Orleans, looting continued to spread and rescuers in helicopters and boats picked up hundreds of stranded people.

In 2007, in a serious breach of nuclear security, a B-52 bomber armed with six nuclear warheads flew cross-country unnoticed; the Air Force later punished 70 people.

In 2020, the United States completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan, ending America's longest war with the Taliban back in power, as Air Force transport planes carried a remaining contingent of troops from Kabul airport; officials put the number of Americans remaining in Afghanistan at under 200 and said they would keep working to get those people out.

After watching the last U.S. planes disappear into the sky over Afghanistan, Taliban fighters fired their guns into the air, celebrating victory after a 20-year insurgency.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Elizabeth Ashley is 83. Actor Ben Jones is 81. Actor John Kani is 80. Cartoonist R. Crumb is 79. Olympic gold medal skier Jean-Claude Killy is 79. Comedian Lewis Black is 74. Actor Timothy Bottoms is 71. Actor David Paymer is 68. Jazz musician Gerald Albright is 65. Actor Michael Chiklis is 59. Actor Michael Michele is 56. Country singer Sherrie Austin is 51. Rock singer-musician Lars Frederiksen (Rancid) is 51. Actor Cameron Diaz is 50. TV personality Lisa Ling is 49. Rock singer-musician Aaron Barrett (Reel Big Fish) is 48. Actor Raúl Castillo is 45. Actor Michael Gladis is 45. MLB pitcher Adam Wainwright is 41. Former tennis player Andy Roddick is 40. Singer Rachael Price (Lake Street Dive) is 37. Rock musician Ryan Ross is 36. Actor Johanna Braddy is 35. Actor Cameron Finley is 35.

## 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

## Friday, Aug. 26, 2022

## MegaMillions

6-27-30-38-64

Megaball: 23

Megaplier: 2

Jackpot: \$153 million

## Lucky Lines

3-7-11-15-19-23-27-30

Jackpot: \$24,000

## Pick 4

1 p.m.: 2-4-4-8

4 p.m.: 9-6-0-7

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

10 p.m.: 4-7-0-8

## Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022

## Powerball

2-18-56-60-65

Powerball: 14

Power Play: 3

Jackpot: \$124 million

## Megabucks

1-8-14-25-27-35

Jackpot: \$5.3 million

## Lucky Lines

2-8-10-16-17-22-25-31

Jackpot: \$25,000

## Pick 4

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

4 p.m.: 0-8-2-0

7 p.m.: 5-7-9-4

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

## Win for Life

14-15-35-69

## Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022

## Lucky Lines

4-7-10-14-18-21-26-29

Estimated jackpot: \$26,000

## Pick 4

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

4 p.m.: 3-5-8-7

7 p.m.: 9-3-4-8

10 p.m.: 0-6-1-0

## Historic military convoy visits Wallowa County

By BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — They weren't pulling into Saigon or Da Nang, but the convoy of 24 historic military vehicles that pulled into Joseph could well have staged a similar entrance some 50 years ago.

The Military Vehicle Preservation Association's biennial convoy on Thursday, Aug. 25, left Baker City and headed through the mountains for a lunch stop at the Hells Canyon Overlook before traversing the windy National Forest Road 39 to Joseph.

"Where's the diesel?" asked Dan McCluskey, convoy commander, as soon as he stepped out of his Vietnam-era three-quarter-ton M37 cargo truck.

He hadn't noticed that the Chevron station in Joseph does indeed offer diesel fuel, critical for many of the convoy's vehicles.

About 50 people — 30% of whom are Vietnam veterans, along with one World War II vet — accompanied the rigs.

The convoy began Aug. 14 after gathering near the home of Mark Sigrist near Kamiah, Idaho. Sigrist, who conceived the idea of this year's convoy, died in 2020 before it could take place.

"But his son is here, keeping the dream alive," McCluskey said.

After a couple hours of a static display in the field behind the Indian Lodge



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

A convoy of 24 historic military vehicles stops at the Indian Lodge Motel in Joseph as it passes through Wallowa County on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022, before going on to spend the night at the Eagle Cap Shooters Association's gun range north of Enterprise.

Motel, the convoy was back on the road to spend the night at the Eagle Cap Shooters Association's gun range north of Enterprise.

The next day, the plan was to head north to Lewiston, Idaho, where some would leave the convoy for home.

McCluskey may not be a military vet, but he's certainly a veteran with military vehicles. His father, who was a WWII vet, bought a jeep shortly after the war.

