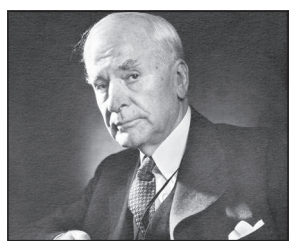


DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Monday, Nov. 26, the 330th day of 2018. There are 35 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Nov. 26, 1941, U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull delivered a note to Japan's ambassador to the United States, Kichisaburo Nomura, setting forth U.S. demands for "lasting and extensive peace throughout the Pacific area." The same day, a Japanese naval task force consisting of six aircraft carriers left the Kuril Islands, headed toward Hawaii.

ON THIS DATE

In 1883, former slave and abolitionist Sojourner Truth died in Battle Creek, Michigan.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$4.0 million
31-33-35-43-44-45

Mega Millions: \$172 million
17-10-30-33-59-23 x4

Powerball: \$171 million
11-33-51-56-58-PB 18-x2

Win for Life: Nov. 24
4-9-47-49

Pick 4:

Nov. 25
• 1 p.m.: 7-5-0-1
• 4 p.m.: 6-1-2-0
• 7 p.m.: 6-7-0-6
• 10 p.m.: 1-2-6-7

Nov. 24
• 1 p.m.: 1-8-2-2
• 4 p.m.: 9-8-7-3
• 7 p.m.: 4-7-5-5
• 10 p.m.: 7-5-5-5

Nov. 23
• 1 p.m.: 7-9-9-6
• 4 p.m.: 2-6-4-9
• 7 p.m.: 9-8-6-7
• 10 p.m.: 8-9-2-4

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

"Don't for heaven's sake, be afraid of talking nonsense! But you must pay attention to your nonsense."
— Ludwig Wittgenstein, Austrian-born philosopher (1889-1951)

Clark acclimating to new position as Baker Chief

By Casey Crowley
WesCom News Service

BAKER CITY — While Baker City residents were voting on Nov. 6, John Clark was starting his new job as the city's fire chief.

Clark, 57, is a newcomer to the West, having lived most of his life in the Midwest, primarily Ohio and Michigan. He grew up in Jackson, Ohio, a town of about 6,400.

Clark said he applied for the Baker City job after achieving all his goals as fire chief for Delta Township, Michigan, population 33,000. He resigned from the Michigan job in July.

The Delta Township department is much larger than Baker City's, with three stations and 47 full-time employees. Baker City's department has one station and 21 employees.

Clark said although he had offers from other departments, he was won over by Baker City's residents and the area's natural beauty. He said Baker City has a similar feel to his hometown.

"I think people are here because they want to be here, same thing with our department," Clark said. "You get older and you believe things happen for a reason sometimes and everything just really came together."

Clark, whose father was a

newspaper editor, spent his high school years working as a photographer for the local paper. He became interested in firefighting around that time while going with his father to cover stories about local fires. One of the employees at the paper was the assistant fire chief as well.

Clark started helping at the local fire department when he was 16, and by age 18 he was officially a firefighter. A year later Clark became a certified paramedic, which gave him a better chance to be hired as a full-time firefighter. He was successful and went on to work as a firefighter, then as assistant chief and, for the past eight years, as chief.

"Most people my age in the fire service will tell you that their grandfather did it and their father did it and their uncle did it. That isn't where I came from," Clark said.

Outside of his work, Clark and his wife, Gina, and his 18-year-old stepson are living in a rental home in Baker City. Clark hopes to build a house, and he plans to continue working for about 10 more years.

"I am committed to being here for the long run and so far it's been great," he said.

Recently, Clark attended the Baker City Council meeting to introduce himself to the councilors. The city plans

to have an event for Clark to meet members of the public soon.

Clark has two grown children. He enjoys golf but admits he is a terrible player.

One thing he will miss about the Midwest is college football. He was a fan of Ohio State originally, then started supporting Michigan State after both his kids attended the university in East Lansing. In Michigan he lived only 15 minutes from the stadium. Here, the closest Division 1 team is Boise State, a two-hour drive away.

"I don't know if I can stand the blue field, though. I don't know if I can become a Boise fan," Clark said. "I might become an (Oregon) Duck fan."

Clark said he hopes to have a good relationship with the press and the community.

"We will look at what we can do to better serve the public with the equipment and the staff we have, but I don't see any major changes down the road — the system is working well the way it is," Clark said.

