

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY
Today is Friday, Dec. 21, the 355th day of 2018. There are 10 days left in the year. Winter arrives at 5:23 p.m. Eastern time.

MENUS

UNION COUNTY SENIOR CENTER
1504 N. ALBANY ST., LA GRANDE
LUNCH MENU
DEC. 24-28
MONDAY & TUESDAY: closed for Christmas
WEDNESDAY: chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans with almonds, Jell-O, rolls, cupcakes.
THURSDAY: taco bar, salad greens, chips, flan.
FRIDAY: chicken alfredo, steamed veggies, Caesar salad, olive bread, dessert.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT
On Dec. 21, 1891, the first basketball game, devised by James Naismith, is believed to have been played at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts. (The final score of this experimental game: 1-0.)

TODAY
In 1937, Walt Disney's first animated feature, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," had its world premiere at the Carthay Circle Theater in Los Angeles. The first Dr. Seuss book, "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street," was published by Vanguard Press.
In 1968, Apollo 8 was launched on a mission to orbit the moon.

LOTTERY
Megabucks: \$5.8 million
12-15-26-27-37-43

Mega Millions: \$305 million
13-22-32-60-69-9-x3

Powerball: \$281 million
15-29-31-37-43-PB 16-x2

Win for Life: Dec. 19
11-21-27-51

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

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
"Winter comes but once a year, And when it comes it brings the doctor good cheer."
— Ogden Nash, American humorist (1902-1971), (1901-1992)

State looks to improve Oregon Coast Trail

Oregon Parks and Rec will invest in bettering the trail

By Katie Frankowicz
The Daily Astorian

ASTORIA — Dissuaded by snow and dangerous river crossings, some backpackers ditched the popular Pacific Crest Trail in early 2017 and turned to the shorter, less well-known Oregon Coast Trail.

But though the trail was declared "hikeable" in 1988, hikers looking to walk it from end to end struggled to navigate gaps between segments and faced unclear signs, few legal camping options and, in general, a trail that wasn't quite ready for them.

Now the state is looking for solutions.

This month, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department held several open house presentations across the state to gather feedback from stakeholders about the trail. The outreach followed guidance established in a law passed by the state Legislature in 2017 that requires the department to work with other state agencies, local governments, nonprofits and organizations to develop an action plan.

The effort builds on previous connection strategies, like a 2011 plan that identified 31 gaps in the trail that ranged from natural hazards like creek and river crossings

to stretches where hikers have to hop onto highway shoulders to reach the next section.

Though the state has worked over the years to address the gaps, Robin Wilcox, a senior state parks and trails planner, estimates over 20 remain today. Some of them are more recent obstacles, like a landslide in Ecola State Park that sent a portion of the trail into the ocean.

There are other issues, as well, tied to changes in property ownership and questions about how best to maintain the trail's different sections.

These types of challenges are common with any long trail system, said Chris Havel, the associate director for Oregon State Parks. "That's always the case with long trails," he said. "You get the first 70 percent, 80 percent figured out ... but even portions of the Pacific Crest Trail went unresolved for decades."

The Oregon Coast Trail runs for nearly 400 miles, though the actual distance can vary depending on how a person chooses to hike. The trail is not continuous, interrupted by highways, towns, property lines and the ocean. In some places, hikers must time their trek with the tides as the trail drops down from forested hills to sandy beaches, around rock outcroppings and back up again.

In fact, most people experi-

ence the trail through day hikes at state parks, perhaps not even realizing they are walking a piece of a much larger system.

"You know, honestly, I think one of the main challenges still is that people don't even know the Oregon Coast Trail is a thing, that it exists and why it could be important for them," Wilcox said in a presentation to state House lawmakers in May. "That is an exciting opportunity."

On the North Coast, the Oregon Coast Trail winds through Fort Stevens, Ecola and Oswald West state parks.

The state has identified five trail gaps in Clatsop County — two in 2011 and three more recently. They include Hug Point, where a rocky outcropping is impassable at high tide; Camp Rilea, where the trail, which runs along the beach, is closed periodically due to artillery training; and areas where the trail turns onto local roads and U.S. Highway 101.

One of the newer gaps emerged in 2016 after a landslide snipped a portion of the trail that runs between Indian Beach and Ecola Point in half.

Park staff had allowed hikers to walk the trail up to the landslide, but the entire section is now closed at the trailheads.

People were not honoring the closure at the landslide, said Ben Cox, park manager

for the Nehalem Bay Management Unit. One person even tied a rope to a tree to help people navigate around the slide.

"It was to the point where people were going out and beyond the area closed and then we were getting complaints about the poor shape of the trail," Cox said.

The state's plans to address gaps in the Oregon Coast Trail will dovetail with work to reroute this section in Ecola State Park outside of the slide zone. Cox and his rangers examined a possible reroute in 2017. They had hoped to have a new trail available soon, but staff changes and other work delayed the project.

Since 2017, he and park staff have fielded questions from people looking to hike the entire Oregon Coast Trail. They encounter people who are using old information or tips gained from other hikers about where to camp — often in places where camping is not allowed.

