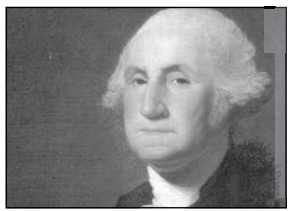


DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Monday, Sept. 24, the 267th day of 2018. There are 98 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On September 24, 1789, President George Washington signed a Judiciary Act establishing America's federal court system and creating the post of attorney general.

ON THIS DATE

In 1869, thousands of businessmen were ruined in a Wall Street panic known as "Black Friday" after financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk attempted to corner the gold market.

In 1890, the president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilford Woodruff, wrote a manifesto renouncing the practice of plural marriage, or polygamy.

In 1896, author F. Scott Fitzgerald was born in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In 1934, Babe Ruth made his farewell appearance as a player with the New York Yankees in a game against the Boston Red Sox. (The Sox won, 5-0.)

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a heart attack while on vacation in Denver.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$7.4 million
2-9-20-21-33-35

Mega Millions: \$303 million
1-2-11-52-64-9-x4

Powerball: \$193 million
24-61-63-64-69-PB 18-x5

Win for Life: Sept. 22
1-6-25-73

Pick 4: Sept. 23

- 1 p.m.: 1-9-2-5
- 4 p.m.: 2-9-5-5
- 7 p.m.: 4-3-7-4
- 10 p.m.: 2-1-3-3

Pick 4: Sept. 22

- 1 p.m.: 0-8-1-7
- 4 p.m.: 0-0-9-9
- 7 p.m.: 5-6-5-1
- 10 p.m.: 4-5-8-6

ROAD REPORT

Numbers to call:
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NEWSPAPER LATE?

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There was never a nation great until it came to the knowledge that it had nowhere in the world to go for help."

— Charles Dudley Warner, American author and editor (1829-1900).

NORTHEAST OREGON HISTORY

How many sitting or future U.S. Supreme Court justices have come to La Grande?

By Dick Mason, The Observer

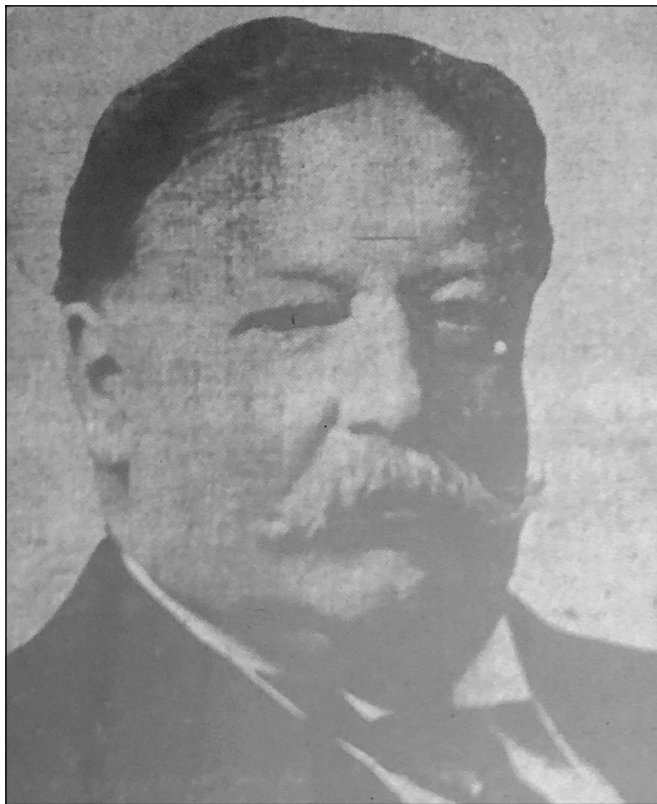
A: Two: William O. Douglas, who spoke at a banquet honoring him in 1950, and William Howard Taft, who stopped here in 1911 for little longer than the time it takes to tap a gavel.

Taft's brief visit is the most historically significant, for he was then in his third year as the United States' 27th president. He was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court a decade later.

Taft arrived in La Grande at 1 a.m. Oct. 7, 1911, aboard a westbound six-car presidential train, which stayed here a half hour so that a crew could shift its cars to different tracks. Some people waited for Taft to appear but he never did, according to an article in the Oct. 7, 1911, edition of The Observer.

Taft's train had left Huntington about three hours earlier. His train arrived in Pendleton at 3:45 a.m. and was in Walla Walla, Washington, by 7 a.m. Taft remained in the Northwest for almost a week and spent much of his time in western Oregon and Washington.

Thirteen months later Taft, an attorney, lost a bid for re-election. The defeat allowed him to return to his legal career, and in 1921 he realized a lifelong ambition when he was appointed chief justice of the U.S. Supreme



1908 Pack Bros., N.Y. photo
President William Howard Taft stopped in La Grande in 1911.

Court. Taft, who served on the court until his death in 1930, remains the only person to serve both as president and as a member of the Supreme Court.

Taft was the first of three sitting presidents to travel through La Grande. The

other two were Franklin Roosevelt, who came here Sept. 27, 1937, on a train that made a brief early morning stop, and Harry Truman, who gave a 10-minute talk from a train car May 10, 1950.

Douglas, who had been

appointed to the Supreme Court in 1939, was considered presidential timber when he spoke at a banquet in La Grande April 13, 1950. It was rumored he was considering a run for the presidency in 1952.

