

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Friday, Sept. 28, the 271st day of 2018. There are 94 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Sept. 28, 1787, the Congress of the Confederation voted to send the just-completed Constitution of the United States to state legislatures for their approval.

ON THIS DATE

In 1542, Portuguese navigator Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo arrived at present-day San Diego.

In 1781, American forces in the Revolutionary War, backed by a French fleet, began their successful siege of Yorktown, Va.

In 1892, the first nighttime football game took place in Mansfield, Pennsylvania, as teams from Mansfield State Normal and Wyoming Seminary played under electric lights to a scoreless tie.

In 1920, eight members of the Chicago White Sox were indicted for allegedly throwing the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds. (All were acquitted at trial, but all eight were banned from the game for life.)

In 1928, Scottish medical researcher Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, the first effective antibiotic.

In 1964, comedian Harpo Marx, 75, died in Los Angeles.

In 1991, jazz great Miles Davis died in Santa Monica, Calif., at age 65.

In 1989, deposed Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii at age 72.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$7.6 million
7-17-24-35-38-41

Mega Millions: \$336 million
8-16-32-48-61-12 x2

Powerball: \$213 million
1-2-7-30-50-PB 8-x5

Win for Life: Sept. 26
13-25-32-41

Pick 4: Sept. 27

• 1 p.m.: 8-9-3-1
• 4 p.m.: 0-5-0-6
• 7 p.m.: 1-8-4-1

Pick 4: Sept. 25

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

ROAD REPORT

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

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"To fight oppression, and to work as best we can for a sane organization of society, we do not have to abandon the state of mind of freedom. If we do that we are letting the same tuggery in by the back door that we are fighting off in front of the house."

— John Dos Passos, American author (born 1896, died this date in 1970).

Idaho Power Company agrees to pay for repairs

■ Company will repair sections along Snake River near Brownlee Dam

By Jayson Jacoby
WesCom News Service

Idaho Power Company has hired a contractor to shore up two sections of the Snake River Road in Baker County where Brownlee Reservoir has undercut the gravel road as it crosses nearly vertical slopes.

The 41-mile road, which is maintained by the Baker County Road Department, runs between Huntington and Richland, following Brownlee Reservoir for much of that distance.

County Roadmaster Jeff Smith said he asked Idaho Power to work on three sections of the road.

He said officials from the company, which owns and operates Brownlee Dam, agreed that the reservoir was responsible for the road base erosion at two of the three sites.

One is at Canyon Creek near Swede's Landing, about 12 miles south of Richland, and the other is near Connor Creek, several miles farther

south. Smith said the third site, which is between the other two, will be the county's responsibility. Stabilization work there won't happen any sooner than next year, he said.

Brad Bowlin, a spokesman for Idaho Power, said the company hired Knife River Construction to stabilize the two other road sections.

Workers will drill nails into the hillside to hold a reinforced concrete wall in place, Bowlin said.

Work at Canyon Creek started last week and should be finished no later than Halloween, he said.

The road will not be closed during the project, but drivers should expect delays of 20 to 30 minutes and the road has been narrowed to a single lane.

The area near Connor Creek will be done in 2019, "when conditions permit," Bowlin said.

He declined to say how much the work will cost.

Smith said the erosion is a gradual and ongoing problem.

He said waves, created by wind and by boat wakes, accelerate the erosion. Smith also believes the fluctuating



Jayson Jacoby / WesCom News Service

Crews have started stabilizing a nearly vertical slope along the Snake River Road above Brownlee Reservoir about 12 miles south of Richland.

water level — the reservoir in many years drops 40 feet or below full pool during the spring refills in early summer and then begins to recede again — exacerbates the problem.

A study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found that "rapid reservoir drawdowns coupled with low permeabilities of bank sediments create particularly unstable situations, but slower drawdowns can also lead to failure conditions."

Fluctuating reservoirs can also affect the height of the water table and increase

subsurface erosion from groundwater, according to the study.

Bowlin said the federal license that allows Idaho Power to operate Brownlee, Oxbow and Hells Canyon dams requires the company to deal with effects the reservoirs might have on roads.

"In this case, it is likely that through time at this location, wave action caused by high winds when the reservoir is full contributed to erosion of the foot of the slope below the road, causing instability and eventual

slumping," Bowlin wrote in an email to the Herald. "The construction work will protect the slope from future reservoir related erosion and stabilize the road."

Smith said the Snake River Road, sections of which were built across steep slopes of loose rock, "is definitely the biggest challenge Baker County has because of the terrain and the reservoir."

"In places the road is basically stitched onto the side of a cliff, and it's a long ways down to the water," Smith said.

