

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY
Today is Friday, March 1, the 60th day of 2019. There are 305 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT
On March 1, 1932, Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was kidnapped from the family home near Hopewell, New Jersey. (Remains identified as those of the child were found the following May.)

ON THIS DATE
In 1781, the Continental Congress declared the Articles of Confederation to be in force, following ratification by Maryland.
In 1790, President George Washington signed a measure authorizing the first United States Census. (Census Day was Aug. 2, 1790.)
In 1893, inventor Nikola Tesla first publicly demonstrated radio during a meeting of the National Electric Light Association in St. Louis by transmitting electromagnetic energy without wires.
In 1954, four Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the spectators' gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives, wounding five members of Congress. The United States detonated a dry-fuel hydrogen bomb, codenamed Castle Bravo, at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

CORRECTION:
In the Page A1 story "Be prepared: Your tax return might be different this year," published Wednesday, February 27, the story misstated the amount of money that Trisha Ingram and her husband owed in taxes after filing this tax season. The correct amount is \$2,800.

LOTTERY
Megabucks: \$8.8 million
2-8-9-25-31-36
Mega Millions: \$267 million
10-12-14-24-60-20 x3
Powerball: \$348 million
21-31-42-49-59-PB 23-x5
Win for Life: Feb. 27
7-17-56-65

Pick 4: Feb. 28
• 1 p.m.: 1-9-0-8
• 4 p.m.: 1-6-9-3
• 7 p.m.: 6-7-4-9
• 10 p.m.: 9-8-8-7
Pick 4: Feb. 27
• 1 p.m.: 7-6-9-0
• 4 p.m.: 2-6-7-6
• 7 p.m.: 1-6-4-2
• 10 p.m.: 4-0-3-2

ROAD REPORT
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QUOTE OF THE DAY
"An essential aspect of creativity is not being afraid to fail."
— Edwin H. Land, American inventor (born 1909, died this date in 1991).

Baker reports 37 inches of new snow in February

By Jayson Jacoby
WesCom News Service

Luke Albert strides into the meadow and his snowshoes disappear so rapidly it seems something more than plain gravity is at play.

Albert gazes across the unblemished surface, which glitters in an eye-watering way under the unique blue of an alpine sky, and he reconsiders.

"I think we're going to need another section of pole," he said, sounding much like the police chief in "Jaws," who distrusts the diminutive boat once he's seen the shark.

The pole Albert referred to is a hollow aluminum tube used to measure snow.

To spare snow surveyors the potentially painful indignity of lugging an object of considerable length through forests, the tube is thoughtfully divided into sections of about two feet, which fit snugly into the sleeves of a nylon pack that wraps into a manageable size.

This meadow just east of Anthony Lake, at an elevation of 7,125 feet and very nearly in the shadow of Gunsight Mountain, is the last of three survey sites Albert visited Wednesday afternoon.

The three-man crew also included Jason Yencopal,

Baker County's emergency manager, and Joe Johnson, who works at the Baker County Dispatch Center.

The two other sites are at lower elevations — Little Alps, 6,200 feet, and Little Antone, 4,560. At both, three sections of pole were sufficient.

But Albert's plunge into the snowbound meadow convinced him that if he were to thrust six feet of aluminum into the snow here, the pole would vanish as thoroughly as his snowshoes did.

This turned out to be wise, as the snow was about 83 inches deep — one inch short of 7 feet — and so fully justifying the addition of the fourth section.

The numbers Yencopal jotted down in a notebook put into numerical perspective the onslaught of storms that defined February.

The snow depth increased by 37 inches during the month.

Snow surveyors have trudged into this meadow to measure snow every winter since 1936, making it one of the older such sites in Oregon.

In just five of those 84 years — one happening 70 years to the day of the trio's arrival — did they

find the snow deeper at this point in winter.

(Surveys are done monthly, typically in the last week of a month or the first week of the next month. The official March 1 readings, then, generally represent surveys actually done between Feb. 23 and March 5.)

The top 5:

- 109 inches, Feb. 23, 1965 (this is the deepest snow ever measured at the site, at any time; in many winters the snow depth peaks around April 1)
- 96 inches, Feb. 24, 1956
- 95 inches, Feb. 27, 1949
- 92 inches, Feb. 28, 1972
- 88 inches, March 3, 1997

The situation at Anthony Lakes is representative of much of the rest of Northeastern Oregon.

The snowpack is running about 35 percent above average. Every measuring site is reporting more snow now than at the same time a year ago. Many places have more snow now than they did on March 1, 2017, during one of the snowiest winters on record in the region.

The parade of blizzards during February is especially noteworthy because



Jayson Jacoby / Baker City Herald
Luke Albert collects a core sample of snow that will be weighed to determine the water content.

the month typically represents a lull in wintry weather.

