

TODAY

It's Friday, June 18, the 169th day of 2021. There are 196 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1812**, the War of 1812 began as the United States Congress approved, and President James Madison signed, a declaration of war against Britain.

In **1778**, American forces entered Philadelphia as the British withdrew during the Revolutionary War.

In **1815**, Napoleon Bonaparte met defeat at Waterloo as British and Prussian troops defeated the French in Belgium.

In **1873**, suffragist Susan B. Anthony was found guilty by a judge in Canandaigua, New York, of breaking the law by casting a vote in the 1872 presidential election. The judge fined Anthony \$100, but she never paid the penalty.

In **1964**, President Lyndon B. Johnson and Japanese Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda spoke to each other by telephone as they inaugurated the first trans-Pacific cable completed by AT&T between Japan and Hawaii.

In **1979**, President Jimmy Carter and Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev signed the SALT II strategic arms limitation treaty in Vienna.

In **1983**, astronaut Sally K. Ride became America's first woman in space as she and four colleagues blasted off aboard the space shuttle Challenger on a six-day mission.

In **1992**, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Georgia v. McCollum*, ruled that criminal defendants could not use race as a basis for excluding potential jurors from their trials.

In **2003**, baseball Hall-of-Famer Larry Doby, who broke the American League's color barrier in 1947, died in Montclair, N.J., at age 79.

In **2010**, death row inmate Ronnie Lee Gardner died in a barrage of bullets as Utah carried out its first firing squad execution in 14 years. Gardner had been sentenced to death for fatally shooting attorney Michael Burdell during a failed escape attempt from a Salt Lake City courthouse.

In **2018**, President Donald Trump announced that he was directing the Pentagon to create the "Space Force" as an independent service branch. Troubled rapper-singer XXXTentacion was shot and killed in Florida in what police called an apparent robbery attempt.

Ten years ago: Clarence Clemmons, the saxophone player for the E Street Band who was one of the key influences in Bruce Springsteen's life and music, died in Florida at 69.

Five years ago: With California's Yosemite Falls as a backdrop, President Barack Obama said climate change was damaging national parks, with rising temperatures causing Yosemite's meadows to dry out and raising the prospect of a glacier preserve without its glaciers.

One year ago: The abandoned bus that was central to the book and movie "Into the Wild" was removed by helicopter from the Alaska wilderness; it had become a lure for dangerous pilgrimages. Dame Vera Lynn, who serenaded British troops during World War II with sentimental favorites "We'll Meet Again" and "The White Cliffs of Dover," died at 103.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., is 84. Sir Paul McCartney is 79. Former Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb., is 71. Actor Isabella Rossellini is 69. Actor Carol Kane is 69. Actor Brian Benben is 65. Actor Andrea Evans is 64. Figure skater Kurt Browning is 55. R&B singer Nathan Morris (Boyz II Men) is 50. Actor Mara Hobel is 50. Singer-songwriter Ray LaMontagne is 48. Rapper Silk the Shocker is 46. Actor Alana de la Garza is 45. Country singer Blake Shelton is 45. Actor Renee Olstead is 32.

—Associated Press

Tenants

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But they now will be compensated for the rest — and without a proposed tax credit that would have taken money out of state coffers for a few years.

Counting \$200 million that the Legislature approved Dec. 21 for tenants and landlords, and \$300 million more in federal funds that Congress approved in December and March, Oregon has amassed more than \$500 million available for rental assistance. But much of that money has not yet reached landlords.

The agreement is intended to head off the potential eviction of thousands of renters who are awaiting assistance but faced the prospect of being unable to pay rent as of July 1.

"Oregon renters who are in line for rent assistance desperately need protection when the eviction moratorium ends,"

Patty Wentz, a spokeswoman for Stable Homes for Oregon Families, said after the House Rules Committee vote Wednesday night on the revised Senate Bill 278.

The revised Senate Bill 278 requires a vote in the Senate, which approved a different version March 24.

