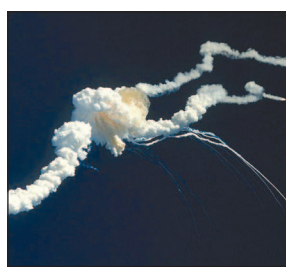


DAILY PLANNER

TODAY
Today is Monday, Jan. 28, the 28th day of 2019. There are 337 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT
On Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, killing all seven crew members, including school-teacher Christa McAuliffe.

ON THIS DATE
In 1547, England's King Henry VIII died; he was succeeded by his 9-year-old son, Edward VI.
In 1878, the first daily college newspaper, Yale News (now Yale Daily News), began publication in New Haven, Connecticut.
In 1911, the notorious Hope Diamond was sold by jeweler Pierre Cartier to socialites Edward and Evelyn McLean of Washington, D.C., for \$180,000.
In 1915, the United States Coast Guard was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill merging the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service.
In 1916, Louis D. Brandeis was nominated by President Woodrow Wilson to the Supreme Court; Brandeis became the court's first Jewish member.
In 1945, during World War II, Allied supplies began reaching China over the newly reopened Burma Road.
In 1956, Elvis Presley made his first national TV appearance on "Stage Show," a CBS program hosted by Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey.

LOTTERY
Megabucks: \$74 million
2-7-9-13-42-44
Mega Millions: \$109 million
8-16-30-38-61-10 x2
Powerball: \$174 million
8-12-20-21-32-PB 10-x4
Win for Life: Jan. 26
17-25-32-71
Pick 4: Jan. 27
• 1 p.m.: 9-3-0-7
• 4 p.m.: 1-8-0-4
• 7 p.m.: 5-1-2-8
• 10 p.m.: 6-1-1-1
Pick 4: Jan. 26
• 1 p.m.: 4-0-2-3
• 4 p.m.: 9-8-3-5
• 7 p.m.: 4-4-0-8
• 10 p.m.: 2-1-0-3

ROAD REPORT
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QUOTE OF THE DAY
"A self-taught man usually has a poor teacher and a worse student."
— Henny Youngman, British-born American comedian (1906-1998).

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Iconic butterflies are scarce in Idaho

By Jerry Painter
Post Register

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — Something catastrophically wrong happened in 2018 to monarch butterflies.

Idaho wildlife biologist Ross Winton spent years working with monarch butterflies. With the help of volunteers, he would carefully put a tiny tag the size of a paper hole punch on about 30 to 50 of the iconic insects each summer in the Magic Valley. Then during the summer of 2018 he could only find two to tag.

"I saw two monarchs all season," Winton said of 2018. "Most of the folks I've talked to in the Boise area were seeing very similar results. It was a little disconcerting to be seeing that kind of a decline in one year."

On Thursday, the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation issued a report finding the population of monarch butterflies overwintering in California had fallen to the lowest level ever recorded, the Post Register reports.

The Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count found only 28,429 butterflies, an 86 percent fall from the previous year and a 99.4 percent decline from numbers counted in the 1980s. Overwintering butterflies in central and Southern California numbered about 4.5 million in the 1980s. The monarch population in the eastern United States, which migrates to Mexico, has declined by more than 80 percent in the last 20 years, but has not suffered the same fall in numbers this year, the Xerces Society says.

"To picture what this means for monarchs, imagine that the population of Los

Angeles had shrunk to that of the town of Monterey," said Emma Pelton, a monarch conservation expert with the Xerces Society. (Monterey, Calif., has about 29,000 residents, while Los Angeles has about 4 million.)

Monarch butterfly experts say much of the blame for the species' demise can be aimed at habitat destruction, particularly in overwintering areas of California. Each year, the butterflies head south to winter mostly in either California or central Mexico. While most end up in Mexico, particularly those who spend their summers east of the Rocky Mountains, many also overwinter in habitat near Santa Cruz, Calif.

"Our best guess is most of our Idaho monarchs are going to central and Southern California," Winton said. "The connections we've had that we've documented for sure most of them have been from central California. ... They like to winter in a lot of the tall trees along the coast of California."

But what's happening in California as far as monarchs are concerned is alarming.

"A lot of the concern is focusing in on California," said Beth Waterbury, retired wildlife biologist for Idaho Fish and Game in Salmon. Waterbury helped head up a monarch study in Idaho, collecting, tagging and documenting the species especially in eastern Idaho.

"Either loss of habitat or degradation of habitat on those overwinter sites (is key)," she said. "When those butterflies start dispersing in early spring they're looking for milkweed and nectar resources not too distant from those overwinter sites. The focus right

now is looking at availability of habitat in the California central valley or in the coastal foothills or the Sierra foothills and that apparently is lacking. That is looking to be the real break in the migratory chain this past year."

