Daily Planner

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 19, the 262nd day of 2018. There are 103 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Sept. 19, 1881, the 20th president of the United States, James A. Garfield, died 2-1/2 months after being shot by Charles Guiteau; Chester Alan Arthur became president.

ON THIS DATE

In 1777, the first Battle of Saratoga was fought during the Revolutionary War; although British forces succeeded in driving out the American troops, the Americans prevailed in a second battle the following month.

In 1783, Jacques Etienne Montgolfier (zhahk ayt-YEHN' mohn-gohl-fee-AY') launched a duck, a sheep and a rooster aboard a hot-air balloon at Versailles in France.

In 1796, President George Washington's farewell address was published. In it, America's first chief executive advised, "Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all."

In 1934, Bruno Hauptmann was arrested in New York and charged with the kidnap-murder of 20-month-old Charles A. Lindbergh Jr.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: $7.2 million
917-18-27-36-47

Mega Millions: $275 million
31-32-43-63-68-17-x2

Powerball: $269 million
2-18-19-24-34-PB 3-x3

Win for Life: Sept. 17
8-32-50-53

Pick 4: Sept. 18
- 1 p.m.: 3-0-4-9
- 4 p.m.: 3-4-5-5
- 7 p.m.: 9-4-7-9
- 10 p.m.: 7-1-9-1

Pick 4: Sept. 17
- 1 p.m.: 1-8-6-1
- 4 p.m.: 8-2-8-9
- 7 p.m.: 8-3-1-6
- 10 p.m.: 2-8-4-0

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

"He who is unable to live in society, or who has no need because he is sufficient for himself, must be either a beast or a god; he is no part of a state."

— Aristotle, Greek philosopher (384 B.C.-322 B.C.)

Umatilla County Sheriff explains support of Measure 105 to Hispanic Advisory Committee

■ Roward said repeal would allow office to detain dangerous criminals, but won't focus solely on a person's immigration status

By Jade McDowell
East Oregonian

After signing a letter of support for repealing Oregon's sanctuary status, Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan explained his views on Measure 105 to Hermiston's Hispanic Advisory Committee on Monday.

Rowan

Measure 105, which will appear on November's ballot statewide, would repeal an Oregon law on the books since 1987 that forbids city, county and state law enforcement agencies from using their resources for "detecting or apprehending" people whose only violation of the law is being in the country without documentation.

Rowan said he is not interested in using the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office to detain people based solely on their immigration status. But he told the audience of about 30 people he believes repeal of Oregon's sanctuary law would allow law enforcement to communicate and coordinate with federal immigration officials about dangerous criminals who commit crimes such as murder or rape.

"I'm not talking about someone here without the right papers," he said. "If folks are coming here to make a better life for themselves I welcome them with open arms. It's those people who are coming here with criminal intentions that I'm focused on."

Rowan said over the years lawsuits and court rulings relating to the 1987 sanctuary law have restricted law enforcement beyond what the original law intended. For example, he said, when an undocumented immigrant committed a violent crime, the jail or prison used to let immigration officials know when the inmate was being released so that they could pick the person up and start deportation proceedings immediately. That doesn't happen anymore, he said, because law enforcement agencies live in fear of large civil penalties some agencies have experienced in the past when cooperating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

He said he had no intention of sending deputies to help with ICE raids, or asking victims about their immigration status or reporting hard-working people who are obeying the law other than their documentation.

But audience members at the Hispanic Advisory Committee meeting told Rowan that even if he felt that way, he couldn't guarantee other sheriffs and police chiefs wouldn't try to find otherwise law-abiding undocumented immigrants and get them deported.

"How are you sure others won't do that if passed, even if you do not?" Brenda Flores asked.

She said the measure is backed by Oregonians for Immigration Reform, which was labeled a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center for efforts to demonize immigrants and stoke fear of immigration.

She and other Latino audience members said they worried Measure 105 would lead to racial profiling — that they could be stopped or detained by police on suspicion of being in the country illegally based on what they looked like. They pointed out that the catalyst for the law in the first place was an incident in which police officers approached U.S. citizens of Latino descent in a restaurant and began interrogating them about their legal status.

Rowan said there are "very robust" laws against profiling on the books that would still exist if Measure 105 passed. The state is requiring large law enforcement agencies to start submitting their "stop data" this year and smaller agencies next year for independent analysis by a third party looking for patterns of racial profiling. He said his door is always open if anyone has a complaint.

Virginia Rome Garcia said Rowan spoke of not going after people whose only crime was being in the country illegally, but the same people who support Measure 105 already got a referendum passed to not allow undocumented immigrants to receive driver's licenses or car insurance. She asked what Rowan planned to do about undocumented immigrants who drove to work without a license.

Rowan said that was considered an infraction, not a crime, in Oregon. He said he would support something that said local law enforcement shouldn't contact ICE unless an incident rose to a certain level of misdemeanor. When asked how many times in a year he was seeing undocumented immigrants committing serious crimes that he wanted to work with ICE on, he said in the past year he had probably seen four cases.

