

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Friday, Aug. 17, the 229th day of 2018. There are 136 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Aug. 17, 1943, the Allied conquest of Sicily during World War II was completed as U.S. and British forces entered Messina.

ON THIS DATE

In 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat began heading up the Hudson River on its successful round trip between New York and Albany.

In 1915, a mob in Cobb County, Georgia, lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, 31, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who'd maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.)

In 1942, during World War II, U.S. 8th Air Force bombers attacked German forces in Rouen, France. U.S. Marines raided a Japanese seaplane base on Makin Island.

In 1969, Hurricane Camille slammed into the Mississippi coast as a Category 5 storm that was blamed for 256 U.S. deaths and three in Cuba.

In 1978, the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris.

In 1982, the first commercially produced compact discs, a recording of ABBA's "The Visitors," were pressed at a Philips factory near Hanover, West Germany.

AIR QUALITY INDEX

Via Oregon DEQ
As of 11 a.m., Aug. 17
La Grande: 71 (Moderate)
Enterprise: 63 (Moderate)
Baker City: 62 (Moderate)

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$5.8 million
2-10-25-35-41-45

Mega Millions: \$88 million
11-26-44-45-46-11-x2

Powerball: \$50 million
12-15-28-47-48-PB 16-x2

Win for Life: Aug. 15
22-38-40-44

Pick 4: Aug. 16
• 1 p.m.: 3-6-2-1
• 4 p.m.: 7-0-1-1
• 7 p.m.: 4-1-7-0
• 10 p.m.: 8-6-3-7

Pick 4: Aug. 15
• 1 p.m.: 1-6-2-2
• 4 p.m.: 8-1-5-7
• 7 p.m.: 9-1-7-5
• 10 p.m.: 0-4-5-1

Pick 4: Aug. 14
• 1 p.m.: 4-9-8-0
• 4 p.m.: 5-2-1-7
• 7 p.m.: 2-1-7-9
• 10 p.m.: 1-0-4-9

ROAD REPORT

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

NEWSPAPER LATE?

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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

"It is not love that is blind, but jealousy."
— Lawrence Durrell, British-born author (1912-1990)

La Grande School District to begin work on strategic plan

By Dick Mason
The Observer

A drive to create a strategic plan for the La Grande School District's future is being launched by its Strategic Planning Committee. Work on the strategic plan will begin after the committee first develops belief, mission and vision statements, which the strategic plan will align with. The statements will be developed after Strategic Planning Committee members take input from the public at focus group meetings.

"We want to create vision and mission statements linked to the values people will be talking to us about," said La Grande School District Superintendent George Mendoza, a member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

A belief statement lists the values community members want school administrators, teachers and staff to have. A mission statement describes the purpose of an organization, and a vision statement tells what an organization wants to become.

The Strategic Planning Committee has about 15 members, including La Grande School District staff, members of the community and representatives from the La Grande School Board, Union County Sheriff's Office and Union County Board of Commissioners.

The committee will be in charge of recommending a set of priorities for the strategic plan it creates. Danella Wilson, the La Grande School Board's representa-

tive on the committee, said it may look into asking the school district to prioritize having teachers receive additional training for helping students who are facing uncommonly challenging situations in their lives. She referred to this as "trauma-informed teaching."

Joe Justice, chair of the La Grande School Board, is not a member of the Strategic Planning Committee but will be following its progress closely. He said the committee will identify where the school district needs to concentrate more of its energy and resources.

"We need to focus our efforts on where the gaps are," he said.

Mendoza emphasized that input from local focus groups will be given serious consideration by the committee.

"This will give the community a sense of ownership," he said.

Focus groups committee members will meet with include staff at La Grande High School, La Grande Middle School, elementary schools and Eastern Oregon University, plus business leader, senior citizen, student, nonprofit, community service and government agency groups. An open public meeting may also be conducted.

Union County Commissioner Donna Beverage, a member of the Strategic Committee, said developing an official strategic plan will strengthen ties between the school district and the public.

"It is exciting to bring people together to plan for

what is best for our county and our kids," she said.

Beverage said she would like the committee to look into getting local businesses to share with school district educators what skills they need in the people they hire, so that the school district can better focus on giving students the training they need to land jobs in the county.

Beverage also made reference to the La Grande School District's growing Career Technical Education program. She said some of the new CTE facilities La Grande High School now has for vocational training could also be available for night classes for adults. This is one of the possibilities she would like to see the Strategic Planning Committee explore.

She emphasized, though, that those still in school are who the Strategic Planning Committee will be focusing on.

"It is really all about kids. Kids are the main focus," Beverage said.

