

## DAILY PLANNER

### TODAY

Today is Friday, March 29, the 88th day of 2019. There are 277 days left in the year.



### TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On March 29, 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted in New York of conspiracy to commit espionage for the Soviet Union. (They were executed in June 1953.)

### ON THIS DATE

In 1638, Swedish colonists settled in present-day Delaware.

In 1867, Britain's Parliament passed, and Queen Victoria signed, the British North America Act creating the Dominion of Canada, which came into being the following July.

In 1912, British explorer Robert Falcon Scott, his doomed expedition stranded in an Antarctic blizzard after failing to be the first to reach the South Pole, wrote the last words of his journal: "For Gods sake look after our people."

In 1943, World War II rationing of meat, fats and cheese began, limiting consumers to store purchases of an average of about two pounds a week for beef, pork, lamb and mutton using a coupon system. (The Associated Press noted, "From the customer viewpoint, the unrationed oasis of food will be the restaurant or other public eating place.")

In 1951, The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The King and I" opened on Broadway.

In 1962, Jack Paar hosted NBC's "Tonight" show for the final time. (Johnny Carson debuted as host the following October.)

In 1971, Army Lt. William L. Calley Jr. was convicted of murdering 22 Vietnamese civilians in the 1968 My Lai (mee ly) massacre. (Calley ended up serving three years under house arrest.) A jury in Los Angeles recommended the death penalty for Charles Manson and three female followers for the 1969 Tate-La Bianca murders. (The sentences were later commuted.)

In 1973, the last United States combat troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War.

### LOTTERY

**Megabucks:** \$10 million  
2-12-14-17-25-32

**Mega Millions:** \$75 million  
4-14-22-43-58-9-x3

**Powerball:** \$40 million  
16-20-37-44-62-PB 12-x3

**Win for Life:** March 27  
20-27-38-69

### Pick 4:

March 28  
• 1 p.m.: 4-8-2-7  
• 4 p.m.: 0-2-7-3  
• 7 p.m.: 1-1-9-1  
• 10 p.m.: 0-4-5-4  
**Pick 4:** March 27  
• 1 p.m.: 0-0-7-0  
• 4 p.m.: 6-7-2-2  
• 7 p.m.: 5-8-6-2  
• 10 p.m.: 8-7-5-8

### 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

"If men could foresee the future, they would still behave as they do now."

— Russian proverb



Cherise Kaechela/The Observer

A herd of elk was camped out on Hwy. 237 in early February several miles before Cove. There is an incurable disease threatening elk populations and has been increasing in herds over the last several years.

## Hoof disease threatens elk populations

By Francisca Benitez  
The Observer

It isn't uncommon in this area to stop and admire an elk or a herd of elk, but have you ever looked at their feet? The next time you get the chance, consider using your binoculars to get a good look at their hooves — to see if you can help spot a highly contagious and incurable disease that is threatening elk populations in the Pacific Northwest.

Hoof disease in elk is increasing and has been for several years. The disease originated and is most prevalent in Washington state, but cases have been confirmed in Oregon and Idaho as well.

The disease, called treponeme associated hoof disease (TAHD), is a bacterial infection that causes hooves to become severely deformed, growing into long boat-like shapes, or can cause the hooves to slough off completely. The resulting lameness threatens their chance of surviving. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife reported that there are currently no viable options for treating the disease in the field.

"In Washington, herds have been observed with 20-90 percent of the animals showing lameness. In Oregon, there have now been more than thirty confirmed cases, and at least 70 separate reports of limping elk or elk with deformed hooves," The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website reads. According to the distribution map on the website, several cases have been confirmed in



ODFW photo

Hooves infected with TAHD can become deformed, causing pain and limping, and even fall off entirely.

Union County.

The ODFW said Oregonians can help by reporting any elk that are limping or have deformed feet using their online form ([https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/health\\_program/elk\\_hoof\\_disease/](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/health_program/elk_hoof_disease/)).

People reporting elk suspected to have hoof disease are asked to take photos of the hooves if possible. Any dead elk with deformed hooves should also be reported. If possible, the legs should be removed and placed in separate plastic bags and stored in a cool area for further evaluation by the ODFW.

According to ODFW wildlife veterinarian Julia Burco, ODFW is partnering with researchers in Washington state to help answer questions about the disease by sending them new Oregon samples.

The disease has been spreading to new areas of Washington. An elk killed by a hunter in January was

confirmed to have TAHD in Walla Walla County, according to WDFW, and another case was confirmed in Klickitat County in April.

The disease is believed to be spread through bacteria in wet soil, according to ODFW, and the emergence of the disease is likely due to factors including the health of the elk and the quality of the environment.

According to ODFW, similar diseases are treated in livestock with antibiotic foot baths and by maintaining clean enclosures. Livestock are not likely to be in danger of catching the TAHD from elk.

"Other than elk, other ungulates do not appear to be developing similar hoof lesions in areas where TAHD is common," the ODFW website stated. The disease has also not been shown to pose a risk to humans who eat the meat of infected elk.