Roy Barron, Hermiston's newest city councilor, said he respected Rowan's opinion but personally believed if Measure 105 passes it will create more fear of law enforcement in the Latino community and there could be unintended consequences beyond Rowan's desire to communicate with ICE about dangerous criminals.

"It just leaves way too much gray area that I'm not comfortable with," he said.

Kit Morgan and Rev. Charlotte Wells of Pendleton's Episcopal Church of the Redeemer both spoke out against Measure 105 at Monday's meeting. Morgan said he agrees with critics of the measure who say it will aid criminals by making undocumented victims and witnesses of crime afraid to go to law enforcement.

Measure 105 is sponsored by three Republican members of Oregon's legislature — Greg Barreto, who represents District 58, including Union County, Sal Esquivel of Medford and Mike Nearman of Independence. Sixteen of Oregon's 36 sheriffs, including Rowan and Union County Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen.

Outdoor school expand to include overnight stays

By Chris Collins
WesCom News Service

The Baker School District's traditional outdoor school has expanded to a four-day and three-night residential camp this year thanks to voter-approved funding to help all districts provide similar experiences for their students.

About 135 sixth-graders from South Baker Intermediate and Haines and Keating elementary schools are expected to attend the Outdoor School program at Camp Elkanah beginning Monday, Sept. 17, and returning home to their schools on Thursday, Sept. 20.

The residential camp established in 1956 includes 186 acres of forestland just off state Highway 244 southwest of La Grande. Camp Elkanah is operated by the Blue Mountain Association of Conservative Baptists.

Last year was the first in which money was provided through Ballot Measure 99 to help pay for Outdoor School programs. A total of $24 million was approved for the program's first two years.

The measure, which was approved by voters statewide in the November 2016 election, created the Outdoor School Education Fund financed by Oregon State Lottery money distributed for economic development. Baker County voters supported the measure by a margin of 4,744 to 3,776. The money is administered through the Oregon State University Extension Service. The Baker County Extension staff has been a traditional partner in the program over the years.

The 5J District received about $5,800 for its 2017-18 Outdoor School program, a rate of about $35 per student as reimbursement for expenses incurred during its daytime schedule of classes at the Elkhorn Wildlife Area along the North Powder River, 25 miles northwest of Baker City.

The Baker School District's Outdoor School, which started in 1992 and traditionally was scheduled in May, has taken place in September since the fall of 2011. The schedule was flipped from spring to fall because of the usually milder fall weather compared to Northeastern Oregon's unpredictably rainy, windy springs. On average, May is the wettest month here.

The Baker program was maintained over the years when other school districts were cutting their outdoor school programs thanks to contributions from Parent-Teacher organizations, grant funding and community partners and volunteers who contributed their support.

This year's residential camp is expected to cost about $225 per student, which includes on-site meals provided by Camp Elkanah, lodging and other services, said Betty Palmer, assistant superintendent.

Geno Bates, South Baker Intermediate principal, said about a dozen overnight chaperones have been recruited from among Eastern Oregon University students enrolled in the education program who are doing their fall student-teaching experience in various schools in the area, including the Baker 5J District.

Bates credits his experience as a college student for helping him get his first teaching job.

"I think it's a great opportunity," he said of the experience the college students will gain during the week. They also will receive a small stipend and money to cover the cost of transportation to the site, he said.

Sixth-grade teachers will also help with the program as they have in the past and at least one paraprofessional will travel to the site along with parent volunteers.

The residential camp model promoted by the state has actually found the Baker School District harkening back to its early beginnings when the District bused students to Camp Elkanah for an overnight stay, Palmer said.

Many improvements have been made at the camp since then to keep young people interested in the rustic experience. Those improvements include a Frisbee golf course, a challenge course, a rope swing and zip line, and a Slip N Slide.

Outdoor activities also will include group activities such as games of tug of war and capture the flag, said Dorothy Mason, who has coordinated the Outdoor School program for the past seven years. Before bedtime curfew is announced, students also will get together in the evenings to enjoy campfires, songs and s'mores.

Although this year's sixth-graders will find themselves in a new setting and awaiting different adventures from those of past classes, some things will remain unchanged, Mason says.

Twenty class sessions will be offered this year, up from 16 last year, with many of the same past instructors attending at the new location.

In addition to the traditional lessons on building bird boxes, archaeology, fire, and fish and wildlife, students will learn lessons provided by representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and the Blue Mountain Wildlife Center near Pendleton.

The center describes itself on its Facebook page as "a nonprofit, primarily volunteer organization, state and federally licensed to provide rehabilitation services to native wildlife in need of care (primarily raptors).

Lynn Tompkins, the center's executive director, and her husband, Bob Tompkins, assistant director, are expected to speak to the students about the work they do to with injured wildlife. They will bring raptors that have been rehabilitated at their center with them as part of their lesson, Mason said.