

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Monday, Oct. 1, the 274th day of 2018. There are 91 days left in the year.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$77 million
7-9-18-41-43-45

Mega Millions: \$367 million
39-45-52-56-59-15 x3

Powerball: \$229 million
9-17-34-59-64-PB 22-x2

Win for Life: Sept. 29
13-19-45-77

Pick 4: Sept. 30
• 1 p.m.: 2-4-7-2
• 4 p.m.: 3-8-1-8
• 7 p.m.: 0-7-1-6
• 10 p.m.: 7-5-0-0
Pick 4: Sept. 29
• 1 p.m.: 4-8-3-4
• 4 p.m.: 1-6-9-6
• 7 p.m.: 4-3-7-8
• 10 p.m.: 2-6-0-5

ROAD REPORT

Numbers to call:
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is not easy to find happiness in ourselves, and it is not possible to find it elsewhere."

— Agnes Repplier (REHP-leer), American essayist (1858-1950).

Injured horse found in Wallowa Mountains getting medical care

By **Trish Yerges**
For The Observer

An injured horse named Sandy, which was rescued from Burger Meadow in the Wallowa Mountains on Aug. 29, has been responding well to medical treatment facilitated through the nonprofit rescue group Sound Equine Options of Gresham.

The lost and injured horse was first spotted by Brian Sather, a U.S. Forest Service lookout on Mule Peak. He saw her grazing in Burger Meadow under Sand Pass for about two weeks, and she looked injured and alone. Sather called SEO and Peter Benjamin, president of Blue Mountain Back Country Riders and asked for some mounted first responders to rescue her. Sather then went out to see the injured horse for himself, and he waited for the responders to arrive.

"I call her Sandy because I found her near Sand Pass," Sather said on his Facebook video. He offered her an apple, and she came limping to him. As she ate the apple, he filmed her injuries and reassured her that "someone is coming to get you."

Benjamin of BMBRC sent out a bulletin for help and two riders responded: George Garouett, 90, of La Grande, and Ken Emerson, 78, of Cove. Emerson worked for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for 29 years before retirement and did a lot of patrols in the area where Sandy was located, so he thought he could be helpful. Likewise, Garouett said he had the time and animals to do it, so he volunteered. He packed some electrolytes, painkillers and horse pellets. The two men met in Union, loaded their mules into Emerson's trailer and drove up to Buck Creek Trailhead. "It's six miles from there

into Burger Pass where the horse was located," Emerson said. "She was moving around but was really favoring the hind leg that was injured. She didn't want to get caught, but each of us (three men) took turns, and I got her."

Taking a close look at her injuries, the men noticed Sandy had abrasion marks on her back where a saddle had rubbed her. Emerson surmised it must have been a pack saddle.

"A pack saddle is just a wooden bar, and it wore a bald spot about the size of a pie plate on both sides of her spine," he said.

The halter that she had on must have got tangled up, Emerson said, and formed a noose on the end of her nose. When she finally did get it off, it injured her nose. He said it was obviously painful for her.

"Who knows where the saddle is," Emerson said. "It's speculation that she did have it on due to the wear and her injuries, but she definitely got rid of all that stuff."

Garouett and Emerson then prepared her for the six-mile trail back to the horse trailer.

"We gave her 20 cc of painkillers and 10 cc of electrolytes to freshen her up," Garouett said. "She was injured, of course, but she wasn't running blood or anything so we gave her 20-30 minutes while we ate a sandwich lunch, and then started out with her."

Garouett said they went slow and easy as they led her back to the Buck Ridge Trailhead.

"George was leading her, and I was kind of pushing her," Emerson said. "When we got to the trailhead, she loaded up into Emerson's trailer along with our mules, and we drove back to Union,

where Garouett put her into his trailer."

The rescue was successful, but it was a 12-hour effort, even with two seasoned horsemen.

Garouett then took Sandy to Liz Baremore's boarding stables on Pierce Road where she was made comfortable with as much grass hay as she could eat and fresh water. That evening, Baremore's veterinarian, Dr. Josh Anderson of Sage Veterinary Services of Haines, was summoned to look at Sandy's injuries and bandage her leg for the transport to SEO the next day.

"You could definitely tell by the look in her eyes that she was very appreciative of the help," said Baremore. "She knew she was rescued. My heart broke for her."

Sandy was very thin and in rough shape, Baremore said. She could see all her ribs and her backbone. She was limping and her hind leg was cut deeply, possibly from fighting entanglement with a lead rope, she guessed.

Her rescuers estimated that, based on the horse's three remaining shoes and the amount of hoof growth over the shoes, she had been on Burger Meadow for four to six weeks. Another two weeks and snow could have covered the meadow.

Emerson was also amazed that she didn't fall victim to wolf attacks.

"There were wolf tracks in the Mule Peak area, according to the lookout," he said. "Sandy was down in one location and not moving around, so the wolves would have had to be at her elevation to find her. She was just lucky."

No one has stepped forward to claim ownership of Sandy, and her rescuers don't expect that will happen.

See **Sandy** / Page 6A



Contributed photo

Rescued in the Wallowa Mountains in September, a horse named Sandy received surgery on her jaw and left hind leg at Oregon State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital this month. She will also need a skin graft to cover the healing wound on her hind leg.

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