A different bill (SB 282) signed May 19 by Gov. Kate Brown bars evictions for failure to pay past-due rent during the pandemic until Feb. 28, 2022. But it requires tenants to be current on rent as of July 1.

10,000 and growing

According to the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department, 10,830 applications for rental assistance are pending from tenants as of Tuesday. That figure represents more than 26,000 people. Another 6,600 applications have been started; they are excluded from the total.

Nearly two-thirds of the

completed applications originated in the Portland metro area.

Statewide, two-thirds of the applicants are from white households and 18% from Hispanic households, based on ethnicity.

By race, 47% were from white households and 18% from Black households. (Hispanics can be of any race, according to the U.S. Census.)

Rep. Julie Fahey, a Democrat from Eugene, presented the elements of a bill that in its initial stages had threatened once again to widen a rift between tenants and landlords.

"The Legislature ensures that tenants who have done everything right in this process have a safe harbor from eviction as they await their assistance," she said.

Though Fahey sits on the Rules Committee, she also led the House Committee on Housing during the current session. Fahey gave credit to

legislative, agency and other staffers for working out the details.

No tax credit

Rep. Jack Zika, a Republican from Redmond who also sits on both panels, had proposed a tax credit to offset landlords' losses of 20% from past-due rents when they accepted payments from a \$150 million state compensation fund that lawmakers set up in December. Landlords would have subtracted those losses directly from their income taxes under that proposal, which was identical to Senate Bill 330.

"This will be better for landlords than having to go through a tax credit process," Fahey said. "Those landlords have already applied (for state payments), been verified, and in many cases have received checks, so they already have that relationship and it should be fairly easy to administer these payments."

The new legislation will empower the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department to give some of the state and federal rental assistance funds to an unspecified third party, which would make the payments to landlords while state and local agencies comb through tenant applications for rental assistance.

That money also will go directly to landlords once tenants are deemed eligible for assistance.

In addition to the state agency, several community action agencies or other local organizations are helping tenants. In Multnomah County, it is Home Forward. In Washington County, the Housing Services Department is part of county government, as is the Health, Housing and Human Services Department in Clackamas County. Both suburban counties also have housing authorities.

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Assault

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"We are shocked by this violence and I am deeply concerned to learn that prisoners under the control of DOC, whose mission is to promote and protect public safety, can easily escape and harm the general public," Shiga wrote to Brown in a letter dated April 30.

Shiga's letter described the injuries suffered by the Japanese nationals: One woman sustained a skull fracture and cerebral hemorrhaging and the other underwent four surgeries to address the complicated fracture of her arm.

About 9,000 Japanese people live in the state, the diplomat told the governor.

"In response to this incident, we will have to consider how we, the Japanese community, should think about safety in Oregon," he wrote.

What, if any, response Shiga received from Brown is unclear. Brown's office has not yet responded to questions from *The Oregonian*.

The Department of Corrections released the letter to *The Oregonian* on Wednesday in response to a public records request.

Colette Peters, director of Oregon's prison system, released a statement to the news organization calling the attack "a terrible crime."

She said her agency is working with investigators to "ensure the perpetrator is held accountable" and said inmates assigned to outside work crews "are thoroughly vetted."

"Lunn made the terrible decision to assault two innocent women—forever altering their lives," she said.

A corrections department spokeswoman on Friday said Peters is concerned that Lunn's actions "will likely jeopardize public perception" of inmate work programs.

At the time, Lunn was serving a three-year sentence for a home invasion robbery in Multnomah County.

He was convicted of second-degree robbery, a Measure 11 offense that comes with a mandatory minimum sentence.

Court records show Lunn at the time of his arrest for the robbery had 13 prior felony convictions and one misdemeanor conviction, all property and drug crimes.

Lunn has not been charged in the attacks of the two women at the campground.

According to the Department of Corrections, Lunn was transferred to the South Fork Forest Camp in Tillamook on Oct. 13. South Fork is a minimum-security prison operated by the Department of Corrections and the Oregon Board of Forestry.