"I grew up in that jeep," he said.

His own first vehicle also was a jeep, a rig that had seen WWII service.

All the vehicles are privately owned, McCluskey said, adding that the owners pay for fuel and

their own food.

"Each individual pays his own way," he said.

The MVPA plans a convoy every two years. Usually the trips last 28 days and cover 3,000 miles. This time, the run was for two weeks and 1,600 miles.

The association, founded in 1976, is a nonprofit with more than 100 affiliates worldwide "dedicated to providing an international organization for military vehicle enthusiasts, historians, preservationists and collectors interested in the acquisition, restoration, preservation, safe operation and public education of historic military transport," according to its mission.

The convoy's schedule included visits to the Lewis and Clark Trail, Mount

Rainier National Park, Mount St. Helens, Mount Hood, Washington's Pacific Coast, Oregon Trail sites, Hells Canyon and other significant military sites.

Occasionally, McCluskey said, members from MVPA affiliations along the route join in for segments of the journey. MVPA has affiliate clubs in Woodland, Washington, and in Wilsonville.

He said the vehicles — from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and current eras — can't travel faster than 35 mph.

"That's our max speed," he said. "A lot of times it's a lot less because we are going up over hills. These old military vehicles are definitely not doing 60 mph going over the grades."

## Air tanker base helping combat Crockets Knob Fire

By DICK MASON

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Air Tanker Base next to the La Grande/Union County Airport was a beehive of aeronautical activity last week.

Air tankers for the U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon Department Forestry fighting the Crockets Knob Fire, 19 miles south of Prairie City, continuously flew into the La Grande base on Aug. 25-26 to pick up loads of fire retardant. The flights from La Grande to the fire and back stopped on Saturday, Aug. 27, but may resume in the near future.

A John Day Interagency Dispatch Center representative told The Observer on Aug. 28 that air tankers dropping fire retardant on the Crockets Knob Fire may begin making regular stops at the La Grande Tanker Base again this week depending on decisions made by the incident commanders of the fire.

"It will depend on fire



The Observer, File

Neptune, a tanker plane company out of Montana, uses the La Grande/Union County Airport to refuel its planes and reload more retardant on July 27, 2015. In 2022, air tankers for the U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon Department Forestry fighting the Crockets Knob Fire, 19 miles south of Prairie City, continuously flew into the La Grande base on Aug. 25-26 to pick up loads of fire retardant.

behavior," a spokesperson for the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center said.

The Crockets Knob Fire has grown to 1,447 acres and is zero percent contained, according to a press release issued by the federal government on Aug. 28.

The fleet of planes that have been coming in to pick up retardant fuel at the La Grande Air Tanker Base

consists of three large air tankers and two single-engine air tankers, according to Craig Gilbert, of the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center. The large air tankers carry between 3,000 and 4,000 gallons of retardant, and the single-engine tankers have a 800-gallon capacity.

The tankers were at the airport for at least 30 minutes if they needed to be

refueled, Gilbert said.

The large air tankers, in the evening, have been kept at an air tanker base in Redmond, while the smaller single-engine planes are kept at the La Grande Air Tanker Base.

The Crockets Knob Fire is not threatening any structures and is expected to be contained by Sept. 30, according to inciweb.nwcg.gov, a U.S. Forest Service incident information service.

The fire was ignited by lightning on Aug. 22 and grew the most on Aug. 25 when it expanded from 225 to 1,000 acres.

There are considerable challenges that firefighters are facing while working to contain the Crockets Knob Fire, according to inciweb. The fire is in rugged terrain that is difficult to reach, and it has an abundance of fuel to burn, in the form of exceedingly tall brush, which is more than 10 feet tall in most areas, and heavy dead and downed materials on the forest floor.

## Fires burning in Eagle Cap Wilderness

Wallowa County Chieftain

BAKER CITY — Five lightning-sparked fires are burning in the Eagle Cap Wilderness, according to a Sunday, Aug. 28, press release from the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

The fires are burning in remote areas and pose minimal threats to private property and other values, the release said. Firefighters are closely monitoring fire activity and using strategies to protect homes and property near the blaze.

The 15-acre Sturgill Fire and the adjacent 324 Fire are in the North Minam Drainage and burning in mixed conifer. The 20-acre Nebo

Fire is in the Upper Lick Creek Drainage, 13 miles southeast of Joseph. The one-10th of an acre Goat Mountain 1 and adjacent Goat Mountain 2 fires are in the Upper Goat Creek Drainage, 9 miles south of Lostine and have shown very little fire activity in the last two days, the release said.