Winton agrees. "In California and Mexico a lot of habitat has been lost where they tend to overwinter," he said. "A lot of those big trees are either getting too old and not getting replaced and blowing over or they are getting removed, with city expansions, things like that. It really comes down to habitat."

Waterbury said other contributing factors include wildfires, pesticides and hot weather. "Monarchs don't do well or reproduce when it gets up to 90 degrees or hotter," she said.

With the population vanishing, the Xerces Society has issued a call to arms in hopes of saving the species.

"It's easy to give up when faced with news like this," Pelton said. "But doing nothing is not an option."

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is calling on Californians to plant early blooming flowers and milkweed to fuel migrating monarchs on their paths to other states.

Waterbury said while most of the action items target California, one involves Idaho. Mainly it involves protecting and restoring monarch-friendly habitat.

"Having done some outreach here in the Salmon area to local ranchers, I taught a course at a cattle-women's night school in January and gave a presentation on monarchs and honestly



Courtesy photo

The monarch butterfly's population is seriously decreasing at an alarming rate.

the ranchers were kind of dumbfounded," Waterbury said. "They had no idea that monarchs need (milkweed) to reproduce. Once they knew that they said, 'I can leave some milkweed at the corners of my pivot' or 'I don't need to burn that ditch that time of year.' They made a few provisions to allow monarch habitat."

Waterbury said one thing working against the cause is a name.

"This is my name for milkweed, it should be called 'monarch manna' because it is so important," she said. "There are these public attitudes because of the name having the name weed in it. So many people do not know

that it is the only plant monarchs will lay their eggs on."

Some might wonder what all the fuss is over an insect?

"We want to conserve all of our biodiversity just on its own sake," Waterbury said. "There is a role that monarchs play that is very important to humans and that is as a pollinator and if we don't have pollinators on our landscape to pollinate our crops, to pollinate native plants, we're going to lose about three-quarters of the plant species on this planet and a lot of our food resources."

"Monarchs are kind of a canary in a coal mine for a lot of other insect species, especially bees which are some of our primary pollinators."

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CONSERVATION

Continued from Page 1A
acres in Wallowa County. The acres are owned by private landowners and the Trust is in the process of having conversations with the owners to protect the land so it can be used for recreational purposes as well as timber and grazing, Greenwell said.

The conservation easement that now encompasses Quint's 175-acre property permanently extinguishes all development and subdivision rights while reserving recreation, hunting, farming, and grazing rights, according to the release.

Considered the southern tip of Zumwalt Prairie, Quint's property is composed of 53 acres of cropland and 122 acres of bunchgrass, including habitat for the ESA-listed herbaceous wildflower Spalding's catchfly, as well as critical winter range for mule deer and habitat for fox, coyote and a variety of grassland birds and

raptors, among other species, according to the release. Quint also reserved the right to graze cattle on the property as well as farm, citing working lands as a big part of her Wallowa County heritage.

Quint, 85, who now lives in Redmond, grew up on the southern edge of Joseph in a house her parents bought when she was in elementary school, according to the release. Her father grew up on a ranch outside of Joseph on Walker Lane.

Helping conserve the moraine was important to Quint long before the Wallowa Land Trust was formed, she wrote a letter several decades ago opposing a proposal to build houses on the north end of the moraine near the county boat launch. More than 10 years ago, Quint and the Wallowa Land Trust began discussing creating the conservation easement that is now officially in place. A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement

between a landowner and a land trust that protects a property's agricultural viability, natural habitat, rural heritage and/or scenic open space in perpetuity.

"We have to have a fund that we invest to use to steward the property," Greenwell said. "She gave us the property (and is) providing the stewardship as well. We're really excited about her commitment to conservation — it's incredible."

Founded in 2004, the Wallowa Land Trust is a 501(c)3 nonprofit land conservation organization based in Enterprise. The Land Trust's mission is to protect the rural nature of Wallowa County by working cooperatively with private landowners, governmental entities, Indian tribes and local communities to conserve. The Wallowa Land Trust uses voluntary, non-regulatory methods to protect natural areas, wildlife habitat and working lands in Wallowa County.

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The Nature Conservancy has generously donated the LOP tag to benefit Chief Joseph Summer Camp, a week-long educational day camp held each July since 1961 in Joseph, Oregon serving the rural kids of Wallowa County. Raffle to be held at camp location, Ferguson Ridge Ski Area. You do not have to be present to win; winner will be notified within 24 hours of drawing.
To purchase tickets, contact Board President Dana Ingram at 541-910-5146 Or make check payable to CJSC for \$100 and mail to:
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