

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Friday, July 13, the 194th day of 2018. There are 171 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On July 13, 1960, John F. Kennedy won the Democratic presidential nomination on the first ballot at his party's convention in Los Angeles, outdrawing rivals including Lyndon B. Johnson, Stuart Symington and Adlai Stevenson.

ON THIS DATE

In 1787, the Congress of the Confederation adopted the Northwest Ordinance, which established a government in the Northwest Territory, an area corresponding to the eastern half of the present-day Midwest.

In 1793, French revolutionary writer Jean-Paul Marat was stabbed to death in his bath by Charlotte Corday, who was executed four days later.

In 1863, deadly rioting against the Civil War military draft erupted in New York City. (The insurrection was put down three days later.)

In 1923, a sign consisting of 50-foot-tall letters spelling out "HOLLYWOODLAND" was dedicated in the Hollywood Hills to promote a subdivision (the last four letters were removed in 1949).

In 1939, Frank Sinatra made his first commercial recording, "From the Bottom of My Heart" and "Melancholy Mood," with Harry James and his Orchestra for the Brunswick label.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall to be U.S. Solicitor General; Marshall became the first black jurist appointed to the post. (Two years later, Johnson nominated Marshall to the U.S. Supreme Court.)

In 1972, George McGovern received the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Miami Beach.

In 1977, a blackout hit New York City in the mid-evening as lightning strikes on electrical equipment caused power to fail; widespread looting broke out.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$3.2 million
4-10-20-28-32-48

Mega Millions: \$340 million
1-17-28-56-70-14-x3

Powerball: \$100 million
19-21-27-46-47-PB 7-x4

Win for Life: July 11
4-19-56-63

Pick 4: July 12
• 1 p.m.: 8-1-2-6
• 4 p.m.: 7-1-8-8
• 7 p.m.: 8-0-6-6
• 10 p.m.: 7-0-9-1
Pick 4: July 11
• 1 p.m.: 8-0-9-7
• 4 p.m.: 7-7-2-2
• 7 p.m.: 2-9-1-3
• 10 p.m.: 2-9-1-2

ROAD REPORT

Numbers to call:
• Inside Oregon: 800-977-6368.
• Outside Oregon: 503-588-2941.

NEWSPAPER LATE?

Every effort is made to deliver your Observer in a timely manner. Occasionally conditions exist that make delivery more difficult.

If you are not on a motor route, delivery should be before 5:30 p.m. If you do not receive your paper by 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, please call 541-963-3161 by 6 p.m.

If your delivery is by motor carrier, delivery should be by 6 p.m. For calls after 6, please call 541-975-1690, leave your name, address and phone number. Your paper will be delivered the next business day.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If I were to wish for anything, I should not wish for wealth and power, but for the passionate sense of the potential, for the eye which, ever young and ardent, sees the possible. Pleasure disappoints, possibility never."

— Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher (1813-1855)

Juvenile arrested in arson case

By Cherise Kaechele
The Observer

The La Grande Police Department arrested a juvenile in connection to a series of arson fires in the downtown area over the last several weeks.

The 15-year-old male was arrested on charges of second-degree arson, first-degree criminal mischief and eight counts of reckless burning.

Eight fires were set on two separate nights, according to a press release from the LGPD. Three were set June 28 and five more were set July 9.

The escalation of the situation was extremely concerning to LGPD.

"After the second fires downtown the priority level changed," LGPD Lt. Gary Bell told The Observer. "The investigation got the highest priority investigation in our (detective) section because we were concerned someone was going to get hurt."

One of the locations of the fire, according to Bell, was between the gas pumps at Safeway.

"The fire had completely melted down the garbage can between the gas pumps," he said. "Fortunately it didn't cause damage there."

Bell said the close proximity to the gas pumps could have made that situation catastrophic.

Additionally, fires were set behind Goss Motors, the Hideout Saloon, Century 21 and Dawn's Delights, among others.

The fire at Goss Motors scorched the side of the building, he said.

"That could've very easily caught the entire building on fire," Bell said. "There were flammable materials within the room and the fire had caused the windows to break."

Bell said there are apartment buildings in the downtown area and the police were very concerned that, given the escalation, the perpetrator would move from setting dumpsters on fire to buildings.

The fires also seemed to be set



La Grande Police Department photo

A total of eight dumpster fires were set in the downtown area of La Grande. A 15-year-old juvenile has been arrested for the crimes.

consecutively, forcing the fire department to respond to multiple at once.

