

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Friday, Dec. 28, the 362nd day of 2018. There are three days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Dec. 28, 1981, Elizabeth Jordan Carr, the first American "test-tube" baby, was born in Norfolk, Virginia.

ON THIS DATE

In 1612, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei observed the planet Neptune, but mistook it for a star. (Neptune wasn't officially discovered until 1846 by Johann Gottfried Galle.)

In 1694, Queen Mary II of England died after more than five years of joint rule with her husband, King William III.

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down because of differences with President Andrew Jackson.

In 1846, Iowa became the 29th state to be admitted to the Union.

In 1895, the Lumiere brothers, Auguste and Louis, held the first public showing of their movies in Paris.

In 1908, a major earthquake followed by a tsunami devastated the Italian city of Messina, killing at least 70,000 people.

In 1945, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1961, the Tennessee Williams play "Night of the Iguana" opened on Broadway. Former first lady Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, the second wife of President Woodrow Wilson, died in Washington, D.C. at age 89.

In 1972, Kim Il Sung, the premier of North Korea, was named the country's president under a new constitution.

In 1973, the book "Gulag Archipelago," Alexander Solzhenitsyn's expose of the Soviet prison system, was first published in Paris.

In 1987, the bodies of 14 relatives of Ronald Gene Simmons were found at his home near Dover, Arkansas, after Simmons shot and killed two other people in Russellville.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$6.0 million
9-10-12-20-26-37

Mega Millions: \$348 million
2-8-42-43-50-6 x3

Powerball: \$40 million
5-25-38-52-67-PB 24-x2

Win for Life: Dec. 26
1-32-33-43

Pick 4: Dec. 27

• 1 p.m.: 7-2-3-6

• 4 p.m.: 2-7-1-0

• 7 p.m.: 8-1-6-1

• 10 p.m.: 8-0-6-9

Pick 4: Dec. 28

• 1 p.m.: 1-9-6-3

• 4 p.m.: 5-2-6-5

• 7 p.m.: 0-2-5-1

• 10 p.m.: 4-0-6-2

ROAD REPORT

Numbers to call:

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NEWSPAPER LATE?

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Let no one underestimate the need of pity. We live in a stony universe whose hard, brilliant forces rage fiercely."

— Theodore Dreiser, American author (born 1871, died this date in 1945)

Baker City officials continue plan for project

By Jayson Jacoby
WesCom News Service

Baker City officials are continuing to plan for one of the bigger public works projects in the city in the past few decades.

Based on an agreement the city council approved in January 2017 with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the city, starting around 2022, will stop piping its treated wastewater into the Powder River a few miles north of town.

Instead, the city plans to install a pipe that will transport the treated wastewater east of Interstate 84, where it will be stored seasonally in a new pond. The water will be used to irrigate non-food crops such as alfalfa hay.

The project will cost an estimated \$5 million to \$7 million, Public Works Director Michelle Owen said.

Earlier this month, workers from the city and its engineering consultant, Anderson Perry and Associates, tested soil samples on a property the city would like to buy as the location for the storage pond, she said. The samples will help engineers determine whether the city would need to line the pond with bentonite clay or install

a full plastic liner.

"We're making good progress," Owen said.

DEQ officials notified the city several years ago that it would not issue a long-term permit allowing the city to continue discharging treated wastewater into the Powder River.

At times, the city has failed to meet requirements of the current permit. In October 2015 the city released into the river treated wastewater that exceeded permitted levels of organisms that consume oxygen in the water; depleting the river of oxygen and potentially imperiling fish. The DEQ fined the city \$6,400 for the violation.

A DEQ report also lists other potential problems with the city's current system of piping treated wastewater into the Powder River. The wastewater often is warmer than the river water, which already exceeds federal temperature limits for fish habitat at times, according to the report.

In addition, the wastewater, at times during summer when the river flow is low, can make up more than half of the river's volume. That far exceeds the current allowed ratio between

wastewater and the river flow, according to the DEQ, but the city is not required to comply with that rule under its current permit, because the wastewater treatment plant was built before that rule was adopted. The city won't continue to qualify for that exemption, however.

The city's least expensive solution, Owen said, is to use the treated wastewater — after it has been stored temporarily in the city's lagoon and been treated to remove the chlorine the city adds as a disinfectant to its drinking water — to irrigate crops that aren't used for human consumption.

That option has challenges. The city needs more storage space, since the treated water would be used only during the spring through early fall irrigation season, Owen said. Second, the city needs to find landowners willing to use the water.

The latter problem is less daunting, Owen said, since irrigation water is a valuable commodity in Baker Valley most years.

She believes making the water available to irrigate lower-value land east of the freeway could benefit properties that aren't growing crops now.

The current plan includes a pipeline because the city doesn't own enough land adjacent to its existing lagoons to accommodate the new storage pond, Owen said. The city owns 40 acres, but the new pond is likely to cover 60 to 100 acres.

