

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 21, the 325th day of 2018. There are 40 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Nov. 21, 1980, 87 people died in a fire at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

ON THIS DATE

In 1789, North Carolina became the 12th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1922, Rebecca L. Felton, a Georgia Democrat, was sworn in as the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate; her term, the result of an interim appointment, ended the following day as Walter F. George, the winner of a special election, took office.

In 1927, picketing strikers at the Columbine Mine in northern Colorado were fired on by state police; six miners were killed.

In 1931, the Universal horror film "Frankenstein," starring Boris Karloff as the monster and Colin Clive as his creator, was first released.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Air Quality Act.

In 1969, the Senate voted down the Supreme Court nomination of Clement F. Haynsworth, 55-45, the first such rejection since 1930.

In 1979, a mob attacked the U-S Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, killing two Americans.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$3.6 million
2-8-14-24-30-31

Mega Millions: \$155 million
10-16-31-42-66-10 x3

Powerball: \$139 million
6-8-20-52-68-PB 5-x2

Win for Life: Nov. 19
2-13-32-44

Pick 4: Nov. 20
• 1 p.m.: 2-0-0-1
• 4 p.m.: 3-8-1-3
• 7 p.m.: 8-3-6-8
• 10 p.m.: 9-0-8-6
Pick 4: Nov. 19
• 1 p.m.: 5-5-4-1
• 4 p.m.: 2-9-4-8
• 7 p.m.: 2-7-8-6
• 10 p.m.: 5-2-7-3

ROAD REPORT

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

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Never confuse motion with action."
— Ernest Hemingway, American author (1899-1961)

Two drive-by shooting defendants taking deals

By Phil Wright
East Oregonian

Charley Lozano Magana of Walla Walla is the only adult defendant who has not taken a plea deal for an August drive-by shooting in Milton-Freewater.

Magana, 24, still faces three counts of attempted murder, seven counts of recklessly endangering another person, two counts of unlawful use of a weapon and one for felon in possession of a firearm. Juan Venegas Esquivel, 24, and Michael Angelo Cantu, 27, also of Walla Walla, faced the

same charges stemming from the shooting on the night of Aug. 17 but they took deals. Police also arrested a juvenile suspect but have not released information about his identity.

Cantu, on Nov. 9, and Esquivel, on Nov. 16, pleaded guilty to unlawful use of a weapon, and according to court documents they admitted to using guns to shoot at least one of three people. Milton-Freewater police reported no one was injured.

The Umatilla County District Attorney's Office in both cases dismissed the other

charges. Both men agreed to five years in prison with time off for good behavior, according to their plea petitions, but that is far more time than the presumptive sentence for the crime.

Jaclyn Jenkins, the chief deputy district attorney, in September filed notice in each case to use facts to enhance the severity of the sentence. According to the document, previous convictions did not deter the trio from committing new crimes, and the shooting "was part of an organized criminal

operation." Milton-Freewater Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer said at the time the shooting appeared gang related.

Esquivel goes to court Dec. 11 to set a sentencing date, and Cantu that morning has his sentence hearing. Court documents also show he waived his rights to a speeding sentencing so he could fulfill the "obligations under the terms of the plea negotiations" with the state.

Magana, Cantu and Esquivel remain in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton.

Magana's case has a pre-trial conference Tuesday morning. He also has a case pending for felony assault.

Magana and three other jail inmates on Oct. 14 assaulted a fourth inmate, according to court records. Magana, Nicolas Landeros Garza, 20, of Irrigon, and Marco Antonio Garcia, 32, of Boardman, have pleaded not guilty. They have pre-trial hearings in coming weeks. The fourth defendant, Alejandro Flores Escalera, 22, of Boardman, has a hearing Tuesday to change his plea.

Early signs point to better local giving this season

By Phil Wright
East Oregonian

Leaders of local charities expressed optimism about an uptick in giving this year but remain cautious after years of downturns.

Kricket Nicholson, executive director of the United Way of Umatilla and Morrow Counties, has wrapped up her annual pitches for contributions. She said a few more people were present than in the past couple of years.

"This year seems (to have a) little more positive feeling," she said, "(but) there's just too much competition, so many causes."