Fire from homeless camp threatens Pendleton homes

By Phil Wright
East Oregonian

Pendleton firefighters and residents on Northeast Ellis Place halted a grass fire that spread from a homeless camp to threaten homes and families Wednesday evening.

"We were a community working hard together last night," resident Luke Britt said.

Emergency dispatchers received 911 calls minutes after 7 p.m. Wednesday reporting a fire on the north side of the Umatilla River near the Brooke RV Park, 5 N.E. Eighth St. The Pendleton Fire Department responded, along with city police, Umatilla Tribal Fire Department and Pilot Rock and East Umatilla County fire districts.

The blaze was fast moving, according to the report

from Pendleton fire, and headed west and up the hill toward several homes. The steep terrain, limited access and the darkness made for a difficult attack, Pendleton fire Capt. Steve Brost stated in the report, but he credited "great communication and cooperation" between the responding agencies for getting the fire under control without anyone suffering injuries.

Britt recalled racing home to his wife and children from the other side of town when he heard about the fire, but Pendleton police stopped him at the intersection of Main Street because Ellis is so narrow. He said he sprinted the rest of the way home to find firefighters pushing down the blaze.

The fire rekindled Thursday around 1 a.m. Britt said

the flames reached 20 feet high and licked the leaves on the tree at the south edge of his property. He said he and a neighbor used garden hoses to take on the fire, then Pendleton firefighters drenched the flames.

A crew stayed at the site all night and Thursday morning at 10:20 again knocked down another rekindled fire.

The burn scorched about 8 acres and the cause is under investigation, Pendleton fire reported, but the likely origin was a homeless camp just west of the recreational vehicle park and near the banks of the Umatilla River.

Fire blackened much of the camp, but there was no obvious fire pit. Signs at the site Thursday morning pointed to a fast getaway — occupants left behind melted nylon tents and

plastic tarps and charred tennis shoes. Someone also left dirty syringes and needles near the main portion of the camp.

Britt said he told the city police about the camp, and other residents said police roused the campers some weeks ago. Once the hullabaloo died down, they returned.

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said police only have so much authority to deal with activities the homeless engage in, and recent developments in case law makes it tougher to prohibit people from resting and camping in public spaces. Police can break up a camp, but the occupants set up elsewhere.

"All we're really doing is displacing the problem," Roberts said.

Britt said he wants to see

the Pendleton Fire Department conduct more burns in grassy areas to limit the potential for big fires, or have the goats the city uses to eat the underbrush along the Umatilla River clear off hillsides.

"There's 10 times the volume of food up here," he said.

Britt also said this fire could be a catalyst for a change in dealing with the homeless population.

"We have to as a community decide how we're going to help with homelessness," he said.

The Pendleton police chief agreed.

"There needs to be something innovative and collaborative that's going to get to the root of the homeless issue," he said. "It's going to have to be a community-wide approach."

New bill in Senate aims to thin forests, stem wildfires

■ Merkley proposes bill that would create \$1 billion fund to go toward thinning forests

By Andrew Selsky

The Associated Press
SALEM — After a summer wildfire season that blanketed much of the West in smoke, U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley introduced a bill Wednesday that would reduce the severity of wildfire by thinning forests that are crowded with too many trees and have become fuel for megafires.

The bill would create a \$1 billion fund to allow the Forest Service to increase the pace and scale of wildfire reduction projects, empower federal agencies to work with local communities to plan and prepare for wildfires, and permanently reauthorize a collaborative forest restoration program that brings stakeholders together to thin forests.

"I'm hoping it'll become a bipartisan vision. Everybody who pays any attention to the forest sees these benefits," Merkley said, speaking from Washington

in a conference call with reporters.

As an example of how thinning can save communities, the Oregon Democrat cited a fire that was ignited by lightning one August afternoon in 2017 near the Oregon tourist town of Sisters. It spread fast. Residents in outlying areas fled as flames marched toward their homes.

Just a few months earlier, the U.S. Forest Service and a group of locals representing forest stakeholders arranged to thin part of the overgrown forest, creating a buffer zone around Sisters.

That effort saved homes, and perhaps the community of 2,500, by slowing the fire's progress and allowing firefighters to corral it.

The work was done by the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project, composed of loggers, environmentalists, local officials, recreation outfitters and others. It was one of 23 projects in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program, created in 2009 by Congress and that Merkley seeks permanent support for.

His bill would allow more projects to receive funding in a given fiscal year.

"It's way past time to do a lot more on the front end to make our forests more fire resilient," Merkley said.

He hopes the Senate will take up the bill after the

November elections.

Last year, 71,500 wildfires burned 10 million

acres nationwide, the second-largest figure on record.

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