

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Monday, Jan. 14 the fourteenth day of 2019. There are 351 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT



On Jan. 14, 1967, the "Human Be-In" was held in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California. This so-called "Gathering of the Tribes" drew more than 20,000 people and came to symbolize the counterculture movement of the 1960s.

ON THIS DATE

In 1526, Charles V and Francis I sign the Treaty of Madrid, forcing Francis to give up claims to Burgundy, Italy and Flanders.

In 1559, Elizabeth I is crowned Queen of England. "The Virgin Queen" was the daughter of Anne Boleyn and King Henry VIII.

In 1724, Spanish King Philip V abdicates throne.

In 1784, the U.S. Revolutionary War ends with the U.S. Congress of the Confederation ratifying the Treaty of Paris.

In 2011, Tunisian president Ben Ali flees to Saudi Arabia after popular protests known as the Jasmine Revolution.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$6.8 million
4-8-15-23-33-46

Megamillions: \$55 million
4-5-31-62-69 20 x3

Powerball: \$112 million
7-36-48-57-58-24 x2

Win for Life:
11-28-46-69

Pick 4: Jan. 11-13
Jan. 11

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

Jan. 12

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

Jan. 13

• 1 p.m.: 8-0-1-2
• 4 p.m.: 6-4-1-1
• 7 p.m.: 6-2-8-0
• 10 p.m.: 2-6-0-5

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

"If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded."

— Maya Angelou, poet

Baker City employees remove trash from property

■ City cited the resident multiple times over the past year

By Casey Crowley

WesCom News Service

A crew of Baker City employees gathered at an eastside home Friday morning to haul away loads of trash that had accumulated on the property and prompted the city to issue the resident multiple citations over the past year.

It was the second time the city has paid to remove garbage from the property at 1975 Birch St., at the corner of Birch and Washington Avenue.

On June 17, 2017, the city paid a contractor \$2,000 to clean up the home where Lucas Gwin lives. His father, Carl Gwin, owned the home, according to county property records.

About six months later, on Dec. 27, 2017, Mark Powell, the city's code enforcement officer, cited Gwin for more property maintenance ordinance violations.

Gwin was also cited for property maintenance violations on March 13, 2018, April 9, 2018, July 3, 2018 and Aug. 6, 2018.

On Oct. 29, 2018, the Baker County Justice Court issued an order allowing the city to clean up the property and then bill the owner for the cost.

The city had a \$5,600 bid from a contractor to do the work, but city officials decided to have a public works employee use a front end loader to gather the refuse.

The city sets aside about \$6,000 each year to clean up properties that violate the maintenance ordinance.

Police Chief Dustin Newman, who was at the property Friday morning, estimated there was enough debris in the yard to fill five dumpsters.

The clean up continued on Saturday.

A few of Gwin's neighbors watched from their yards, while others drove by, honked and waved as they watched.

Several nearby residents attended the Baker City Council's Dec. 11 meeting to tell councilors about the conditions at Gwin's property and to ask the city to do something about the

potential health hazards, including an infestation of mice.

Neighbor Mindy Grimer said she hopes that the city will do something more permanent about the issue. Grimer said that since she moved to the area she has seen all sorts of filth at the house, including jars of human urine. She also believes there has been drug activity at the property.

Though she is happy to see the property cleaned up, Grimer thinks the trash will start to pile up again.

"It's sad to see the taxpayers continue to pay and pay and pay for the clean up," she said.

In addition to the citations for violating the property maintenance ordinance, Gwin had been charged with criminal trespassing, theft and contempt of court, but none of those resulted in a conviction.

The situation with Gwin's property prompted City Manager Fred Warner Jr. to propose tougher language in the city's property maintenance ordinance.

SNAP

Continued from Page 1A an article stating that the Tennessee Department of Human Services moved back the February application deadline to 6 p.m. today.

Oregon's Department of Human Services has not announced whether the sign-up deadline for future benefits will be moved back in this state.

The number of people

in Oregon applying for SNAP benefits each month, according to Evans, does not vary significantly.

"It is pretty steady. (The SNAP program) is important year round," he said.

SNAP recipients include families who receive benefits via the federal government's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. These families would be hit hardest by a loss of

SNAP benefits in March.

"They (are often) people who just lost their job and have no income. They need a safety net right now," Evans said.

The latest data available from the U.S. Health and Human Services' Office of Family Assistance website indicates that in June 2018, 32,387 families in Oregon received TANF benefits. A breakdown per county was not available.

