

TODAY

Today is Tuesday, June 15, the 166th day of 2021. There are 199 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On **June 15**, 1215, England's King John put his seal to Magna Carta ("the Great Charter").

In **1775**, the Second Continental Congress voted unanimously to appoint George Washington head of the Continental Army.

In **1864**, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton signed an order establishing a military burial ground which became Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

In **1934**, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an act making the National Guard part of the U.S. Army in the event of war or national emergency.

In **1955**, the United States and Britain signed a cooperation agreement concerning atomic information for "mutual defence."

In **1991**, Mount Pinatubo in the northern Philippines exploded in one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing about 800 people.

In **1996**, Ella Fitzgerald, the "first lady of song," died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 79.

In **2003**, with a deadline passed for Iraqis to hand in heavy weapons, U.S. forces fanned out across Iraq to seize arms and put down potential foes.

Ten years ago: Pushing back against congressional criticism, the White House said that President Barack Obama had the authority to continue U.S. military action in Libya even without authorization from lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was released from a Houston hospital, five months after being shot in the head. The Boston Bruins won the Stanley Cup for the first time since 1972, beating the Vancouver Canucks 4-0 in Game 7 of the finals; angry, drunken Vancouver fans ran wild, setting cars on fire and looting stores.

Five years ago: A public funeral was held in Detroit for hockey legend Gordie Howe, who had died five days earlier at age 88.

One year ago: The Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision, ruled that a landmark civil rights law protects gay, lesbian and transgender people from discrimination in employment. The Seattle City Council voted unanimously to bar police from using tear gas, pepper spray and several other crowd-control devices.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Russell Hitchcock (Air Supply) is 72. Rock singer Steve Walsh is 70. Chinese President Xi Jinping is 68. Actor-comedian Jim Belushi is 67. Country singer Terri Gibbs is 67. Actor Julie Hagerty is 66. Actor Polly Draper is 66. Rock musician Brad Gillis (Night Ranger) is 64. Baseball Hall of Famer Wade Boggs is 63. Actor Helen Hunt is 58. Rock musician Scott Rockenfield (Queensryche) is 58. Actor Courtney Cox is 57. Actor-rapper Ice Cube is 52. Actor Leah Remini is 51. Actor Jake Busey is 48. Actor Elizabeth Reaser is 46. Rock singer Dryden Mitchell (Alien Ant Farm) is 45. Former child actor Christopher Castile is 41. Rock musician Billy Martin (Good Charlotte) is 40. Rock musician Wayne Sermon (Imagine Dragons) is 37. Actor Denzel Whitaker is 31. Olympic gold medal gymnast Madison Kocian is 24. Actor Sterling Jerins is 17.

—Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

LA GRANDE

'I WANTED TO HONOR MY MOM'

Daughter speeds through high school so she can graduate with mom

Katelyn and Elysa Nason pose for a photo at Eastern Oregon University on June 3.

Alex Wittwer/The Observer



BY DICK MASON
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Katelyn Nason was ending eighth grade in the La Grande School District in April 2018 when her mother, Elysa, received a message that changed the trajectory of her life.

Elysa Nason learned she had been admitted into the Oregon Health & Science University School of Nursing, La Grande Campus. The mother of five told her family she planned to graduate with a degree in nursing in three years.

Two weeks later, Katelyn made a decision that will forever touch her mom. The teenager decided to hit the academic fast track and graduate from La Grande High School in three years so she could receive her diploma about the same time as her mother.

"She said 'Mom, I'm graduating with you,'" Elysa Nason said.

Katelyn made her decision as a gesture of gratitude.

"I wanted to honor my mom," Katelyn Nason said.

Katelyn, burning midnight oil by the gallon, began traveling in the fast lane of La Grande's commencement highway. The

student, after having her plan approved by school officials, began taking class loads which would cause some lesser students to buckle.

"There were a lot of long days and nights," said Katelyn, who took classes online via the La Grande School District's Learning Academy and on her high school's campus.

Some encouraged her to ease up on her throttle on her way to the commencement stage. "I said, 'I don't care, I'm going to do it,'" Katelyn said.

Buoyed by determination and family support she completed four years of class work in three and received her diploma at her high school commencement June 5. The OHSU La Grande graduation, conducted in conjunction with Eastern Oregon University's ceremony, was held a week later.

"I am so proud of her," Elysa said.

Elysa said that being a full-time mom with a family of five children and a full-time nursing student has been an uncommon challenge the past three years.

"I honestly don't know how I did it," said Elysa, who graduated from EOU in 2018 with a bachelor of science degree in psychology. OHSU and EOU are closely

linked since the nursing program has been based on Eastern's campus since it was founded more than three decades ago.

She credits support and help from her husband, Joseph, with making a big difference.

"He has been our biggest fan," Elysa said.

Elysa, in the course of her studies, has inspired Katelyn to also pursue a career in nursing. Katelyn became interested in the field after reading one of her nursing textbooks.

"She has found her passion," Elysa said.

Elysa said her daughter's early graduation gesture is especially meaningful because she had her at a young age when she believes she was not ready to be the best mother she could be.

"I was a teenage mom. I felt like I was a failure. This makes me feel like I've done something right," Elysa Nason said.

She has already received three job offers in the nursing field and plans to work in Northeast Oregon. Elysa is excited about starting her career and also about the chance to spend more time with her sons and daughters after three years of intense study in nursing school.

"I will get to be a mom again," Elysa said.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Grant to fund summer program for minority students at COCC

Central Oregon Community College received a nearly \$90,000 grant to fund a new summer program for minority students.

The grant, awarded by the Central Oregon Health Council, will also help pay for an existing Native American college prep coordinator.

The new Afrocentric symposium will be modeled on an existing COCC weeklong summer programs for Latino and Native American high school students. It will be designed to offer an inside look at the college experience, to include financial aid sessions. Students will live on campus for four days and learn about career options while engaging in cultural exploration, a COCC spokesperson said in a statement.

COCC's Native American college prep program currently serves approximately 40 to 60 students annually in five Central Oregon high schools. The program has led to a 98% high school graduation rate for participating students, a rate that surpasses the state's graduation rate

for Native American students. Additionally, approximately 76% of the students in the program go on to college.

No leads in food cart robbery manhunt

Police still have not made an arrest in a robbery case that resulted in a manhunt in northeast Bend on June 4, and officials are keeping mum about their progress.

Around 11:45 a.m., a man was pursued by police in the area of NE Second Street and NE Greenwood Avenue following a "strongarm robbery" of El Taquero food cart outside Colima Market. The owner of the business had found the man stealing bills from the cash register and called 911.

The man ran away as numerous officers responded to the scene. Two nearby schools were closed to visitors as a precaution: Juniper Elementary School and Pilot Butte Middle School.

Reached Monday, Bend Police spokeswoman Lt. Juli McConkey said the investigation remains open, and no new information will be released.

—Bulletin staff reports

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