All of the fires were started by lightning strikes on Aug. 23.

The fires are being managed for multiple resource benefits, including reducing fuel loading and enhancement of forest health, according to the release. Matthew Burks, a public affairs specialist with the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, said the fires are being allowed to burn

so that they can consume fuels, reducing the likelihood of larger fires next summer when conditions may be drier than they are now.

"They will clean out fuels," he said.

Burks said the burning will improve elk habitat by creating more open spaces, adding that as long as the fires, which are burning close to the ground, remain nonthreatening they will be allowed to continue. However, should this change, steps will be taken to extinguish them.

There are no closures, but the public is advised to use caution in these areas and can expect to see smoke and fire activity. Signs are posted at affected trailheads.

## IN BRIEF

## Free services available for some cities, counties, nonprofit organizations

ENTERPRISE — The Northeast Oregon Economic Development District is offering up to 20 hours of free help to cities, counties and nonprofits in Baker, Union and Wallowa counties.

The free services include project and organizational development, grant prospecting, grant writing and project administration services.

The services are possible due to funding from the Oregon Legislature and an Oregon foundation, according

to a press release from NEOEDD.

NEOEDD will provide services based on available staff time, an organization's readiness to proceed and the timing of grant deadlines.

"Our goal is to assist as many organizations as possible; however, our funding is limited, so we may not be able to serve every eligible organization," said Lisa Dawson, NEOEDD executive director.

The money from the Oregon Legislature supports services to cities with populations under 2,500, counties with populations under 15,000, and special districts in these cities and counties. NEOEDD will use the

same criteria to prioritize the free services.

Cities, counties and nonprofits can submit a request for services online at <https://bit.ly/3R6nIZy>.

"We may also refer organizations to Sequoia Consulting for help to identify appropriate grant sources for a project or to prepare an organization to apply for and successfully manage a grant," Dawson said.

More information is available by emailing Chantal Ivenso at [chantal-ivenso@neoedd.org](mailto:chantal-ivenso@neoedd.org) or by calling 541-426-3598, ext. 4.

— The Observer

## La Grande man sentenced to 15 years in prison

Joel Rogers enters guilty plea for multiple sex offenses

By ISABELLA CROWLEY

The Observer

LA GRANDE — A La Grande man was sentenced to 15 years in prison on Wednesday, Aug. 24, for sex crimes with a minor, according to a press release from the Union County District Attorney's Office.

Joel Rogers, 20, pled guilty and was convicted on felony charges of first-degree rape, two counts of second-degree sexual abuse and luring a minor during a settlement conference with the victim and her family. Chief Deputy District Attorney Ryan Rodighiero prosecuted the case, and Rogers was represented by his court-appointed counsel — La Grande attorney Jared Boyd.

"Ultimately this was a sentence the victim was happy with. We always strive to balance what the victim wants and what's just and in the interest of public safety," Rodighiero said.

Rogers met the victim in July 2021 through Snapchat — a multimedia instant messaging app — and was in contact with her until September of that year, according to the press release. The victim was 15 years old at the time. During the three months they were in contact, Rogers continued messaging the victim — asking her to send nude photos, sharing nude photos of himself and sending sexually explicit messages.

He sexually assaulted the victim on three separate occasions and during one of the instances strangled her.

"On March 5, 2022, the victim's father contacted Rogers who said he knew he made a mistake and asked the victim's father to not call the police," Rodighiero wrote in the press release.

A few days later, her father reported the sexual assault to police.

Mt. Emily Safe Center — a child abuse intervention center based in La Grande — conducted a forensic interview with the victim. During his interview with police, Rogers admitted to having sexual intercourse and choking the victim.

A Union County grand jury was convened in April to review the evidence and Rogers was indicted on multiple sex offenses. Two days later, he was arrested and lodged in the Union County Jail. Circuit Court Judge Thomas Powers set bail at \$300,000.

First-degree rape comes with a minimum mandatory sentencing of eight years and four months in jail under Oregon Measure 11. Rogers' prison sentence will be followed by 10 years of post-prison supervision. He is required to register as a sex offender, engage in sex offender treatment and have no contact with the victim.

"The District Attorney's Office would also like to extend a special thank you to the friend who encouraged the victim to come forward, the victim's parents who supported her through the process, and most of all, to the victim in this case who had the courage to come forward," Rodighiero wrote in the press release.