

DAILY  
PLANNER

## TODAY

Today is Monday, Jan. 21, the 21st day of 2019. There are 344 days left in the year.



## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Jan. 21, 1977, on his first full day in office, President Jimmy Carter pardoned almost all Vietnam War draft evaders.

## ON THIS DATE

In 1793, during the French Revolution, King Louis XVI, condemned for treason, was executed on the guillotine.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi and four other Southerners whose states had seceded from the Union resigned from the U.S. Senate.

In 1908, New York City's Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance prohibiting women from smoking in public establishments (the measure was vetoed by Mayor George B. McClellan Jr., but not before one woman, Katie Mulcahey, was jailed overnight for refusing to pay a fine).

In 1950, former State Department official Alger Hiss, accused of being part of a Communist spy ring, was found guilty in New York of lying to a grand jury. (Hiss, who proclaimed his innocence, served less than four years in prison.)

In 1997, Speaker Newt Gingrich was reprimanded and fined as the House voted for the first time in history to discipline its leader for ethical misconduct.

## LOTTERY

**Megabucks:** \$7.1 million  
25-27-35-37-45-46

**Mega Millions:** \$82 million  
2-43-48-62-64-24 x3

**Powerball:** \$144 million  
5-8-41-65-66-PB 20-x3

**Win for Life:** Jan. 19  
1-4-52-71

## Pick 4:

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

## 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 please call 541-963-3161.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The road to ruin is always in good repair, and the travellers pay the expense of it."

— Josh Billings (Henry Wheeler Shaw)

## NORTHEAST OREGON HISTORY

## La Grande has link to African-American education history

By Dick Mason, The Observer

**Q: Who was the first African-American man to teach in Seattle's public school system?**

**A: The late Robert Terry, a former La Grande resident.**

Terry made history in 1950 when he began his education career as a sixth-grade teacher at Warren Avenue School in Seattle. It marked the first time an African-American man taught in Seattle Public Schools, the city's school district, according to a Sept. 22, 2018, article in the Seattle Times.

Terry was a graduate of La Grande High School and a 1950 graduate of what is now Eastern Oregon University. He joined the Seattle district three years after it had hired its first African-American educators, two women elementary school teachers.

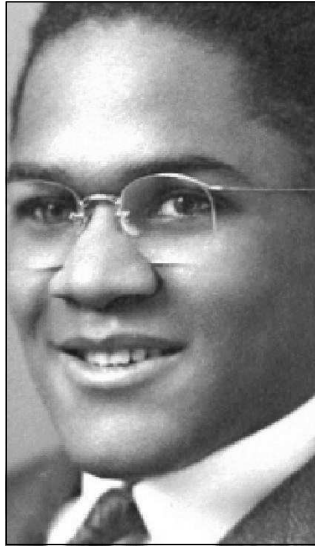
The education trailblazer was born in Arkansas and came to the old logging town of Maxville in Wallowa County when he was 4 years old. Terry recalled the sense of anticipation he felt when he began his train trip to Wallowa County during a presentation at EOU's graduation ceremony on June 10, 2000.

"My grandfather had told me there were mountains so tall that they passed through the clouds. He said that the trees were so tall you could stand at the foot of them and not see the tops," Terry said.

Terry and his grandmother were among several African-Americans who had come to Maxville, where they had relatives, to escape the racial discrimination in the South.

"My grandmother said that people would be fairer to us in Oregon," Terry told EOU's 2000 graduating class.

Maxville, about 15 miles north of Wallowa, was owned by the Bowman-Hicks Lumber Company.



Contributed photo

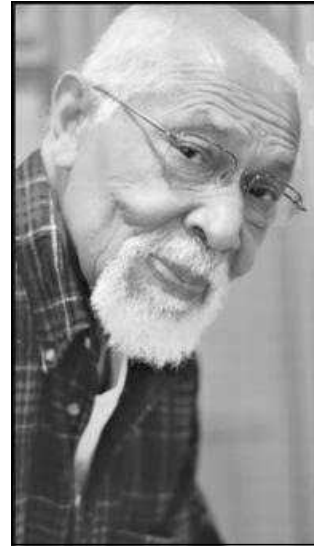
William Tebeau, shown in a 1946 photo, was the first African American man to graduate from Oregon State University.

Almost 40 African-Americans worked there during the town's brief history, according to the book "The History of Wallowa County," which was published in 1983 by the Wallowa County Museum Board.

The town's mill shut down in 1933, but the community remained in existence through the 1940s, according to the book "Oregon Geographic Names" by Lewis A. McArthur.

Terry lived in Maxville for less than three years. He and his grandmother moved to La Grande in 1933 because Maxville no longer had a school. Terry attended Greenwood Elementary School and junior high in La Grande before entering LHS, where he was student body vice president.

La Grande had an average of five or six African-American families during this time. Black people were openly discriminated against in La Grande. Signs that read "Color trade not solicited"



Contributed photo

Robert Terry, who went school in La Grande, broke a racial barrier in 1950.

were displayed at a number of businesses, including hotels and bars. Terry said in a June 12, 2000, Observer article.

Several times, Terry walked into a business that did not have such a sign and was told that he was not allowed.

"That was extremely hurtful," Terry said.

