

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Monday, Aug. 20, the 232nd day of 2018. There are 133 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On August 20, 1953, the Soviet Union publicly acknowledged it had tested a hydrogen bomb.

ON THIS DATE

In 1866, President Andrew Johnson formally declared the Civil War over, months after fighting had stopped.

In 1910, a series of forest fires swept through parts of Idaho, Montana and Washington, killing at least 85 people and burning some 3 million acres.

In 1914, German forces occupied Brussels, Belgium, during World War I.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, a nearly \$1 billion anti-poverty measure.

AIR QUALITY INDEX

Via Oregon DEQ
As of 11 a.m., Aug. 6
La Grande: 203 (Very Unhealthy)
Cove City Hall: 169 (Unhealthy)
Enterprise: 89 (Moderate)
Baker City: 130 (Unhealthy for sensitive groups)

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$5.9 million
11-15-17-25-29-33

Mega Millions: \$102 million
1-31-32-47-56-3-x2

Powerball: \$60 million
24-34-52-61-67 PB 16-x3

Win for Life: Aug. 18
8-26-33-37

Pick 4:

- Aug. 19
- 1 p.m.: 7-3-9-1
- 4 p.m.: 4-9-9-7
- 7 p.m.: 4-2-9-8
- 10 p.m.: 9-7-5-1
- Aug. 18
- 1 p.m.: 8-2-6-8
- 4 p.m.: 5-3-2-2
- 7 p.m.: 9-8-8-1
- 10 p.m.: 4-3-1-9
- Aug. 17
- 1 p.m.: 8-9-5-8
- 4 p.m.: 1-1-4-4
- 7 p.m.: 4-0-2-8
- 10 p.m.: 7-0-7-8

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

"Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity."

— Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian author (1918-2008).

GRANDE RONDE HISTORY



Q: WAS LA GRANDE EVER A MOTORCYCLE RACING HOTBED?

By Dick Mason, The Observer

A: Yes — a century ago.

La Grande is not known for motorcycle racing today, but 100 years ago it had an annual motorcycle competition that attracted national attention — the Speed 'Em Up races.

The event, which drew more than thousand spectators according to the July, 1917 issues of the La Grande Evening Observer, was conducted each summer from 1913 to 1917 and was saluted in national publications such as "Motorcycling and Cycling" magazine.

"La Grande is a town of only about 7,000, but when it comes to doing things right it has all the other cities and towns in the U.S.A. backed off the map," wrote Frank Richardson Pierce in a story in the July 30, 1917, edition of "Motorcycling and Bicycling."

The Speed 'Em Up event, which included automobile races, was held four miles from La Grande on a 1.5-mile track. Spectators watched from a covered

grandstand.

"It is before this that the automobiles and motorcyclists who flirt with laws of gravitation will flit on two eventful days," said a reporter in a story in the July 1917 edition of The La Grande Evening Observer.

People also watched from vehicles parked around the track at key vantage points. "The whole event is picturesque, the speeding autos, the dusty motorcycle riders, the large crew and the hundreds of autos making a scene that won't soon be forgotten," the Evening Observer reporter wrote.

The event was high-tech for its era — a telephone line was brought to the site of the races, which allowed spectators to receive important telegrams and was

used to inform spectators of the race results.

The Speed 'Em Up races of 1917 ranged in distance from five to 25 miles for motorcycles and 10 to 50 miles for automobiles. In previous years there were races considerably longer but they were discontinued in 1917 because the spectators had grown tired of them.

"There will be none of the tedious affairs of the past. Fifty miles is the longest. Marathons don't prove generally popular while the clamor for 35 and 50 mile races has always been marked and this year will be appeased," a story in the June 28, 1917, Observer said.

A wall of canvas about 350 yards long was placed outside the track for the

1917 races to prevent people who did not pay admission from watching the races. The year before, people in about 100 cars had watched the races from a popular vantage point while refusing to pay admission.

Taxi fare to the races from La Grande was 25 cents in 1917.

The star of the 1917 Speed 'Em Up races was motorcyclist Dustin Farnum of Portland. He won the Western Grand Prize 50-mile event and the 25-mile Northwest Championship. Farnum collected \$550 for

About the series

Grande Ronde History stories explore the area's unique ties to historical events and phenomena. Do you have a story idea or photo for this feature? Email news@lagrandeobserver.com.

winning these races.

Almost all of the motorcycles ridden at the 1917 Speed 'Em Up races were either Indian or Harley-Davidson models.

Crews get a handle on Stubblefield fire, but smoke expected to get worse

East Oregonian staff

CONDON — The Stubblefield fire near Condon in southern Gilliam County is about 30 percent contained, but smoke from it and other fires in the Northwest is expected to hang in the area for the next few days.

According to a Sunday afternoon release from the Oregon Fire Marshal, crews are making steady progress on the Stubblefield fire, which has grown to 16,700 acres. On Sunday there were 21 fire engines, five water tenders and 91 firefighters from agencies around the state.

A Level 2 "Be Set" evacuation readiness order was issued by the Gilliam County Sheriff's Office Saturday and remained in effect Sunday for the north end of Ferry Canyon Road and the west end of Richmond Lane. The sheriff's office asked everyone to avoid

the area to allow fire crews easier access.

Firefighters will burn out areas in front of the fire to reduce fuel and stop its growth, according to the release, and that will create even more smoke.

Crews are paying particular attention to stopping any fire progress toward Condon. A helicopter is using bucket drops and another is flying reconnaissance in that effort.

Another thunderstorm may be coming into the area Sunday afternoon, with the possibility of rain.

The National Weather Service has issued a warning that smoke is expected to get worse in the Mid-Columbia for the next few

days. Updated information can be found at www.airnow.gov.

Further west, fire crews are working on the Westcliff fire, which is northwest of Hood River between Interstate 84 and the Columbia River. The fire was reported after midnight Sunday, starting in a structure and moving into rugged cliffs. Residents in the area were forced to evacuate.

It was about five acres Sunday morning, but increasing winds through the afternoon were expected to make it difficult to control.

Union Pacific closed railroad lines north of the fire as a precaution, according to a press release.

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