

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY
Today is Monday, Jan. 7, the seventh day of 2019. There are 358 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT
On Jan. 7, 1999, for the second time in history, an impeached American president went on trial before the Senate. President Bill Clinton faced charges of perjury and obstruction of justice; he was acquitted.

LOTTERY
Megabucks: \$6.5 million
2-13-29-36-46-48

Mega Millions: \$45 million
21-29-35-54-60-15 x4

Powerball: \$82 million
3-7-15-27-69-PB 19-x2

Win for Life: Jan. 5
24-56-63-72

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

ROAD REPORT

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NORTHEAST OREGON HISTORY

By Dick Mason
The Observer

Q: How many legislators from Union and Wallowa counties have led either the state Senate or House?

A: Three.

Two legislators from Union County and one from Wallowa County



Kiddle

have presided over the state House or Senate. John P. Rusk, a Republican from Joseph, was the first to lead a legislative body. Rusk was elected as the 30th speaker of the House in 1911. Rusk was beginning his second and final two-year term as a legislator.

An editorial in the Jan. 14, 1911, edition of the Enterprise News-Record

praised Rusk after his election. "Bully for (John) Rusk. He's a game fighter and won the splendid prize of the speakership by knowing no such word as defeat," the editorial said. "The Legislature won't be sorry for one minute for electing Mr. Rusk speaker. He has the ability and is by nature fair-minded."

Republicans had overwhelming control of the House during Rusk's tenure as speaker. The House had 57 Republicans, two Democrats and one Independent at the time, according to the "Chronicle List of Oregon's Legislatures," a 1993 work compiled by Cecil L. Edwards.

Fred Kiddle of Island City was the first Union County resident to lead a legislative body. Kiddle was elected the 25th president of the Oregon Senate in Jan. 3, 1933. The Senate then had 22 Republicans and eight Democrats.

Kiddle's position carried particular weight because at the time the president of the Senate served as acting governor when the governor was out of the state,

according to a story in the June 4, 1932, Observer (then named the La Grande Evening Observer). We do not know if Kiddle ever served as acting governor.

A June 4, 1932, editorial in The Observer, written when it looked like Kiddle had the votes he needed from senators to be elected president, praised the Island City politician. The Observer lauded him for his work on passing legislation that reduced auto license fees and for helping to get a bill passed that provided a refund for farmers of a tax on gasoline used for tractors and other farm machinery.

The Observer also commended Kiddle for his work to help veterans and his support of education.

Kiddle, then a longtime Union County resident, served as a state senator from 1927 until early 1935.

Mark Simmons is the most recent leader from Union or Wallowa counties to have presided over a legislative body. Simmons, who was from Elgin, was elected the 62nd speaker of the House in 2001. He served in the House from

1997 to 2003. He had to leave the Legislature after completing his third term in the House because of term limit laws then in effect that allowed House members to serve only three two-year terms.

Simmons told The Observer in 2001 that he enjoyed his stint as House speaker and that he would have liked to continue in the position.

An Observer editorial written in July 2001, not long after that year's legislative session had ended, credited Simmons for his ability to help Republicans and Democrats get along.

"By all accounts, Simmons tried his best to keep the peace among Republicans and Democrats," the editorial stated.

Steps he took included

conducting a four-day retreat before the 2001 session for all legislators in the House that was meant to improve relationships between Republicans and Democrats.

"Simmons tried to create an atmosphere in the House that for the most part was free of rancor. As he says, he knew legislators would disagree, but he wanted them to do so respectfully," the editorial stated.

According to an article in the July 8, 2001, Bend Bulletin, the 2001 Legislature was particularly generous to Eastern and Central Oregon. Simmons played a major role in obtaining funding for the construction of Eastern Oregon University's new science center, which opened in 2003.

LAWS

Continued from Page 1A

The second new law toughens up the state's existing hit-and-run law. Known as "Anna and Abigail's law," it was created to require drivers who find out later they have hit something to report it to police.

The law is named for 11-year-old Abigail Robinson and 6-year-old Anna Dieter-Eckert. In 2013, the sisters were run over and killed while playing in the leaves in front of their Forest Grove home. According to a KOIN news article, Cinthya Cisneros-Garcia had driven through the leaves and felt a bump, but

she continued to drive home, not far from where the girls lived. A short time later, Cisneros-Garcia's brother told her someone had been run over, but she did not return to the scene or call the police.

At the time, because of the way the law was written, if a driver hit someone but did not realize it at the time, they had no legal obligation to identify themselves later. The new law requires drivers who suspect they may have caused personal or property damage after a collision to report it to police.

Bell said he was not aware of a similar incident locally, but in the future the law could make a difference and perhaps save a life.

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