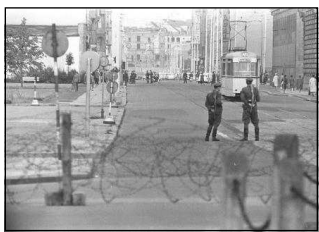


DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Monday, Aug. 13, the 225th day of 2018. There are 140 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On August 13, 1961, East Germany sealed off the border between Berlin's eastern and western sectors before building a wall that would divide the city for the next 28 years.

ON THIS DATE

In 1521, Spanish conqueror Hernando Cortez captured Tenochtitlan (teh-natch-teet-LAHN'), present-day Mexico City, from the Aztecs.

In 1792, French revolutionaries imprisoned the royal family.

In 1846, the American flag was raised for the first time in Los Angeles.

In 1910, Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, died in London at age 90.

In 1932, Adolf Hitler rejected the post of vice chancellor of Germany, saying he was prepared to hold out "for all or nothing."

In 1942, Walt Disney's animated feature "Bambi" had its U.S. premiere at Radio City Music Hall in New York, five days after its world premiere in London.

In 1960, the first two-way telephone conversation by satellite took place with the help of Echo 1. The Central African Republic became totally independent of French rule.

In 1967, the crime caper biopic "Bonnie and Clyde," starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway, had its U.S. premiere; the movie, directed by Arthur Penn, was considered shocking as well as innovative for its graphic portrayal of violence.

AIR QUALITY INDEX

Via Oregon DEQ As of 11 a.m., Aug. 13 La Grande: 29 (Good) Enterprise: 28 (Good) Baker City: 30 (Good)

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$5.6 million 4-8-9-15-20-43

Mega Millions: \$75 million 1-3-12-22-42-6-x5

Powerball: \$40 million 5-43-56-62-68 PB 24-x2

Win for Life: Aug. 11 4-17-43-55

Pick 4: Aug. 12

- 1 p.m.: 5-9-1-9
• 4 p.m.: 0-7-9-0
• 7 p.m.: 7-4-7-6
• 10 p.m.: 4-0-7-6
Pick 4: Aug. 11
• 1 p.m.: 9-6-5-1
• 4 p.m.: 9-0-4-1
• 7 p.m.: 6-9-8-8
• 10 p.m.: 3-2-8-2
Pick 4: Aug. 10
• 1 p.m.: 3-7-7-2
• 4 p.m.: 1-5-5-7
• 7 p.m.: 1-8-3-6
• 10 p.m.: 7-3-8-0

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The great business of life is to be, to do, to do without, and to depart." — John, Viscount Morley of Blackburn, English journalist (1838-1923).

Ban on land deals could hurt bird population

Sage grouse population may be affected by directive

By Dan Elliott The Associated Press

DENVER — Some governors in the U.S. West say a new Trump administration directive threatens to undermine a hard-won compromise aimed at saving a beleaguered bird scattered across their region.

The directive, issued in late July, severely limits a type of land swap involving federal property. Critics say that eliminates an important technique for saving habitat for the shrinking population of greater sage grouse.

"It took one of our tools out of the toolbox," said John Swartout, an adviser to Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper.

Hickenlooper told federal officials in an Aug. 2 letter that he opposes the change. Nevada, Oregon and Utah also expressed opposition or concern.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which issued the directive, said the agency would work with the governors on "adjusted" plans.

Greater sage grouse are spiky-tailed, ground-dwelling birds about the size of chickens. They are best known for the males' showy displays in springtime mating dances.

They once numbered in

the millions, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now estimates the population at 200,000 to 500,000. Experts blame energy development that broke up the bird's habitat, along with disease, livestock grazing and other causes.

Their range covers about 270,000 square miles in parts of 11 Western U.S. states and two Canadian provinces. The largest concentrations are in Wyoming, Montana, Nevada and Idaho.

In 2010, the Obama administration said the bird would need protection under the Endangered Species Act, which would have brought restrictions on drilling, mining, ranching and other development.

But in 2015, the administration reversed course, announcing an intricate agreement called the Sage Grouse Initiative that relied on federal agencies, states, ranchers and others to save the bird without invoking potentially stricter limits under the endangered species law.

One tool that states planned to use was requiring developers — such as energy companies drilling for oil — to replace destroyed or damaged habitat with similar land elsewhere. The practice is called "off-site compensatory mitigation" and is envisioned as a last resort, if the damage cannot be avoided or minimized.

But the Bureau of Land Management, which oversees about 388,000

square miles of public land, announced on July 24 that it would no longer use mandatory off-site compensatory mitigation on most federal land.

The bureau said it did not have the legal authority to enforce the requirement. It was one of numerous Obama-era environmental regulations and practices rolled back by the Trump administration.

Some state officials and environmental groups worry the government's decision to back away from the mitigation tool could weaken the Sage Grouse Initiative and make it harder to save the bird.

Hickenlooper, a Democrat, wrote a letter to the Bureau of Land Management saying the move "jeopardizes BLM's ability to implement or enforce critical components" of the federal plan for the greater sage grouse in his state. He withdrew his support for the most recent version of the plan.

Jason Miner, an adviser to Oregon Democratic Gov. Kate Brown, told federal officials the state was "concerned and unresponsive."

Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval and Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, both Republicans, also expressed concern and asked for more information.

"Compensatory mitigation is an important part of Utah's conservation plan for sage grouse, which is why the state is requesting a meeting with the BLM



WesCom News Archive

A new directive may severely limit the type of land needed to save the sage grouse population.

to discuss this potential conflict," Herbert spokesman Paul Edwards said in a written statement.

But Wyoming officials said they believe the new directive still allows them to require off-site mitigation plans, with Bureau of Land Management agreement.

Bureau spokeswoman Heather Feeney said the agency would still consider mandatory mitigation plans if they are required by states or other third parties, but she left open the possibility they would be rejected.

Federal officials could not provide details on how often the mitigation plans have been used.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is often consulted by other agencies on such plans and every year provides tens of thousands of comments and recommendations on them, said Gary Frazer, the agency's assis-

tant director for ecological services.

Frazer said mitigation plans have been used for species ranging from condors to the desert tortoise, but a comprehensive list wasn't available.

"I don't think we know what the implications will be," Frazer said of the Bureau of Land Management directive.

Colorado officials said they were optimistic the states and the bureau could come up with a workable solution. Utah officials said they were happy with most of the rest of the bureau's sage grouse plans.

Environmental groups were worried.

"Right now, the compensatory mitigation requirements are a key tool," said Nada Culver of The Wilderness Society. "Without them, there is no way to ensure we don't keep losing sage grouse habitat."

Redmond's tech interns reprogram, fix student laptops

By Jackson Hogan WesCom News Service

REDMOND — When Redmond School District realized it had more than 4,000 electronic devices and laptops that needed to be programmed, fixed or scrapped for parts this summer, and not enough information technology staff to handle the workload, officials tried a new strategy: student interns

According to Mike Nye, assistant director of instructional technology for the district, the plan has worked beautifully.

"They are more than kicking hiney," Nye said of the four teenage interns. "I can't say it enough of how impressed I am with their level of professionalism and skill."

According to Nye, the district received slightly fewer than 20 applications for the tech internships, and four were chosen: incoming Redmond High School seniors Isaac Hathaway and Owen Goodrich and recent graduates Joshua Hair and Nicholas Cantwell, who graduated from Redmond and Ridgeview high schools, respectively.

"We pretty much found a core of superstars," Nye said. "These guys bubbled to the top, but everybody who applied for this were more than capable."

The teens say they're enjoying their \$12-per-hour, 30-hours-per-week summer job, which is providing valuable experience and is more pleasant than some other high school summer jobs.

"(Getting selected) was really exciting, because I'm not

going to have to be working in some kind of fast-food restaurant," said Goodrich, 17.

The interns are helping the district with many tech-related tasks, most of them revolving around the Chromebook laptops that each middle and high school student uses in class. Nye said the district ordered 2,000 new Chromebooks for the high schools, and the interns had to get them ready for classes in September. To save time and effort, the interns programmed a collection of tiny, single-task computers called Arduinos to automate the process for coding all the laptops. They simply plug the Arduinos into the laptops and walk away.

Another project involves about 2,000 old Chromebooks, some going to the middle schools and others to be stored for spare parts. The interns check each one to see which are in good condition, which need fixing and which should be scrapped.

"Every device is different, every one has a different problem, and they are diagnosing it on the spot," Nye said.

The interns have also refurbished computer lab computers for the middle and high schools.

If the four teens weren't helping the school district, many of these projects would have been postponed until the school year started, Nye said.

"We had such a massive summer in terms of what we needed to get done that we honestly couldn't get it all done with our team that we run every day," he said.

"We just didn't have enough hands to do everything that we needed to do."

All four interns said they planned on pursuing a career in the tech field. Cantwell, 18, will attend Drexel University in Philadelphia to study computer science and computer engineering, and said he's deciding between a couple of different types of computer work. He said he has been interested in computers since he was 4, and recently built his own laptop.

Hathaway, 17, who commutes out-of-district from Powell Butte to attend Redmond High, said he got hooked into the tech world while playing video games as a kid, particularly Minecraft. In high school, he started tinkering with his gaming laptop, and eventually built his own PC this summer. He said he wants to work with artificial intelligence after college.

Goodrich said he was destined to be interested in computers, since everyone in his generation "was born with an iPhone in hand," but he always had a drive to pursue tech deeper.

"As I got older, (I became) more curious (and asked), 'Why does this work?' and not just accepting that Instagram works the way it is because of magic," he said.

As an adult, Goodrich said he wants to engineer rockets for the space exploration

company SpaceX.

Hair, 18, was also sucked into the world of computers through video games, and will be studying computer science at Linfield College in McMinnville. He said working with the three other interns has sharpened his computer skills.

"The funny thing is, I'm really interested in this stuff, but ... these guys are way above where I'm at," he said. "It was really nice to be able to learn a lot from them and use what I know and share with them."

The teens have passions and skills outside of tech as well. Goodrich said he plays three instruments and competed at state with his baritone horn. Hathaway is a two-sport athlete — cross country and tennis — and has maintained a 4.0 GPA. And Hair, a star basketball

player for the Redmond Panthers, will play hoops for Linfield in the winter.



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