Terry entered the U.S. Navy at age 17 to serve during World War II. He returned to Oregon following the war planning to attend the University of Oregon on a football scholarship. Unfortunately the University of Oregon did not allow African-Americans in its dormitories, according to the Seattle Times' Sept. 22, 2018, article. Terry thus returned to La Grande and entered Eastern Oregon University, then named Eastern Oregon College, where he played football under legendary coach Bob Quinn. He graduated from Eastern in 1950.

Terry told the Seattle Times in a Sept. 7, 1950, article that he hoped the students he taught would work to solve inequality. "The problems of tomorrow will be solved by the youth of today. I feel that being a teacher I can help a lot in this racial business. Youngsters who have a Negro teacher may grow up with a better understanding of racial problems," Terry said.

Terry taught in Seattle's school district for 13 years then joined Seattle Central Community. He served as its president from 1976 to 1980 before becoming chancellor of the Seattle Community College System. The work he did as chancellor was praised by Jill Wakefield, former chancellor of the Seattle Community College System, in the Sept. 22, 2018, Seattle Times article.

"There was a lot of unrest in the community at that time due to a lot of protests about the war, but in a growing time (Terry) offered stability," Wakefield said. "He really helped set the foundation for the Seattle community colleges that was inviting for everyone in the community who might not have had access to college before. I felt like after talking to him I had a future and I think students believed they could do anything if he was there."

Terry received Eastern Oregon University's Distinguished Alumnus award in 2000. He died Sept. 1, 2018, in Seattle at age 91.

Another African-American from Northeast Oregon who made education history at about the same time as Terry was William Tebeau, a Baker City native. In 1948, Tebeau was the first African-American man to graduate from Oregon State University, then named Oregon School College.

Tebeau graduated from Baker High School in 1943 and was admitted into OSU where he planned to study chemical engineering. He encountered difficulties his first day on campus when he was refused a dorm room due to the color of his skin, according to a story by Tori Hittner and Enjun Ren on OSU's website, oregonstate.edu. Tebeau had not mentioned his ethnicity on his application.

His resolve unshaken, Tebeau found lodging and work at a nearby fraternity. Despite the housing issue, he went on to do well at OSU, graduating in 1948 with a degree in engineering. An avid trumpet and violin player, Tebeau played in the OSU marching band and in the studio band of KOAC, a radio station based at the university.

Upon his graduation, Tebeau earned a civil engineer license and went to work for the Oregon Department of Transportation, then known as the Oregon State Highway Department. According to Hittner and Ren, he worked for the state highway department for 31 years, during which time he was also a part-time engineering professor at Chemeketa Community College in Salem.

Tebeau was named Teacher of the Year at Chemeketa Community College in 1970 and the State of Oregon's Employee of the Year in 1971. Tebeau, who died in 2013, was inducted into the OSU Engineering Hall of Fame in 2010.

OSU named a new residence hall in honor of Tebeau in 2014.

## PA

Continued from Page 1A by third-graders, and the high school announcements are set to be read by students in a leadership class. Pettit wants students to read the announcements instead of staff because of the learning opportunity it provides.

"I want them to be the ones gaining confidence," he said.

The intercom system has two-way communication capabilities. With the press of a button, one can talk to the main office immediately from any classroom. The main office can also be reached by the telephones each classroom has had for many years and of course by cellphones.

"(The intercom system) is a good backup," Pettit noted.

The wireless system also has an emergency warning program that will soon be installed. The system will send recorded messages to any of the school district's buildings via the intercom.

Pettit said the system can

send separate messages to different buildings depending on the emergency. For example, if a violent intruder walked into the grade school building, school officials would be able to press a button alerting everyone to lock all classroom doors and students and teachers should hide inside.

Pettit said the lockdown message may also state, "Lock, light, out of sight," to remind everyone what to do.

At the same time, a button would be pressed alerting the high school that a lockout is in effect, with the exterior doors locked to prevent anyone from entering the building.

Another prerecorded message the system offers calls for "holding in the classroom" procedures. Pettit said this message is usually given when there is a medical emergency and teachers are asked to keep students in classrooms to prevent anyone from getting in the way of medical responders.

The superintendent said that having prerecorded messages ready could prove

critical in an emergency. He explained that in a crisis situation people in charge of giving alerts can forget things like which code to use, but this is not an issue with the prerecorded message system.

The Cove School Board approved the purchase of the new system last summer. The \$16,500 system was installed with the help of Cove students.

"They are tech savvy," Miles said.

Pettit said that if a similar bell and public address system were installed in the Cove School District without the benefit of wireless technology, it would cost about \$100,000.

Also, because the bell and PA system operates without wiring, additions can be made relatively inexpensively. For example, if a new building needs to be added to the system, it can be done for about \$250.

"It will not break the bank every time you make an addition," Pettit said. "The system provides a lot flexibility."

## REC

Continued from Page 1A was much less enjoyable.

"You have forest access, but you have to drive farther and it's crowded when you get there," Spence said. "So you don't get the same experience you get here. You get a quality outdoor recreation experience here for free, usually."

Nitz agreed, likening urban hikes to a more "theme park" feel, with big crowds and long lines.

The study, which was commissioned by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, concluded that investment in such departments could be a frugal way to lower health care costs: "Collaboration between health, transportation, and parks and recreation providers, among others, has the potential to significantly influence community health and may be a cost-effective health prevention strategy for the state of Oregon."

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