

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Monday, Sept. 16, the 259th day of 2019. There are 106 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Sept. 16, 2001, President George W. Bush, speaking on the South Lawn of the White House, said there was "no question" Osama bin Laden and his followers were the prime suspects in the Sept. 11 attacks; Bush pledged the government would "find them, get them running and hunt them down."

ON THIS DATE

In 1893, more than 100,000 settlers swarmed onto a section of land in Oklahoma known as the "Cherokee Strip."

In 1910, Bessica Medlar Raiche of Mineola, N.Y., made the first accredited solo airplane flight by a woman in the United States.

In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Act.

In 1974, President Gerald R. Ford announced a conditional amnesty program for Vietnam war deserters and draft-evaders.

In 1976, the Episcopal Church, at its General Convention in Minneapolis, formally approved the ordination of women as priests and bishops.

In 1987, two dozen countries signed the Montreal Protocol, a treaty designed to save the Earth's ozone layer by calling on nations to reduce emissions of harmful chemicals by the year 2000.

In 2005, President George W. Bush ruled out raising taxes to pay the massive costs of Gulf Coast reconstruction in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, saying other government spending had to be cut to pay for the recovery effort.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$1.6 million
3-14-20-26-28-33

Mega Millions: \$192 million
6-16-37-59-62-5-x2

Powerball: \$70 million
11-27-31-36-67-11-x2

Win for Life: Sept. 14
12-23-26-37

Pick 4:

Sept. 15
• 1 p.m.: 4-8-0-2
• 4 p.m.: 4-4-6-2
• 7 p.m.: 3-9-5-9
• 10 p.m.: 6-5-3-0

Pick 4:

Sept. 14
• 1 p.m.: 4-1-4-2
• 4 p.m.: 1-5-7-5
• 7 p.m.: 8-6-9-6
• 10 p.m.: 2-9-4-7

Pick 4:

Sept. 13
• 1 p.m.: 8-5-1-6
• 4 p.m.: 7-8-8-0
• 7 p.m.: 7-6-5-8
• 10 p.m.: 4-1-4-2

NEWSPAPER LATE?

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Some problems are so complex that you have to be highly intelligent and well informed just to be undecided about them."

— Laurence J. Peter,
Canadian writer

Westward Ho! for the LHS marching band



Ben Lonergan/EO Media Group

The La Grande High School marching band marches Friday morning down SE Court Ave. in Pendleton during the Westward Ho! Parade. The parade is part of the annual Pendleton Round-Up, which came to an end on Saturday.

Umatilla prison boss resigns

By Phil Wright
EO Media Group

UMATILLA — Troy Bowser is out as superintendent of the state prison in Umatilla.

Bowser served as the boss of Two Rivers Correctional Institution since 2017. He was under a human resources investigation since April and on administrative leave since June for allegations of inappropriate and unprofessional conduct.

Michael Gower, assistant director of operations for the Oregon Department of Corrections, sent an email Friday morning to all department employees stating Bowser

tendered his resignation effective the day before.

Beyond that, Gower stated, Tyler Blewett will continue as acting superintendent until further notice.

The East Oregonian filed a public records request for Bowser's resignation letter. The Department of Corrections denied the request.

Union president Robert Hillmick in an email replied the "overwhelming majority" of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees at the prison "are very happy about TRCI moving on to a new Superintendent" and excited about the future.

Hillmick triggered the investigation in April when he emailed corrections director Colette Peters, alleging Bowser disparaged veteran employees, made a sexist comment to a woman employee and ignored the sexual assault of another employee. He sent the email to AFSCME members, other corrections staff and to state lawmakers, including Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner, and Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena.

After the East Oregonian broke the story, Hillmick reported, other TRCI employees "had the confidence to come forward and bring more issues to light."

Murdock to see for himself U.S. southern border

By Phil Wright
EO Media Group

PENDLETON — Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock leaves Monday on a fact-finding visit to the United States' southern border.

Murdock, commissioner since 2013, is one of the five vice chairs on the National Association of Counties' Immigration Reform Task Force. NACo, a pro-county lobbying organization, put 54 members on the task force, and Murdock is the lone Oregonian. About a dozen task force members are traveling to El Paso, Texas, he said, and over the course of next week will go into Mexico to see firsthand what is happening on the border. The group plans to meet with local officials there as well as members of the U.S. Border Patrol.

"One of our major focuses is trying to find ways we can bring workers into the country," Murdock said.

While immigration is a hot political issue, Murdock said NACo is nonpartisan and looking for practical solutions to a serious problem counties are facing — the need for migrant labor. He said Umatilla County alone relies on 8,000-10,000 Hispanic workers in multiple job sectors. Agriculture tops that list, and Murdock said local farmers have reminded him they need migrant labor.

"It's not like we have people lining up to harvest crops," he said.

The group also will visit detention centers, which have received political and media scrutiny for unhealthy

and even inhumane and dangerous conditions. According to various reports, at least seven children have died since September while in U.S. custody at the border.

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, has worked to shine a light on the effects of U.S. policy and practices at the southern border. In March he visited the U.S. port of entry at Tijuana, and in June he tried to visit a detention center for child immigrants in Brownsville, Texas. Merkley on Friday was in Pendleton for the Round-Up and said he and Murdock talked about the upcoming trip.

Going for several days will allow Murdock and the other officials to get a better sense of what's happening, Merkley said, but he encouraged Murdock to check out key points.

People seeking asylum have crowded bridges at ports of entry, he said, and the U.S. policy to assess whether those seekers have credible fears forces them to become refugees in Mexico and wait weeks in anticipation of a court hearing they can't possibly prepare for.

They lack access to a lawyer, money, computers and more, he said, and immigration judges know this.

The senator also stressed the harm from detention policies separating children from families.

"That infliction of trauma on children is beyond the pale," Merkley said.

Murdock said the NACo group is keen to take in as much as it can, including finding out about the treatment of refugees at detention centers.

FAMILY OWNED

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Karen King
Pendleton, Oregon

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