Daily Planner

TODAY

Today is Friday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2019. There are 361 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Jan. 4, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his State of the Union address in which he outlined the goals of his "Great Society."

ON THIS DATE

In 1896, Utah was admitted as the 45th state.

In 1904, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Gonzalez v. Williams, ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them citizens. (Puerto Ricans received U.S. citizenship in March 1917.)

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, called for legislation to provide assistance for the jobless, elderly, impoverished children and the handicapped.

In 1943, for the second time, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin made the cover of TIME as the magazine's 1942 "Man of the Year."

In 1951, during the Korean War, North Korean and Communist Chinese forces recaptured the city of Seoul.

In 1960, author and philosopher Albert Camus died in an automobile accident in Villeblevin, France, at age 46.

In 1964, Pope Paul VI began a visit to the Holy Land, the first papal pilgrimage of its kind.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1987, 16 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington, D.C., to Boston collided with Conrail locomotives that had crossed into its path from a side track in Chase, Maryland.

In 1995, the 104th Congress convened, the first entirely under Republican control since the Eisenhower era.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: $6.4 million
3-619-26-29-30

Mega Millions: $40 million
34-44-57-62-70-14 x4

Powerball: $69 million
8-12-42-46-56-PB 12-x2

Win for Life: Jan. 2
16-21-32-65

Pick 4: Jan. 3
- 1 p.m.: 2-6-0-5
- 4 p.m.: 4-9-1-9
- 7 p.m.: 3-5-3-3
- 10 p.m.: 4-3-6-6

Pick 4: Jan. 2
- 1 p.m.: 6-8-1-4
- 4 p.m.: 8-7-4-8
- 7 p.m.: 0-0-8-8
- 10 p.m.: 2-9-4-0

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

"What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from."

— T.S. Eliot (1888-1965)

Brown endorses stricter drunk-driving limit

By Gary Warner
WesCom News Service

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown endorsed lowering the maximum blood alcohol level for drunken driving and talked about the impact of the federal government shutdown Thursday during her first press conference of 2019.

In a telephone interview with members of the state capital press corps, Brown also underlined her hopes for the upcoming session of the Legislature.

Brown will be inaugurated for her new term as governor Jan. 14. The 80th Oregon Legislative Assembly will begin Jan. 22 with sessions of the state House and Senate.

A leading source of concern for now is the partial shutdown of the federal government as President Donald Trump and the Democratic-controlled House are in a stalemate over Trump's demand for funding for a border wall with Mexico.

"We are watching very closely as Congress continues to renegotiate," said Brown, a Democrat.

In Oregon, about 9,000 federal employees have been affected by the shutdown, Brown said. "We are reaching out to make sure they have the resources they need."

Brown said she saw the impact of the federal shutdown while recently snowshoeing on federal lands near Mount Washington. Toilets were overflowing, and trash had not been removed. She said she asked Oregon State Parks and Recreation to help where they can.

"We got a call into parks to make sure some of the facilities are kept up," Brown said.

Her staff is also in touch with the state's Native American tribes, who have seen federal services curtailed by the shutdown.

Brown said she was worried an extended fight between Trump and Congress could hurt Oregonians who rely on the timely delivery of federal resources.

"I will say that if the shutdown continues we are going to see gaps in funding" Brown said.

State legislative session

Asked about some of the proposals for legislation expected to be introduced in the new session, Brown said she was still studying most of the proposals.

Brown did endorse an expected bill by Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, to reduce the maximum allowable blood alcohol limit for drivers from the current 0.08 percent to 0.05 percent. The lower number was suggested as the standard by the National Transportation Safety Board in 2013. This year, Utah became the first state to enact the 0.05 percent limit.

"I think it sounds like the right way to go," Brown said. She said she would work with Courtney to encourage the bill's passage in the Legislature.

Opponents of the lower limit say it will turn casual drinkers into criminals, but Brown said she believed attitudes toward drinking and driving are changing.

"My experience is somewhat limited in this arena, but the dinner party I was at New Year's Eve, everybody who was driving was a designated driver and not drinking." Brown added, "I think we are seeing a huge cultural shift."

Brown said most of her current focus for 2019 is on her own budget proposal, unveiled late last year. It includes initiatives on K-12 education, health care, affordable housing and climate change.

On climate change

"We are seeing in every community around the state the impact of climate change," Brown said. As examples, she pointed to wildfires and the crabbing season that was delayed a month because crabs were too small.

Brown said she supported the concept of Oregon creating a cap-and-trade system that would require major polluters to cut emissions or purchase waivers from the state. Democrats in the Legislature have proposed a "Clean Energy Jobs Bill" that would create a carbon "cap-and-invest" program that would use the money received from waivers to promote environmental policies, including the creation of jobs in solar, wind and other "clean energy" projects.

Even though Oregon's carbon emissions are a relatively small part of the national or world pollution problem, Brown said Oregon taking up the issue would help "break the logjam" on the issue.

"Oregon has a history of leading on progressive environmental policies," Brown said.

Brown said she would like to see Oregon join with California, other states and Canadian provinces to extend the buying and selling of waivers across state lines and borders.