"On June 28, when the initial 911 calls came in for the first fire, it was at 3:38 a.m. The fire was reported at the Hideout Saloon. Immediately upon the response, the (fire department) identified the second and third fire. The truth is, we don't know which fire was lit first."

Bell said the fires set on July 9 were the same.

"When the 911 call came in for the Safeway fire, (the fire department) responded to that one. They were in the process of extinguishing it and the officers were leaving the scene when they spotted another fire behind Century 21. That same period of time, two more fires were identified and then a third behind Dawn's Delights. All of them were in the alleyway," Bell said.

LGFD Fire Chief Les Thomas said he responded to the second round of fires on July 9 and saw the firefighters pulling their hoses lines from one fire to another.

"They were literally dragging them ... from dumpster to dumpster," Thomas said. "It was very labor intensive. They did a good size-up of which fires were priority."

Bell said the police relied heavily on the community and the businesses' surveillance footage to catch the juvenile responsible. The community did a tremendous job, he said.

"The surveillance played a significant role in this," he said.

While the investigation is ongoing, he does not believe there is additional risk.

"We believe that we have the one person responsible for this," he said.

Thomas also wanted to commend the police department on their abilities for this investigation and how quickly it progressed.

"I applaud them for their efforts and we are very happy and thankful for the citizens who got involved," Thomas said.

The Union County Sheriff's Office also helped in this investigation.

School employees to receive raises

By Dick Mason
The Observer

The Union School District's administrators and confidential staff will receive pay increases in 2018-19.

The Union School Board voted Wednesday to give 1.5 percent pay raises to the school district's two administrators and two confidential staff members, said Superintendent Carter Wells.

Wells and grade school principal Chris Dunlap are the school district's administrators. Its confidential staff is composed of Deputy Clerk Mendy Clark and maintenance supervisor Jack Aldrich. Confidential employees are those who are not administrators or members of the school district's teacher or classified staff bargaining units.

The administrators and confidential staff members also received a boost of \$40 per month in the money they receive to pay for health insurance premiums.

Wells noted the pay and benefit increases received by the administrators and confidential staff are the same as those received by its teachers and classified staff. Classified staff employees include cooks, secretaries, custodians, grounds crew members and education aids.

In other matters at Wednesday's meeting, the school board spoke with Union County Sheriff's Deputy Tony Humphries about the work he will do as the district's new school resource officer in 2018-19. Humphries will provide at least 10 hours of service a week to the Union School District, which is believed to have never had a school resource officer until now. Humphries will also serve as SRO for the North Powder, Cove and La Grande school districts, who are pooling funds to pay for Humphries' services.

In La Grande, Humphries will assist Cody Bowen. Also

a Union County Sheriff's Deputy, Bowen is the La Grande School District's full-time school resource officer.

Wells said Humphries will help train staff for emergency situations and work with students.

"He will be making sure we create as safe an environment as possible for our students and staff," the superintendent said.

Wells said Humphries is an ideal fit for the Union School District. He noted Humphries lives in Union and already knows many students in the school district because he has taught sixth grade Drug Abuse Resistance Education classes there.

"He will be a valuable asset to the school district," Wells said.

R & C FAMILY STORE
Footwear for the Family
2700 Bearco Loop
La Grande
541-963-8898

SLOVENIA:
Land of Beekeeping
Saturday, July 14th
10 am - 12 pm
Reverend Andy Kennaly
Presbyterian Friendship Center
1204 Spring Avenue
Andy will demonstrate the A-Z Hive System for beekeeping. Light, honey-sweet refreshments will be provided.

THANK YOU EASTERN OREGON
for choosing us for your paint, stains, windows, auto glass & art supplies!

50 Years IN BUSINESS

La Grande Paint & Glass
541-963-8671
601 Adams Ave. La Grande, OR • LaGrandePaint.com

ROGERS OF HERMISTON INDEPENDENCE DAY SELL-A-BRATION

NEW 2018 TACOMA \$299/MO
SRS DBL CAB V6 4X4

NEW 2018 CAMRY SE \$296/MO

ALL NEW 2018 RAV4 AND RAV4 HYBRIDS IN STOCK! \$3,500 REBATES

ROGERS OF HERMISTON
We Care About What You're Driving!
541.567.6461 | 1.800.522.2308
1550 N. 1st Street
Hermiston, OR 97838
toyotaofhermiston.com

SERVICE HOURS: MON-FRI 7 am - 5:30 pm SAT 8 am - 5 pm SALES HOURS: MON-SAT 8:30 am - 7 pm SUN 10 am - 5 pm