Free food is available locally

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Oregon appears to be set to continue operating in the wake of the government shutdown for another seven weeks, but many federal employees are beginning to feel its impact. On Friday, many federal employees missed their first paycheck since the shutdown began on Dec. 22, 2018.

Hannah Voetberg of Neighbors Together is among those concerned about the welfare of local federal government employees. She said no one has to go hungry, because La Grande has plenty of free food for those federal government workers who are no longer receiving paychecks. Voetberg noted that services Neighbors Together helps provide include a food pantry at the La Grande Food Bank, which is open the last Saturday of the month from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. The food is distributed at 507 Palmer Ave., behind Valley Fellowship Church. Voetberg also noted that

free dinners are served on the third Saturday of each month by Abundant Life Transitional Services. The next free meal provided by the organization, which Voetberg founded, will be served Jan. 19 at Crossroads Community Church, 601 Jefferson, La Grande. Dinner will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Free food is also distributed at other sites in Union and Wallowa counties. Following is a partial list of these sites, based on information provided by Community Connection of Northeast Oregon.

- Elgin Food Bank, 805 N. Alder: Food boxes are distributed the fourth Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- North Powder Food Bank, 23 E St.: On the third Wednesday of each month food boxes are distributed from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Salvation Army, 1114 Y Ave., La Grande: Food is distributed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon.
- Union Food Pantry, 1531 S. Main St.: Food boxes are distributed from 10 a.m.

to 11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of each month.

- Cove Food Pantry, 1708 Jasper St.: Food boxes are distributed on the fourth Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Union County Senior Center, 1504 Albany St., La Grande. Food is available throughout the week. For information call 541-963-7532.

In Wallowa County, nonperishable food is provided by the Community Connection of Northeast Oregon in Enterprise and Wallowa. In Enterprise nonperishable food it is available at the Community Connection office, 702 NW First St., on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Nonperishable food is provided in Wallowa at the American Legion Hall on the second and third Tuesdays of each month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. This is just a portion of the food services provided Community Connection in Wallowa County. For more information call 541-426-3840.

— Dick Mason
The Observer

Fire damages Inland Cafe in Baker City

By Jayson Jacoby

WesCom News Service

A Sunday night fire severely damaged the Inland Cafe, a 10th Street eatery beloved for its breakfasts and a popular meeting spot for groups of families and friends.

The fire at the Inland Cafe, 2715 10th St., was reported at 8:51 p.m., Baker City Police Chief John Clark said. Firefighters from the Baker City Fire Department, Baker Rural Fire District and Haines Fire District responded to the blaze.

The restaurant, which had closed about 8:15 p.m., was empty. None of the firefighters was hurt.

Kristi Hensley, who owns the Inland, wrote in a post on her Facebook page: "There are no words I can say! We are heartbroken! Worst of all is my poor employees have no where to go to work tomorrow! It was almost complete devastation inside. We are just sick about it!"

Clark said the fire is under investigation, but it appears to be accidental rather than arson.

He said restaurant employees had locked the doors and left just 35 minutes or so before the fire was reported.

No appliances or other equipment was left on, Clark said.

When firefighters arrived, the buildings roof was burning. Clark said crews attacked the fire inside and from the roof, where they cut holes to vent the blaze.

He said firefighters limited fire damage to the roof

and kitchen area at the rear of the building. He estimated damage to the building at \$150,000, and the value of contents at \$100,000.

Hensley said she was meeting with an insurance company official this morning.

Clark said the vent exhaust system for the cafe's grill was inspected just a month or so ago. The grill has an automatic chemical retardant system in case of a fire, but the blaze apparently started between the ceiling and the roof, and the automatic system is not designed to trigger in that case, he said.

Clark said grill vent systems are required to be inspected every six months. He said Hensley has "been very vigilant" in complying with that requirement.

The Inland Cafe opened in 1946, according to the restaurant's Facebook page. The building, which covers 2,862 square feet, was built in 1930, according to the Baker County Assessor's Office.

In her Facebook post, Hensley thanked firefighters.

"Thank you to our Baker City finest firefighters, police officers and all who helped save our business tonight. If it wasn't for them it would be burnt to the ground, what a great job they did trying to save a piece of everyone's heart the inland cafe! Thank you again!"

10th Street was closed to traffic between Campbell and E streets until firefighters finished their work about 11 p.m. Sunday, Clark said.

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