The Salvation Army in Pendleton is feeling that pinch. Capt. Ricky Scruggs said revenue is down from last year. But the dinner kicking off the Red Kettle Campaign doubled in attendance from 2017 and sold out. While that is good, he said, the charity has a way to go to get back to better funding totals.

To help that, The Salvation Army got a jump on the giving season, beginning the bell ringing campaign earlier than usual. Scruggs said the funds they bring in

cover about 25 percent of organization's cost.

Nicholson said nonprofits are the same as other organizations and must adapt and seek new ways to gain revenue to keep providing services. Her organization is encouraging banks and other professional establishments to allow employees to wear jeans for a day if they give \$5 to the United Way. That move resulted in \$265 last year with nary any publicity, she said, so maybe this year that could jump to \$1,000.

"That's a lot of hot meals," Nicholson said.

She also made a pitch for Giving Tuesday, which refers to the Tuesday after Thanksgiving Thursday, Black Friday and Cyber Monday. She said the savings from those events could help local nonprofits.

But money is not the only way locals can give.

Scruggs said The Salvation Army needs volunteers all year.

Combating homelessness and helping people meet basic needs, he said, does not go away after the holidays.

Pendleton High School senior 'Beat the Odds'

By Antonio Sierra
East Oregonian

Keyshawn Jackson's friends like to joke that he's getting the star treatment.

The Pendleton High School senior's compelling life story has led to a polished promotional video, sudden phone calls that cause him to excuse himself from company, and a special award that only a select few receive.

Keyshawn didn't set out for this kind of treatment, but a personal essay helped him secure a \$16,000 "Beat the Odds" scholarship from Stand for Children Oregon, a nonprofit education advocacy organization. The scholarship is awarded to students who have overcome obstacles like broken homes, gang violence and other

life-altering challenges to succeed.

He wrote about his childhood, saying, "I've had to grow up a lot faster than other kids."

Keyshawn was chosen to speak at an event in Portland, and Stand for Children produced a sleek video that summarized his story and recorded scenes of him running track and singing in the choir.

As the video nears its end, Keyshawn said he wants to attend Oregon State University and pursue a career in human services.

"If you have a lot of hardships, make them into opportunities," he said in the video. "If you're positive, then you'll have a better outlook on education and everything else in your life."

Falling price of marijuana statewide is hurting weed farmers, but helping out consumers

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Rampant overproduction in Oregon's market for legal, recreational marijuana has produced a 50 percent drop in prices, according to state economists. That widely documented collapse has been tough on farmers and retailers — but a boon for consumers.

A new state analysis finds the price collapse sparked a big uptick in marijuana purchases and a corresponding increase in associated tax revenue, the Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

"Lower prices are helping to drive the volume of sales higher and induce black and medical market conversions into" the legal, recreational market, said Josh Lehner of the Oregon Office of Economist Analysis.

Recreational marijuana sales in Oregon will be nearly \$543 million this year, up 29 percent from 2017 and well above economists' expectations, forecasts show.

When Oregon legalized marijuana four years ago, expectations were enormous for the newly legal market. The state created incentives for producers to leave the black market, leading to overproduction and the ensuing price decrease.

A state study found the retail cost of a gram of marijuana plunged from \$14 in 2015 to \$7 last year.

Recreational marijuana remains a small industry, relative to the size of Oregon's economy.

For comparison, economists note cigarette sales are 40 percent higher than marijuana sales. But legal marijuana is growing fast — state forecasts suggest it will be a billion-dollar market in 2025.

While Oregon has no general sales tax, it does levy a 17 percent sales tax on marijuana. Marijuana taxes generated nearly \$70 million in revenue last year and are forecast to generate nearly \$90 million in 2018.

State forecasters believe marijuana may eventually play a more important role in the state's economy.

"The real economic impact from recreational marijuana

will come not from the growing and retailing, which are low-wage and low value-added market segments," economists wrote in a revenue forecast issued last week. "It will come from higher value-added products like oils, creams, and

edibles, in addition to niche, specialty strains."

The rise of marijuana in Oregon could evoke the emergence of craft brewing in the state, the economists wrote, with value-added production augmented by a cluster of sup-

pliers and support industries.

"The long-term potential of exporting Oregon products and business know-how to the rest of the country remains large," economists wrote, "at least once marijuana is legalized nationwide."

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