

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Monday, Oct. 7, the 280th day of 2019. There are 85 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Oct. 7, 2001, the war in Afghanistan started as the United States and Britain launched air attacks against military targets and Osama bin Laden's training camps in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

ON THIS DATE

In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy and Republican opponent Richard Nixon held their second televised debate, this one in Washington, D.C.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II concluded his week-long tour of the United States with a Mass on the Washington Mall.

In 1985, Palestinian gunmen hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in the Mediterranean.

In 1992, trade representatives of the United States, Canada and Mexico initiated the North American Free Trade Agreement during a ceremony in San Antonio, Texas, in the presence of President George H.W. Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

In 1996, Fox News Channel made its debut.

In 2003, California voters recalled Gov. Gray Davis and elected Arnold Schwarzenegger their new governor.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$3.4 million
24-25-28-29-32-39

Mega Millions: \$55 million
11-38-44-48-70-17-x2

Powerball: \$80 million
6-14-36-51-54-4-x2

Win for Life: Oct. 5
16-18-25-43

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

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 by 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, please call 541-963-3161 by 6 p.m.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Being right half the time beats being half-right all the time."

— Malcolm Forbes, American publisher



USFWS photo

A mere greater sage grouse, rear, struts for a female at a lek, or mating ground. A environmental lawsuit aims to restore grazing prohibitions on 22,000 acres across 13 sites in Eastern Oregon.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS SUE TO BRING BACK

Environmental groups seek to reinstate grazing prohibitions

By Mateusz Perkowski
EO Media Group

PORTLAND — Environmentalists want to reinstate grazing prohibitions on 22,000 acres across 13 sites in Eastern Oregon to improve studies of sage grouse habitat.

The Oregon Natural Desert Association, Audubon Society of Portland and Defenders of Wildlife have filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn a federal plan that re-opened the "research natural areas" to cattle earlier this year.

Banning grazing from the 13 sites is necessary for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to understand how cattle affect "sage brush plant communities," since there are "almost no ungrazed areas on public lands" within the bird's range in Eastern Oregon, the complaint said.

"If implemented as approved, BLM through this plan amendment will abandon science, severely limiting the agency's ability to contribute to conservation of the sage grouse," according to the environmental plaintiffs.

A representative of the BLM said the agency doesn't comment on pending litigation as a matter of policy.

Jerome Rosa, executive director of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, said the organization is concerned by the lawsuit because it took a lot of work to persuade the Interior Department and BLM to restore grazing within the "research natural areas."

"Grazing is compatible with sage grouse habitat," while research can still occur in areas that are grazed, Rosa said.

"They're really important to the ranchers who make their living on those areas," he said.

Controversies over the bird's status under

the Endangered Species Act are deep-rooted in the West, where its population has substantially declined in the past two centuries.

Environmentalists long pushed for the sage grouse to be protected as a threatened or endangered species, but the federal government ultimately decided such a listing wasn't warranted in 2015 after finding that resource management plans and conservation agreements would sufficiently protect the bird.

Under the resource management plans for Oregon, the Obama administration eliminated grazing from nearly 22,000 acres within the 13 "research natural areas" that would serve as a control baseline in scientific studies.

In 2019, however, the Trump administration updated Oregon's RMPs to once again permit cattle within those areas due to "economic impacts to certain livestock operators."

The environmental plaintiffs claim this change violates the National Environmental Policy Act because the BLM "failed to give good reasons for its reversal of policy" and didn't take the required "hard look" at the policy's environmental impacts.

The policy shift also violates the Federal Land Policy and Management Act due to the range degradation and impairment from grazing, which is "a destructive and inconsistent use of these specially-protected areas," the complaint said.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association believes the "massive" amount of acreage within the 13 sites is excessive, since research can occur on smaller plots, said Rosa, the group's executive director. "They can have control areas within those allotments without it being such a large size and scale."

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF

Arrested: Taera Lyn Harris, 22, unknown address, was arrested on a Umatilla County warrant charging failure to appear in court. The warrant was connected to an original charge of possession of a controlled substance-meth.

Arrested: Luke Allen Sauer, 31, unknown address, was arrested on a Baker County warrant charging a probation violation. The alleged probation violation was connected to an original charge of weapon offense.

