

# DAILY PLANNER

## TODAY

Today is Friday, April 5, the 95th day of 2019. There are 270 days left in the year.



## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On April 5, 1986, two American servicemen and a Turkish woman were killed in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque, an incident which prompted a U.S. air raid on Libya more than a week later.

## ON THIS DATE

In 1614, Indian Chief Powhatan's daughter Pocahontas married Englishman John Rolfe, a widower, in the Virginia Colony.

In 1915, Jess Willard knocked out Jack Johnson in the 26th round of their fight in Havana, Cuba, to claim boxing's world heavyweight title.

In 1955, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill resigned his office for health reasons. Democrat Richard J. Daley was first elected mayor of Chicago, defeating Republican Robert E. Merriam.

In 1964, Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur died in Washington, D.C., at age 84.

In 1974, Stephen King's first published novel, "Carrie," was released by Doubleday.

In 1975, nationalist Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek died in Taipei at age 87.

In 1976, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes died in Houston at age 70.

In 1988, a 15-day hijacking ordeal began as gunmen forced a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet to land in Iran.

In 1991, former Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, his daughter Marian and 21 other people were killed in a commuter plane crash near Brunswick, Georgia.

## LOTTERY

**Megabucks:** \$10.3 million  
19-34-35-44-45-46

**Mega Millions:** \$104 million  
33-47-58-59-64-25-x3

**Powerball:** \$68 million  
16-19-25-32-49-PB 18-x2

**Win for Life:** April 3  
31-47-50-53

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

## ROAD REPORT

- Numbers to call:  
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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I realized a long time ago that a belief which does not spring from a conviction in the emotions is no belief at all."  
 — Evelyn Scott, *American author (1893-1963)*



Photo courtesy of Carrie Bushman

Carrie Bushman, a children's services employee at Cook Memorial Library, reads to a class from Heidi Ho Preschool and Kindergarten at the library.

# Read Together series to promote love for books

By Amanda Weisbrod  
The Observer

The La Grande Literacy Alliance, Cook Memorial Library and the City of La Grande have teamed up to encourage of promoting an interest in reading for young children by having prominent community members read to them.

At the city council meeting Wednesday, La Grande Mayor Stephen Clements proclaimed April as Read Together La Grande month, an initiative sparked by Mayor Clements, Christine Jarski, the city's economic development director, Carol Lauritzen, a leader of the La Grande Literacy Alliance, and representatives from Cook Memorial Library.

At 10:30 a.m. every Saturday this month, parents can bring their 4- to 8-year-old children to listen to stories read by community leaders at Cook Memorial Library. The first reading is by Suzy Mayes, principal of Central Elementary, on April 6. Mayor Clements will follow on April 13 with a reading of "The Berenstain Bears' New Neigh-

bors," and April 20 will feature a reading from Jenell Zamora, a speech pathologist at Grande Ronde Hospital, who will focus on the importance of not judging how others speak or what they may sound like. Les Thomas, fire chief for the City of La Grande, will wrap up this series on April 27 with a reading on safety guidelines.

Lauritzen pointed to the effectiveness of having public figures read to young children in the community as a way to show them it's OK — and even fun — to enjoy learning.

"Kids need reading role models. When they see important people in the community outside of their families taking the time to model being readers, it has a real positive message for kids that reading is a good thing to do," she said. "We appreciate community leaders who will demonstrate that reading is important in their lives."

The mayor's reading of "The Berenstain Bears' New Neigh-

will fulfill a requirement for a community development block grant received by the city from Business Oregon.

Jarski said this requirement had to do with fair housing education and reading with children was one way they could complete this task under the grant's guidelines. She approached the mayor with the idea of him reading a book on fair housing to children in La Grande, and he was all for it — he even wanted to expand the day of reading to a series throughout April. That's where Lauritzen came in.

The literacy alliance leader had already been working on a reading event for April, so she welcomed the city's collaboration proposal.

"The alliance tries to pull together everybody who has an interest (in literacy), from libraries to the school district to the city, because of the importance of high literacy rate for economic development and level of living," she said. "The whole idea of Read Together La Grande month is to support all literacy and learning efforts in our community, and

to especially encourage parents of preschoolers and school-aged kids to read with them to promote love of reading. When you read together you build a bond with your kids."

There is a reason, Lauritzen said, April was chosen for literacy awareness month.

On May 2, Pierce Library on Eastern Oregon University's campus will have a culminating event following Read Together La Grande month to celebrate the 100th anniversary of children's book week, which is April 29 to May 5.

"After talking with the mayor and Christine, I realized we could coordinate a month-long build-up to the 100th anniversary to child's book week," Lauritzen said. "We're trying to get as many people and organizations involved as possible to show that we're trying to build a community that values literacy and reading together."

Although it is not yet official, the city, literacy alliance and library all hope they can turn Read Together La Grande into an annual event. ■

# Free blood screening provides important information

By Francisca Benitez  
The Observer

Grande Ronde Hospital's annual free blood screening event is coming to three locations in Union County in the month of April.

The free screenings will be offered April 6 at the GRH Union Clinic, 142 E. Dearborn St.; April 13 at the GRH Elgin Clinic, 570 S. Eighth St.; and April 27 in La Grande at the GRH Pavilion, 909 Adams Ave. All the clinics will be from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Appointments aren't necessary, and each clinic will be able to accommodate 100 people.

The screening will test for hemoglobin and hematocrit levels as well as glucose levels. A cardiac lipid panel will also be run. The tests can help detect warning signs for a wide range of issues like diabetes, anemia and high cholesterol. The screen-

ing will not give a diagnosis, but it is a quick and free way to check on your health.

The event is part of GRH's Community Benefit Program. Abigail Stonebreaker, public relations specialist at GRH, said one of the central focuses of the Community Benefit Program is prevention, and the blood screening event can be a good opportunity to catch serious health issues early, and for free. According to a GRH press release, people who take advantage of the free screenings are getting more than \$150 worth of blood testing.

"For those who don't have health insurance or don't have good coverage, this is an outstanding opportunity," Stonebreaker said.

The results will be available through GRH's online patient portal,

MyChart, or via mail. The results can also be sent to the participants' primary care doctor. Participants are asked to fast for 9 to 12 hours prior to the screening for accurate results.

Sharon Butler, lab manager at GRH, stressed how important it is to drink plenty of water while fasting to prevent dehydration, which makes drawing blood difficult.

There will be four phlebotomists — people trained to draw blood — at the Union and Elgin events, and six at the La Grande event. Butler said those afraid of needles can rest assured they will be in good hands.

"I can attest to the fact that we have good phlebotomists on staff," she said.

Imogene Bristow and Cecil Puckett are residents of Cove who have attended the screening

in Union for the last few years. They said the event is a good opportunity to check on your health.

"If you don't have blood tests regularly, sometimes there are things there that you don't realize," Puckett said.

"As seniors, we're probably the group that spends the most on medical problems, so it helps us with our budgets," Bristow added.

They both agreed that the staff is very professional and efficient.

"Last year it went re-

ally smooth. I don't think we were there for 20 minutes," Puckett said.

Puckett and Bristow said they look forward to going to the event together. Not only is it a good step for their health, but it's also a chance to chat with community members. Plus, since fasting is necessary, the two usually go out to breakfast afterward. ■

Contact Francisca Benitez at 541-963-3161 or email [fbenitez@la-grandeobserver.com](mailto:fbenitez@la-grandeobserver.com).

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