Douglas, however, insisted he would not run, according to a story in the April 14, 1950, Observer. He said he was more interested in breaking John Marshall's record of more than 34 years on the Supreme Court. Marshall served from 1901 to 1935.

Douglas was far from a stranger to Northeast Oregon when he spoke in La Grande. Over the previous decade he had spent much of his free time hiking and fishing in the Wallawas, according to the 2000 book "About Wallowa County" edited by Ellie Belew. His first visit to the Wallowa Mountains was in 1939, and he later bought land in Wallowa County where he built several cabins. He wrote about Wallowa County in his books "Of Men and Mountains" (1950) and "Go West, Young Man" (1974).

The Supreme Court jus-

About the series

Northeast Oregon History explores the area's unique ties to historical events and phenomena. Do you have a question or photo for this feature? Email news@lagrandeobserver.com.

tice was well received at the La Grande banquet, where he told many entertaining stories about his outdoor experiences, according to a story by James MacLean in the April 14, 1950, Observer.

"The effect of his words magically was like the final flow of a once leaping trail campfire in deepening night, beyond which rigors tasks of tomorrow," MacLean wrote.

The Observer writer said Douglas was so entertaining that he "kept a capacity audience of 650 in gales of laughter for 3-1/2 hours."

Douglas was completing his 11th year on the court. He would not retire until 1975 after serving more than 36 years. The 1920 graduate of Whitman College died in 1980.

Idaho Hydro-dipping company moves to Baker City

■ The company applies a range of graphics to plastic, metal objects

By Casey Crowley
WesCom News Service

Two brothers who started a business in Idaho and have the U.S. military as a major client have moved their company to Baker City.

Scott and Todd Springer created Hydro-Dip in 2007.

The term "hydro-dipping," which the Springers popularized in the industry, is the process of applying camouflage and other types of graphics to three-dimensional plastic or metal objects, ranging from motorcycle helmets to gun stocks to ATV parts, by dipping them in water.

The company deals with personal retail orders as well as larger contracts with other companies and government organizations.

When the Springers started their company, they planned to work out of a garage in Meridian.

But the tank they bought for hydro-dipping was too big, so they found a larger space to set up their business.

The Springers moved their company to Baker City earlier this year because they didn't want their kids to grow up in a larger city — Meridian's

population is about 95,000.

"I love it here — for me this is coming home," Scott Springer, 47, said.

Hydro-Dip is at 2300 Windmill Lane, east of Interstate 84 near the Campbell Street interchange.

Company history

Hydro-Dip started when the brothers were unemployed and looking for something new to do.

"We were always outdoorsmen. We loved hunting, we loved fishing and dipping wasn't being done on a retail level at that time," Todd Springer, 45, said.

Prior to starting the business, neither brother had experience managing or owning a business.

"We weren't going to have employees. We knew nothing about managing employees," Scott said.

But as the business grew it wasn't possible to handle all the work with just the two of them.

Hydro-Dip has employed as many as 14 people, although its current workforce numbers seven.

"We are not really HR guys. We are get-it-done guys, so to worry about everybody's feelings and learn all the things involved with managing employees (has) been probably the most difficult part of the business," Scott said.

The Springers' first contract came a lot sooner than

they expected. The brothers were working at their parents' embroidery shop when they received a call from an aerospace company. At the time they didn't even have keys to the building where their tank was located.

Growing the business was challenging.

They worked 20-hour days and seven days a week at times. Todd says he once went 168 days without taking a day off.

"We didn't realize it was as involved as what it really became," Todd said.

Damion Holmes, 40, has been with Hydro-Dip for about two years and is in charge of the company's retail projects.

Retail projects usually have a \$100 minimum. In the case of a single item that would cost less than \$100, Holmes tries to encourage the customer to have multiple items hydro-dipped rather than just one.

"There is not a template for every person. It all needs a personal touch," Holmes said.

While some customers think choosing a design is simple, Holmes said that process can sometimes require something like an interview.

Designs vary in cost depending on how complex the patterns are and the type of finish.

Finding employees

The Springers said they

have had trouble finding employees locally.

The company has been looking for painters as well as general labor but has not found enough applicants despite advertising the positions.

The company has hired one employee since moving to Baker City.

Before moving to Baker City they had heard that finding employees could be challenging, but they thought they may have an easier time because of the outdoors-inspired culture of the company.

The process to become proficient at using the hydro-dip tank can take up to two years, he said.

"Every new employee can't wait to get to the dip tank," Scott said. "Once they get there they realize, 'Holy hell, I need out of here.'"

Because of the hiring struggles, the company is willing to hire employees who need training on how to do the painting and hydro-dipping.

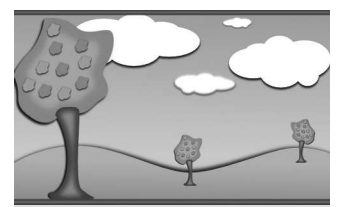
At first most people have a failure rate of around 30 percent when hydro-dipping, but after training and practice that number drops to around 10 percent.

Todd holds himself to the

standard of only 3 percent. If an item dip fails, the whole dipping process has to restart, which includes sanding and repainting the item before dipping it again.

"There has been a big learning curve over the last decade — it's never easy, it's never the same," Todd said.

In addition to doing hydro-dipping for a wide range of products, the company also sells do-it-yourself hydro-dip kits online for individuals and small businesses.



WINTER IS COMING

It's time to turn loose your inner gamer and try our new board games like Gizmos, Root, X-Wing 2.0, and You've Got Crabs. See you soon!

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