## Daily PLANNER

#### **TODAY**

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 22, the 234th day of 2018. There are 131 days left in the



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On August 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon was nominated for a second term of office by the Republican National Convention in Miami Beach,

#### ON THIS DATE

In 1787, inventor John Fitch demonstrated his steamboat on the Delaware River to delegates from the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

In 1851, the schooner America outraced more than a dozen British vessels off the English coast to win a trophy that came to be known as the America's Cup.

#### **AIR QUALITY INDEX**

Via Oregon DEQ As of 11 a.m., Aug. 22 La Grande: 66 (Moderate) Cove City Hall: 63 (Moderate) Enterprise: 56 (Moderate) Baker City: 63 (Moderate)

#### **LOTTERY**

Megabucks: \$6 million 3-8-16-26-31-45

Mega Millions: \$118 million 14-16-19-38-57-11 x3

Powerball: \$60 million 24-34-52-61-67-PB16-x3

Win for Life: Aug. 20

49-53-53-76 Pick 4: Aug. 21

- •1 p.m.: 4-7-8-8
- •4 p.m.: 4-7-7-5 • 7 p.m.: 0-4-6-7
- 10 p.m.: 8-5-1-3 Pick 4: Aug.20
- 1 p.m.: 8-8-1-8 • 4 p.m.: 8-4-5-8
- 7 p.m.: 5-9-3-2 • 10 p.m.: 9-8-8-6
- Pick 4: Aug 3
- •1 p.m.: 7-3-9-1 1 p.m.: 4-9-9-
- 7 p.m.: 4-2-9-8
- 10 p.m.: 9-7-5-1

#### **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 OFTHE DAY** "Life does not give itself to one who tries to keep all its advantages at once. I have often thought morality may perhaps consist solely in the courage of making a choice." - Leon Blum, French statesman (1872-1950)



The GranadaTheatre in downtown La Grande plays host to the Eastern Oregon Film Festival, a three-day event set to return to screens Oct. 18-20

# EOFF preps for ninth year in the county

By Audrey Love

It's been affectionately referred to as "the little fest that could," but the brainchild of co-founders Chris Jennings and Ian Clark has morphed into a small but mighty force to contend with in the film festival

world. The Eastern Oregon Film Festival was born out of La Grande's now-defunct Crossing the Blues Festival. The idea first took form as a summer film project strictly for the filmmakers' own amusement, but the project quickly evolved into a makeshift, one-nightonly micro festival, held at the former Mt. Emily Ale House,

After that first (unofficially official) year, the fest sprouted a name, non-profit status and partnership with the Granada Theatre, "busting hump," as Jennings put it, to build up the festival year after year.

"Over the years (we've) been chipping away at audience building and slowly getting a strong annual audience that comes locally and regionally," Jennings said of the event's growth, "but each year we pull more and more from outside the region.

The official selections for this year's EOFF, scheduled for Oct. 18-20, were just released — a total of 27 films and an additional 14 films available only online through Filmmaker Magazine. The three-day event combines intimate screenings, live conversations and Q&A with filmmakers, special presentations from visiting artists and more, with after parties and live music to cap off the night. So far, 13 of the selected filmmakers are due to

make an appearance, "That's where I think our strong suit really lies — it's an artist-friendly festival," Jennings said."We work very hard from the get-go to bring really amazing talent to the table, and (we) provide them a unique experience here that's different than any other festival they've ever gone to. That's our goal — to make

sure those artists come to town and feel supported so they leave with a fondness for the valley."

In the nine years since its inception, the Eastern Oregon Film Festival has undoubtedly bolstered its reputation. Named in 2017 as one of MovieMaker Magazine's "25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World," the fest is breaking out of its Eastern Oregon bubble and resonating with larger Boise and Portland markets — coinciding with Portland's explosion as a hotbed for both independent movie making and entertainment production in recent years. With greater notoriety came a noticeable shift in the submission process — nearly 75 percent of the films EOFF received this year were submitted through their website, compared to only 30 percent last year.

"Over the years we've moved from a highly curatorial program, where we've had to reach out to distributors (such as SXSW and Sundance) trying to grab these films," Jennings said. "Or we'd get submissions (that) weren't the caliber we needed. That has shifted to where we're no longer reaching out, they re coming to us."

EOFF's growth, however, is somewhat stunted by its small-town roots—

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