There are challenges, though.

For instance, Clark said employees who want paramedic training have to travel to Boise. He has spoken with the chief of the La Grande Fire Department about possibly working with Eastern

Oregon University to set up a paramedic training program there.

Clark said one of his "claims to fame" was securing a grant for a new fire station, in 2011, while serving as assistant chief in Washington Township near Detroit. He hopes that experience will help Baker City get more federal grants.

"You and I are paying federal taxes all the time, so my take on it is I am going to apply for every grant I can because it's my money and your money. We might as well bring it back to our community," Clark said.

Baker City did receive a federal grant last year that is paying a portion of the cost for the three new firefighters the city hired in January 2018. The grant is for three years.

Clark also hopes to partner with the Baker City Police Department and Baker County Sheriff's Office to create an "active violence task force." At

his previous job, his department received a portion of a \$1 million grant to establish such a task force. Its purpose is to help limit and prevent loss of life in violent incidents such as a mass shooting.

Clark will have to address the expiration of the federal grant. He is committed to maintaining the current staffing level because it allows the department to have four people on shift per day and reduces the need to call in off-duty firefighters and incur additional overtime expenses.

The department also needs to work on succession plans for replacing employees. Clark said there is at least one firefighter who might retire next year. There is some planning being done to move people up but not how to replace the people who are promoted.

"You have to be thinking about how do you recruit part time and how do you recruit full time on the bottom coming up," Clark said.

Oregon abortion laws bring in out-of-state residents

By Markian Hawryluk
WesCom News Service

BEND — Oregon is providing more abortions than its residents receive, a sign the state's abortion laws are less restrictive than in some neighboring states.

According to data released by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week, Oregon residents underwent 7,847 abortion procedures in 2015, out of a total of 8,610 abortions performed within the state — about 11.2 percent of abortions in Oregon were for out-of-state residents.

For comparison, in Idaho, fewer abortions (1,272) were performed than residents received (1,695), with just 4.6 percent for out-of-state residents. Washington had nearly the same number of total abortions and abortions for residents.

"We tend to assume that because abortion is legal that everybody has readily available access to the procedure when needed," said Grayson Dempsey, executive director for NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon. "The reality is that for women who are in a state like Idaho, they are often needing to cross state lines or get to urban centers to get

the care they need."

According to the Guttmacher Institute, which tracks abortion policy from state to state, Idaho has a number of restrictions in place that make it harder for women to access abortions. Those include state-directed counseling designed to discourage women from having abortions, a 24-hour waiting period and, for minors, consent of a parent.

Oregon has none of those restrictions.

In some cases, women living near the Oregon border may find it closer or more convenient to drive across state lines. That occurs in the Ashland area with women from Northern California. The CDC did not provide data from California in the report.

Dempsey said a number of women fly from Alaska to Portland or Seattle to seek abortions.

In other cases, women may cross into Oregon to get certain types of abortions not available where they live. Women in Vancouver, Washington, can get abortions from a local Planned

Parenthood clinic. They must travel to a clinic in Portland if they need a second-trimester abortion, which are not offered at the Vancouver clinic.

Oregon is one of only a handful of states that allow nurse practitioners to perform abortions. In 2006, the Oregon board of nursing was the first in the country to rule that aspiration abortion was within the scope of practice for family nurse practitioners.

"It's really increased access in small and rural communities," Dempsey said. "That is a huge way in which Oregon is not only progressive in its legislative commitment to reproductive rights but really furthering access for women in ways that have a practical impact on women needing services."

Researchers from the University of California, San Francisco, recently calculated the distance to the closest abortion facility from every U.S. city with a population of 50,000 or more. They found women in 27 cities must travel more than 100 miles to reach an abortion facility.

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The GRH Hospice announces its 23rd Annual Light Up a Life!

Please join us for our annual tree lighting & remembrance ceremony

Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018 at 5:30 PM
Pat's Alley, downtown La Grande

Dedicate a light and name reading in honor of your loved ones.

A meaningful gift; our Remembrance Cards honor your loved ones all season long by helping us fulfill the needs of our Hospice patients and their families throughout the year. Light Up a Life Remembrance Cards are available for a suggested \$5 donation, and the GRH Hospice TREE OF LIGHTS will remain on display throughout the holidays. Remembrance Cards are available at Fitzgerald Flowers, Looking Glass Books, and GRH Hospice.

For details, call 541-963-CARE.