But there are few options for hikers, Cox said. There are stretches between camping and lodging options that hikers just can't make in a one-day trek.

As Wilcox and her team continue to look at how to improve the trail system, Cox anticipates conversations about where camping could be allowed. For the section of the trail he over-

sees, he believes there could be an opportunity to work with cities and counties.

The state expects the work of identifying gaps along the Oregon Coast Trail, improving safety and connectivity, adding signs and looking at the trail as a whole will take several years.

Elsewhere, some cities are already in the middle of addressing some of the problems.

Manzanita landed a grant several years ago to build a trail connecting nearby Neahkahnie Mountain with the city, closing a gap identified in the 2011 plan. No access exists and hikers are forced to walk along the shoulder of Highway 101 to stay on the route.

In September, city leaders requested an extension of the state grant funding the work after unexpected changes — including a land transfer — delayed construction of the trail.

Neahkahnie is an important focal point for the community, Manzanita City Manager Cynthia Alamillo said. So besides improving the overall trail experience, she believes the connecting trail to Manzanita "will be a great amenity to our community."

A new website — oregon-coastrailplanning.com — provides regular updates and also gives people several ways to submit feedback or information.

OBITUARIES

Margaret Keith

La Grande

Margaret Keith, 95, of La Grande, died Dec. 21. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Roselymne 'Jackie' (Brown) Davis

La Grande

1940-2018

Roselymne "Jackie" Davis, 78, of La Grande, died Dec. 13 at her daughter's resi-



Davis

dence. A service will be held in the spring. Known as Jackie, she was born July 8, 1940, in Pendleton, to Jimmie

and Dorothy "Dottie" (Luciani) Brown. She resided in Hermiston and La Grande; Fruitland, Idaho; Odessa, Texas; Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas; and Apache Junction, Arizona. She attended schools in Hermiston and graduated from La Grande High School. In 1961, Jackie married William "Bill" A. Davis, and they were married for 61 years.

Jackie and Bill operated their own business. Jackie was a military wife, living in Spokane, Washington, for the birth of their first two children at Fairchild Air Force Base. She enjoyed playing pool and darts. An avid sports lover, she especially liked watching golf and the NBA. Jackie was a member of the Eagles and the American Legion and was a Girl Scout leader.

Jackie would say her biggest accomplishments in life were her children and her family. Her grandchildren were the joy of her life. Jackie also loved animals, and her home was always filled with

Local funerals and visitations
The Observer publishes obituaries that conform to its obituary policy at no cost. Obituaries must be under 450 words and are edited for newspaper style. Paid advertising space is also available for those who want additional information included. For more information, call The Observer at 541-963-3161.

dogs, cats and birds. Survivors include her husband, Bill; children and their spouses, Lynnie "Iky" and William Cross of La Grande, Ray A. and Bobbi Davis of Middleton, Idaho, and Justin J. and Nancy Davis of New Plymouth, Idaho; sisters, Connie Williams and husband, Ray, of Walla Walla, Washington, and Willy Myers of La Grande; 13 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jimmie and Dottie; son, Billy Davis; brother, Jiggs Brown; and nephew, Jimmy Brown.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com.

Sandra L. Weissenfluh

Imbler

Sandra L. Weissenfluh, 62, of Imbler, died Dec. 20 at her residence. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

Free Christmas dinners served in Wallowa County

ENTERPRISE, JOSEPH — Anyone who doesn't have plans for Christmas dinner is invited to join community dinners in Enterprise and Joseph on Christmas Day.

In Enterprise, turkey, ham and stuffing will be provided, and those who are able are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share. The meal will be served from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Enterprise Community Connections, 702 NW First St. To volunteer or for more information, call Jeff Moore at 541-377-7770. Sponsored by LH Ranch, Umpqua Bank and Dollar Stretcher.

In Joseph, the turkey, ham and all the trimmings will be provided, and those who are able may bring a side dish to share. Coffee and water will be available free of charge.

The dinner will be served from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Joseph Community Center, 102 E. First St. For info or to volunteer, call Nicole Brookshire at 541-215-3295. Sponsored by Brookshire Catering, Brookshire Handyman Service, Stubborn Mule Saloon & Steakhouse and Wallowa Lake Tramway.

Union Carnegie Library announces holiday winner, sale

UNION — The Friends of the Union Carnegie Library announced that Jaydon Norenberg is the

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

winner of the crocheted blanket raffle. The drawing was held at the library's holiday open house.

If you're still looking for Christmas gift ideas, stop by the library on Main Street and check out the \$15 "Fun Crates" and \$5 "Snowman Hats."

Chamber is seeking prizes for New Year's Eve scavenger hunt

LA GRANDE — The Union County Chamber of Commerce is preparing for its annual scavenger hunt, which will take place during La Grande New Year's Eve Block Party.

Businesses that would like to advertise by having their products, gift certificates or coupons be a prize for the scavenger hunt

may drop off the prize item(s) at the Chamber office, 207 Depot St., La Grande, by Dec. 27.

Submit briefly information to news@lagrandeobserver.com or by calling 541-963-3161

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