Owen said city officials are concentrating on properties on the east side of the freeway because land values are lower there.

A complicating factor is the city can't build the pond within 10,000 feet of the Baker City Airport, because the pond would attract waterfowl and other birds that could pose a hazard to aircraft, she said.

Owen said the city's goal is to use treated wastewater to irrigate crops not only near the new storage pond but also along the route of the pipeline.

She said the DEQ will require the city to secure long-term — perhaps 20 years — agreements with farmers or ranchers for use of the water. It's unclear whether the city would charge a fee for the water, or allow landowners to use it in exchange for a property easement for the pipeline.

"We're not just going to be giving the water away," Owen

said. "We have a commodity that people want to have."

She said the city will route the pipeline on public rights-of-way, mainly along county roads, as much as possible.

Owen said the city had a deadline of Jan. 11, 2019, to submit a design for the pipeline and storage pond to DEQ officials, but she has requested a six-month extension. The reason, she said, is that the city is still waiting for the Division of State Lands to determine whether the property the city hopes to buy for the storage pond is a wetlands.

City officials do not believe it is, but if the state agency disagrees, the city would have to make changes to the design to comply with wetlands rules, Owen said.

Once DEQ has approved a design, the city will have two years to build the pipeline and pond.

The city raised wastewater rates in 2017 and 2018, by a total of about 22 percent, to begin stockpiling money to repay the loan the city likely will have to take to pay for the pipeline and storage pond. City officials have estimated a \$5 million loan would cost the city about \$370,000 in annual payments over 20 years.

What's shut down regionally

WesCom News Service staff

The Oregon Trail Interpretive Center near Baker City remains closed due to the partial federal government shutdown, and some other agencies' offices are also closed.

That's one of the nine federal departments affected by the partial shutdown.

Another is the Agriculture Department, which includes the U.S. Forest Service, one of the major federal employers in Baker County.

There are about 190 federal workers in Baker County, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

State government employs about 210 county residents, and 750 work for local government, which includes cities and the county.

In Union County, those numbers are 190 federal, 350 state and 1,960 local government employees.

CCC

Continued from Page 1A

manure and bats."

The next day — sore, tired and hungry — they walked back to Halfway.

"In all we hiked 46 miles with barely enough grub for one meal."

The letter ends with a P.S.:

"It really was a swell Easter in spite of everything."

When he wrote home on May 14, 1939, Howard told his parents about the infestation of Mormon crickets in Halfway and how the CCC helped save the town.

"The crickets are sure bad up here now. The whole valley is out fighting them," Howard wrote.

He goes on to tell of the various ways devised to trap and kill the crickets. One of the more successful ideas was to capture the insects in the irrigation ditch then dump them in a bathtub with gasoline. The dead crickets were tossed in a pit.

"They have filled 3 pits 6 feet deep and 10 feet each di-

rection clean to the top. Those crickets are 2 in. long now and 1/2 thick. Boy are they big. And they bite too."

Another letter dated June 5, 1939, details a climb to the top of Red Mountain in the Wallowa Mountains.

At 9,555 feet, it is the tallest summit in Baker County.

"Well all I can say is I'm lucky I'm here to write this letter for we just got back from a 2-day hike to the top of Red Mountain," Howard writes.

He wrote he and his pals were the sixth group to climb Red Mountain. They mistakenly thought a fire lookout was on the summit, which would have given them shelter after the climb.

"Well 6 of us started out and we climbed from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with heavy pack sacks, bed rolls, rope and other climbing equipment till 6 p.m. over the most rugged and dangerous country I ever stepped on and when we got up there expecting to find a nice cabin to sleep in we found a pile of rocks

with a record inside of all who had ever climbed the mountain."

With a storm coming and no shelter, the men headed back down the mountain.

"Well all we could do was to try and climb off as quick as we could for it was getting dark and with a fierce wind blowing and no one had coats of any sort. Boy I'm telling you we came down there and nearly broke our necks."

Howard had better luck on another climb, this one to the top of 8,650-foot Cornucopia Peak, the prominent mountain that looms over Pine Valley and gives Halfway a distinctive backdrop.

There was a fire lookout atop Cornucopia, as Howard documented in a series of photographs.

The lookout was built around 1923. It was abandoned around 1945 and later dismantled.

Whit Deschner said he would like to donate his father's documents to the Pine Valley Community Museum in Halfway.

Bob's BASEBALL TOURS

<p>Attend games in New York (Yankees & Mets), Boston, Pittsburgh & Cincinnati. Also Pro Football, Baseball & Basketball Halls of Fame. Guided tour of New York City & Boston. May 25-June 2 \$2,150/person*</p>	<p>See games in Phoenix & Denver, in addition to Grand Canyon. June 24-28 \$1,195/person*</p>	<p>See Midwest baseball in Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago (Cubs & Sox) & Minnesota. July 31-Aug. 4 \$1,295/person*</p>
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