Statistically it is the second-driest month at the Baker City Airport, with an average precipitation (rain and melted snow) of 0.63 of an inch.

(Only July, at 0.53 of an inch, is drier.)

But this February was the dampest ever at the airport, where records date to 1943.

The monthly total was 1.92 inches, eclipsing the previous record of 1.66 inches set in February 1966.

A now defunct weather station, in Baker City itself, recorded one wetter February — 1980, with a total of 2.3 inches. The total at the airport that February was 1.17 inches, reflecting that the city typically gets more precipitation than the airport, which is about three miles to the north. ■

Baker City leading the contest for new playground equipment

By Casey Crowley
WesCom News Service

If the Moda Assist contest ended today Baker City would receive a grant of more than \$30,000 to pay part of the cost for an all-abilities playground, but citizens shouldn't be complacent, said Joyce Bornstedt, who oversees the city's parks department.

That's because the online contest continues through March 20.

As of this morning, Baker City had 21,024 votes, giving it a lead over its two competitors — Prineville, 14,744 votes, and Independence, with 7,773.

With the size of the lead, Bornstedt and other city workers have begun planning for the possible addition of an accessible play structure at Geiser-Pollman Park.

The winning city will likely receive between

\$35,000 and \$40,000. The amount is based on the number of assists the Portland Trail Blazers have this season. Moda Health is donating \$20 for each assist.

The grant wouldn't pay the entire cost of building the all-abilities playground.

Bornstedt expects the Moda grant would cover about half the cost. The city has already started

looking at other grants to make up the difference.

If the city doesn't receive any grants, they could use money from the general fund or try collecting the money through fundraisers.

Next week Bornstedt plans to attend a Certified Playground Safety Inspector Recertification class where she can talk with playground manufacturers about the

estimated cost of all-abilities equipment.

To make a playground fully accessible, the city would need to install surfacing accessible to wheelchairs.

The surface would be similar to the artificial turf beneath the playground structure installed in May 2014.

Residents can vote once per day online. To vote, go to <https://www.nba.com/blazers/assist> ■

As snowpack soars, Oregon's governor declares emergency

■ The snowpack for the state is 119 percent of normal as of Thursday

By Andrew Selsky
The Associated Press

SALEM — After a slow start, wintry weather has walloped Oregon, with the snowpack surpassing the norm by as much as 160 percent in some parts of the state and Gov. Kate Brown declaring an emergency Thursday in 10 counties.

Brown directed the Oregon Office of Emergency Management to coordinate the deployment of the state transportation department, state police and the Oregon National Guard to support local communities as needed.

Since early February, the snowpack rose from 70 percent of normal statewide to 119 percent of normal as of Thursday, according to Scott Oviatt, snow survey supervisor for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Center. It is already helping to alleviate a drought that affected much of the

state, with its severity classification in Southern and Central Oregon reduced this week, Oviatt said.

"Cold air from Canada and moisture from the Pacific Ocean combined to create this," Oviatt said. "In the last three weeks, cold air has infiltrated the entire state."

Warm, dry air could wipe out the drought mitigation benefits quickly with a fast runoff, or rain on top of snow could cause flooding, Oviatt said, but the forecast over the next 8-14 days was for cold temperatures.

"We're cautiously optimistic and hope the trend continues," Oviatt said.

The belated blast of winter has hit communities with heavy snow and ice accumulation, high winds, flooding and landslides,

the governor's office said.

Heavy snow in Springfield caused the roof of a gym at Thurston High School to partially collapse Wednesday, The Register-Guard of Eugene reported. There were no injuries.

A town in the Cascade Range experiencing a prolonged blackout has been struggling. Oakridge was the town where an Amtrak train was stranded for about 36 hours this week because of fallen trees and snow on the tracks.

The passengers had electrical power while the town didn't and they stayed on board. Passengers saw townspeople on snowshoes making their way through snow-blanketed streets.

Payments are accepted

only in cash or local check, with credit card machines down.

Most businesses in town were closed Wednesday in the town, which lies along Highway 58 that goes over Willamette Pass and to a ski area there. The road has been closed to regular traffic with downed trees lining the roadside.

The highway closure and the power outage are a "double whammy," said resident Tim Foster.

"It just takes away any hope of being able to do anything," Foster told the Register-Guard, whose reporter was escorted to the town Wednesday by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Jeremy Taylor, 36, of

Sunriver, was last seen getting gas on Sunday in Sunriver, a resort community south of Bend.

"He is known to frequent the forested area to the west of Sunriver where he enjoyed off-roading. However, it is unknown where he was going after getting gas in Sunriver on Sunday," the sheriff's office said.

Brown made the emergency declaration for Coos, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Linn, and Marion counties. ■

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