About 200 inmates who are within four years of release are housed at the camp, where they are assigned to work crews that perform forest management and disaster relief in northwest Oregon.

Lunn, according to prison records, had no disciplinary record while in prison.

On April 14, Lunn was assigned to a work crew that was dispatched to the Gales Creek Campground in the Tillamook Forest, on the western edge of Washington County.

At some point, Lunn — listed in prison records as 6'3 and 260 pounds — allegedly left the crew and encountered the women.

Authorities said Lunn stole one of the women's cars and fled. He was captured that night in the woods of Sauvie Island, about an hour away from the campground.

The Department of Corrections that day announced that Lunn had walked away,

assaulted two women and stole their car. It did not disclose the extent of the injuries to the women.

The Department of Forestry has not yet responded to questions from *The Oregonian*, including who supervised the work crew that day and the last time Lunn was seen by a supervisor.

Department of Corrections records show he is being held at the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem.

According to a 2014 agreement between the Department of Corrections and the Oregon Department of Forestry, a work crew "custodial supervisor" from the prison system is responsible for "maintaining custodial supervision of inmates assigned to a project."

The Department of Corrections on Wednesday declined to say whether corrections staff was on site at the time of Lunn's escape.

The agency also declined to say whether signs announcing the presence of inmate work crews were posted at the campground.

Shiga, the highest-ranking Japanese diplomat in Oregon, said his government worries the incident will scare Japanese people and businesses "and

that they will hesitate to expand their economic activities here."

"We also expect that many students and tourists from Japan will return to Oregon when the pandemic ends," he told Brown.

He is also concerned about the implications for tourism, given the draw of outdoor activities for Japanese visitors.

"Many people will be disappointed and reluctant to visit Oregon if it is seen as unsafe," he said.

Shiga went on to make three requests: support from the state for the injured women, a thorough investigation of the incident and measures to prevent "similar failures" from happening again and a public statement from the government regarding its commitment to public safety.

"In order to limit the upset within the Japanese community caused by this recent event, it would be desirable for the responsible authorities to make some statement showing their utmost commitment to ensuring the safety of public spaces in the state," he wrote.

He asked Brown to ensure that signs announcing inmate work crews be posted on all public locations.

Shelters

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The city has yet to receive confirmation that it is being recommended for grant dollars, but Deschutes County was specifically mentioned when additional funding was voted on by the state House of Representatives earlier this month, Eagan said.

To complete the \$2.5 million purchase, the plan is for the city to receive \$2.4 million from Project Turnkey and for the city to provide the remaining \$100,000 from local funds.

NeighborImpact, the non-profit organization that will run the shelter, has received enough funding to run the facility for two years, according to Eagan.

The facility will be monitored 24 hours a day, and offer case management to connect residents with services.

The council also unani-

mously voted to enter a purchase and sale agreement with the Opportunity Foundation to buy the building at 275 NE Second St. for \$2 million to secure it as an overnight shelter.

The building was formerly used as Bend's warming shelter and is now being run as a long-term, overnight homeless shelter.

The 10,000-square-foot building would be purchased with money from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. If environmental reviews and inspections go well, the city intends to close on the sale by Sept. 15.

This shelter was opened at the beginning of June thanks to COVID-19 relief funding from the city and NeighborImpact and is currently run by Shepherd's House Ministries.

It's unclear when the Bend Value Inn would be ready to open as a shelter, Eagan said. The city should know before

June 30 whether it will receive Project Turnkey money. House Bill 2004, passed 23-5 by the Oregon Senate on Thursday, adds \$9.7 million to an unspent \$3.8 million to enable the Oregon Community Foundation to fund four more conversions of motels into shelters under Project Turnkey. Foundation officials said they cannot disclose details until purchase arrangements are complete, but legislative reports say the projects are in Multnomah, Deschutes, Malheur and Yamhill counties, and will provide a total of 132 units.

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