According to ODFW, the

disease first emerged in Southwest Washington in the late 1990s. A dramatic rise in reports of limping elk around 2007 prompted a scientific investigation into the disease.

Washington state is funding a \$3 million elk hoof disease research program, led by Margaret Wild, a Washington State University veterinarian and professor.

"In the near future, we hope we can begin to get a handle on TAHD and determine what if anything we can do to moderate or stop its progression," Wild stated in a Washington State University press release.

"Much remains to be learned about the disease," Wild said in a WDFW press release. "We are further investigating treponeme bacteria and other potential pathogens, and we will also look at factors that may increase the susceptibility of elk contracting the disease." ■

## OREGON IN BRIEF

From wire reports

### Pilot suffers minor injuries in crop duster plane crash

HERMISTON — Authorities say a pilot suffered minor injuries after crashing his crop duster plane in a Hermiston field.

The East Oregonian reports the man was finished with his work for the day and returning to the airport with an empty tank, according to Oregon State Police Sgt. Seth Cooney.

Cooney says for unknown reasons, witnesses indicate that he inverted and crashed.

Cooney said he didn't know the identity of the pilot but said he was the only person in the plane.

Umatilla County Fire District personnel said they didn't know whether it was fuel or pesticide that leaked from the plane in

the crash, but a hazardous materials truck arrived at the scene about a half hour later.

### Mental health hospital worker accused of patient sex abuse

BEAVERTON — A former night shift employee of a mental health treatment center in the Beaverton area has been arrested on suspicion of sexually abusing a female patient.

The OregonLive/Oregonian reports 28-year-old Christopher Zeisler, who worked as a mental health technician at Cedar Hills Hospital, was arrested Tuesday and booked into the Washington County Jail on suspicion of first-degree sexual abuse.

It wasn't known if he had a lawyer to speak for him.

Prosecutors say in

court documents that Zeisler sexually abused the woman in December 2018, two months after he began working at the Cedar Hills-based facility. The county sheriff's office said Zeisler was no longer an employee there by the time he was arrested.

The sheriff's office said the woman was under Zeisler's care when she said she was abused.

### Man found guilty except for insanity in attack on relative

PORTLAND — Prosecutors say a man who attacked his grandmother will be placed under the supervision of the Oregon Psychiatric Security Review Board for up to 28 1/2 years.

KATU-TV reported Thursday that a jury

found 28-year-old Matthew James Hegler guilty except for insanity in the assault that severely injured the woman.

According to court testimony, Hegler punched his grandmother in the face and kicked her several times at her home in southeast Portland in June 2017.

A medical expert testified at trial that Hegler has borderline personality disorder, anti-social personality disorder and showed conditions consistent with malingering.

Judge Nan Waller said Hegler is a "substantial danger to himself and others."

Hegler was convicted on multiple charges, including second-degree assault, attempted strangulation and unlawful use of a weapon.

## Man arrested for indecent exposure

Observer staff

The La Grande Police Department arrested a Caldwell, Idaho, man Thursday on charges of public indecency and stalking.

Just after noon, several reports began to come in of a suspicious male in a car following, and watching, young girls in two different locations.

LGPLD Sgt. John Shaul located the suspect after the second incident, conducted a field interview and warned him about his behavior. There was not enough evidence a crime had occurred for an arrest.

Later in the afternoon, dispatch received another call that a suspect matching the description had exposed himself to an adult woman on May Lane at the Riverside Park trailhead. The suspect followed the woman as she fled, but she was able to elude him in her vehicle.

Sgt. Shaul located the suspect on Island Avenue where he was trying to contact yet another adult woman. At this time, Shaul arrested the suspect on the above charges and he was identified as Denver Knowlton from Caldwell. Knowlton was transported and lodged in the Union County Jail. This case is an ongoing investigation. ■

## WesCom president to retire

By Suzanna Roig  
WesCom News Service

The Observer's parent company, Western Communications, announced that Publisher and President John Costa will retire at the end of April and has named his successors of the seven-newspaper chain.

Succeeding Costa as publisher will be Elizabeth McCool, who will remain chairwoman of Western Communications. Dena DeRose, currently The Bulletin's advertising director, will become chief operating officer of Western Communications, and Erik Lukens, The Bulletin's editor, will become chief editorial officer of Western Communications.

Costa's retirement takes effect April 30, but the changes in leadership occur April 1.

Western Communications, which owns seven newspapers in Oregon and California, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Jan. 22.

"The leadership of the company is in good hands, even as we proceed through a Chapter 11 process, which, by the way, is going well," Costa said in an email to staff. "I have assured Betsy, Dena and Erik, as well as our superb legal team and outside consultants, that I will be available to help whenever I'm needed.

"All I can say now is that it has been a distinct honor and rare privilege to serve this great company."

Costa previously was The Bulletin's editor-in-chief until 2014 when he was named publisher. Prior to joining The Bulletin, Costa was the executive editor of the Idaho Statesman and deputy managing editor of the St. Petersburg Times. ■



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