The La Grande School District's Strategic Planning Committee, which conducted its first meeting earlier this month, is being facilitated by Jerry Colonna, a retired school district superintendent of the Beaverton and Redmond school districts. Colonna was in charge of those school districts when they created strategic plans and now guides other school districts in the state as they create their own plans. Since retiring, he has helped the North Bend, St. Helens, Silver Falls (Silverton) and Seaside school districts develop

strategic plans.

Colonna, who lives in Bend, said that it is less difficult to develop strategic plans for relatively smaller school districts, like La Grande, which has about 2,400 students.

"It is easier to make systemic changes through the entire system in a school district like La Grande," he

said. "It is the ideal size to work with."

Once the belief, mission and vision statements are completed and approved by the La Grande School Board, the committee will create its strategic plan, Colonna said. This will be submitted to the school board for adoption in June 2019.

Willora (Willie) George

May 16, 1942 - August 13, 2018



Willora (Willie) Marcelle George died on August 13, 2018 of cancer. Willie was born on May 16, 1942 in La Grande, Oregon to Marvin and Gertrude Titus. She was a member of the United Methodist Church in Union, Oregon.

Willie married Rodney Paul George in Union on August 25, 1963.

They later divorced. Willie and Rod had two children, Bradley P. George and Rebecca (Becky) H. George.

Willie was active in sports in high school and then turned to coaching. She was an integral part of getting girls little league softball started in La Grande in 1980. She and her children coached for many years.

When Willie wasn't on the field she was in the classroom as an educational assistant in special education. She started working in the La Grande School District at Island City Elementary School in 1980 before ending her career more than 20 years later at Baker High School.

Willie enjoyed gardening, feeding her backyard birds, being outside and spending time with her family and friends. Some of her favorite memories were formed during her trips to the Willamette Valley to visit family and be with her grandchildren. Her most favorite destination was Cape Kiwanda in Pacific City, Oregon. She was also a faithful supporter of University of Oregon football, basketball and softball as well as Kansas Jayhawks men's basketball.

Willie will be remembered for her get 'er done attitude and for the fact that she never met a stranger. Willie made a lot of friends just by striking up a conversation with the person standing next to her.

Willie was preceded in death by her parents and numerous uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Willie is survived by son Bradley P. George (Irina), daughter Rebecca (Becky) H. George (Nickie), sister Cinda Petersen, brothers Norman Titus (Carol), Ron Titus (Dorothy), and Richard Titus. Grandchildren Nicholas George, Olivia George and Ryan George. Numerous cousins, nephews, nieces and longtime companion Susan Hinzpeter.

Willie's family and friends will be hosting a Celebration of Life at the pavilion at Pioneer Park in La Grande, Oregon on Saturday, August 25 at 11 am, and also encourage you to share your favorite memories in writing or by photo on her tribute wall at the Gray's West and Company website (grayswest.com).

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Willie's honor to the Billie Ruth Bootsma Clinic Fund or the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Alternatively, a Sam Marcum Field Improvement Project, to improve the dugouts and backstop at the Pioneer Park girls softball field, is available to accept memorial contributions. Contributions to the Improvement Project can be mailed to P.O. Box 1133, La Grande, OR 97850.

Missing hiker found on Mount St. Helens ate berries, bees

The Associated Press

COUGAR, Wash. — An Ohio man who was missing on Mount St. Helens was found Wednesday on a flank of the peak nearly a week after he set out on a day hike and survived by eating berries and bees, authorities and the man's relatives said.

Matthew B. Matheny, 40, of Warren, Ohio, was in good condition, talking and did not appear to have suffered life-threatening injuries but was flown to a hospital to spend the night as a precaution, the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

His parents told reporters outside the Vancouver, Washington, hospital that he was being treated for dehydration and would stay overnight, adding that he ate berries and killed bees that he also ate.

Matheny, 40, was not familiar with the terrain, got lost and had not seen anyone since Aug. 9, they said.

Friends last saw Matthew Matheny when he borrowed a car and headed to Blue Lake Trail on the southwest side of St. Helens. They reported him missing after he failed to return, prompting a search. A sheriff's deputy found the borrowed Subaru Outback at the trailhead on Saturday.

About 30 search-and-rescue personnel, assisted by helicopters, tracking dogs and a drone operated by the sheriff's office searched for him daily.

Searchers on Tuesday decided to focus on a 1-square-mile area based on cellphone signals and

a computer model that sought to predict Matheny's movements.

Blue Lake Trail is a short walk through meadows and tall fir trees to Blue Lake, according to the Washington Trails Association. Beyond the lake, hikers can access other trails and ridges, leading to views

of Mount St. Helens and Mount Adams.

Matheny was found below a different trail, authorities said.

"He was in the free forest at this point. He lost the trail and he fell down the steep back," said Paul Pepper, a member of the rescue team.

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