On housing

House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, has said she will introduce legislation that would bar cities over 10,000 residents from enacting single-family-only zoning. Brown stopped short of endorsing the bill, but said something had to be done about the lack of affordable housing in much of the state.

"From 2000 to 2015, we underbuilt by 150,000 homes," Brown said. "We have to make sure we are working to build the supply of housing."

On marijuana

Sen. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, says he will introduce legislation to allow the sale of Oregon marijuana to states where cannabis is legal. Prozanski said the move would relieve the oversupply of marijuana within Oregon by sending it to legal markets instead of onto the illegal black market.

Brown said she had not seen the specifics of the bill yet, but said the federal government needs to "tackle the banking issues before we think about growing to other markets."

While 33 states have legalized cannabis for medical or recreational use, the federal government classifies it as a Schedule I drug "with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse." That puts marijuana in the same category as heroin and LSD.

One major problem for legal cannabis growers is that the classification bars much banking that comes under federal regulation.

On federal action

Brown said she hoped that having the Democrats in control of the U.S. House while Republicans control the Senate might encourage debate over voting access across the country. She endorsed the idea — put forward by U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore. — that the best way to ensure ballot access was to use Oregon's vote-by-mail system

"That would be extraordinary," Brown said.

While the partisan split in Washington, D.C., seems like a recipe for inaction, Brown said she saw some possible areas of cooperation. She singled out infrastructure improvements on transportation, dams and expanding access to broadband as examples.

On Oregon's economy

Brown said Oregon's economy remains solid.

"We've certainly been given some signs of softening, but that is the same thing they told us a year ago," she said.

Baker Co. handing out free gun locks

By Chris Collins
WesCom News Service

Child safety is a priority for Baker County's law enforcement and health care community.

So when the Child Fatality Review Team, which is made up of representatives of those groups in the community, met recently to consider how to prevent child deaths related to firearms, they came up with one obvious step that they believe might help save lives.

District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff said the group agreed that gun locks, which render firearms inoperable, would make it more difficult for children to access guns. The Child Fatality Review Team looks at deaths of everyone younger than 18, Shirtcliff said.

The group met to consider two teenage suicides, one in Richland in August and a second in Baker City in September, and the November death of a 2-year-old who shot himself with an unsecured firearm.

Marcus Brown, 15, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound at his Richland home in August. Izah Nicholas Gonzalez, 14, of Baker City shot himself at the skateboard park in September. And Liam Paul Lee Mankins, 2, died after shooting himself in the head at his Baker City home.

Jef Van Arsdall, Baker County undersheriff, said that after the Child Fatality Review Team met he went to the internet to begin searching for organizations that would provide gun locks for distribution in the community.

"I found a program online and made a request and they sent us gun locks," Van Arsdall said.

Phoebe Watchtel, administrative assistant at the Baker City Police Department, also found a supply of gun locks that will be distributed free.

In both cases, the supply is being provided by Project ChildSafe, a program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation to promote firearms safety and education. According to its website, projectchildsafe.org, the program "is committed to promoting genuine firearms safety through the distribution of safety education messages and free firearm safety kits to communities across the U.S."

The organization has distributed more than 38 million gun locks through local law enforcement agencies, the website states.

The free gun locks are available for the asking at the front counters of the Baker County Sheriff's Office at 3410 K St., the Baker City Police Department at 1768 Auburn Ave. (closed during the lunch hour), and at the District Attorney's office on the third floor of the Courthouse at 1995 Third St., during regular business hours.

Shirtcliff said the discussion that led to the distribution of free gun locks is similar to the one that took place after three Baker City babies died of causes attributed to co-sleeping.

In that case, the Child Fatality Review Team and others in the community worked to develop the Cribs for Kids program. Cribs for Kids provides free cribs to parents leaving the hospital without a safe place for their newborn to sleep away from the parents' bed. The program distributes cribs at no charge through the Northeast Oregon Compassion Center.

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Eric Rynearson
MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE
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OSP, ODFW seeking help

WesCom News Service staff

The Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division is seeking the public's help in identifying poachers responsible for the unlawful taking of three white-tailed deer in Baker County.

The deer heads and hides were dumped on Mother Lode Road near Keating, an OSP press release stated.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call OSP dispatch at 1-800-442-2068 or dial *OSP (677) and reference Sgt. Isaac Cyr.

The TIP program offers preference point rewards for information leading to an arrest or a citation being issued to those accused of unlawful take /possession or waste of big game mammals.

Five preference points are offered in the case of bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goats, moose and wolves. Four points are awarded in cases involving elk, deer, antelope, bears and cougars.

The Oregon Hunters Association TIP reward fund also offers cash rewards for information leading to an arrest or a citation being issued to those accused of unlawful take/possession or waste of bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goat, moose, $1,000; elk, deer, antelope, $500; bear, cougar, wolf and habitat destruction, $300; upland birds, waterfowl, furbearers and game fish and shellfish, $100.

To report a wildlife or habitat law violation or suspicious activity to the TIP line call:

TIP Hotline: 1-800-452-7888 or *OSP (677)

TIP Email: TIP@state.or.us (Monitored 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.)

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