Arrested: Dustin John Mathis, 28, unknown address, was arrested on charges of second-degree burglary and second-degree theft.

Arrested: Salvador Ramos Barriga, 38, unknown address, was arrested by the Grant County Sheriff's Office in Ephrata, Washington on a Union County warrant charging unlawful delivery of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

Arrested: Jeffrey Glenn Wiseman, 56, unknown address, was arrested on charges of hit and run, driving under the influence of intoxicants with accident, and reckless driving.

Arrested: Carmon Deon Hendricksen, 31, unknown address, was arrested on charges of second-theft, and conspiracy to commit second-degree theft.

Arrested: Joseph William Dial, 28, unknown address, was arrested on charges of second-degree theft,

conspiracy to commit second-degree theft and possession of a controlled substance-methamphetamine.

Accident: At least one person was injured in a traffic accident Wednesday on Owsley Canyon Road. The accident was reported at 9:19 p.m.

Cited: A Union County juvenile was cited on a charge of minor in possession, vape.

Arrested: Daniel Sean McGrane Newton 32, La Grande, was arrested on charges of third-degree theft and conspiracy to commit first-degree theft.

Arrested: Jeremy Kyle Matte, 31, La Grande, was arrested on charges of second-degree theft and conspiracy to commit first-degree theft.

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Zia Areal Hernandez, 23, unknown address, was arrested by the Moses Lake Police Department on a Union County secret indictment warrant charging unlawful possession and unlawful delivery of methamphetamine.

Arrested: Jesse Joe Shodin, 45, unknown address, was arrested while lodged in the Union County Jail on a parole and probation detainer.

Arrested: Robert Allen Fox, 57, unknown address, was arrested on charges of first-degree robbery, menacing and third-degree theft.

Arrested: Todd Kevin McCoy, 58, a transient, as arrested on a Union County warrant charging possession of methamphetamine.

Arrested: Joseph William Dial, 28, unknown address, was arrested while in the Union County Jail on a Lake County warrant charging a probation violation. The warrant was connected to an original charge of dangerous drugs.

Arrested: A Union County juvenile was cited on a charge of minor in possession-vape.

Arrested: Chad La Vern Profit, 46, unknown address, was arrested by the Baker County Sheriff's Office on two Union County warrants. One warrant charged supplying contraband, unlawful manufacturing/delivery of a schedule IV controlled substance and an order to show cause. A second warrant charged failure to report as a sex offender, two counts.

Arrested: William Troy Mitchell, 38, unknown address was arrested on a Union County warrant charging a probation violation. The warrant was connected to an original charge of possession of methamphetamine.

LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firefighters responded to five calls for medical assistance on last Thursday, 14 on Wednesday, nine on Tuesday and nine on Monday.

Missing man found dead in Wallowas

Jayson Jacoby
EO Media Group

Searchers found the body of Andrew Dean Dennis of Haines late Sunday morning in a nearly sheer rock chute in the Wallowa Mountains, eight days after the 60-year-old Haines man failed to return from a planned one-day deer-hunting trip.

It appears that Dennis died from a fall in the steep terrain near East Eagle Creek, his niece, Candy Sturm, said Sunday.

Sturm said her uncle's body was found near where searchers trapped Dennis' dog, Barney, on Saturday evening. The site is near where Curtis Creek crosses the East Eagle trail, about 2 miles from the trailhead where Dennis parked his vehicle on Sept. 28.

Dennis' body was initially spotted by a drone, according to a post Sturm made on her Facebook page.

Searchers found Dennis about 11:30 a.m. Sunday, according to a press release from the Baker County Sheriff's Office.

"His death appears to be a tragic accident," according to the press release. "No foul play is suspected."

Ashley McClay, the public information officer for the

Sheriff's Office, said a drone operated by the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office search and rescue team located Dennis' body.

McClay said searchers later found his body in what they described as a "waterfall, crevice area" on a steep slope above the East Eagle trail.

Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash described the location as a chute.

McClay said it appears that Dennis fell on Sept. 28, the day he arrived in the area to hunt for deer.

"We believe that he died the day he went hunting," McClay said.

Sturm said Barney was reunited with Dennis' wife, Patty, and that the dog, although he has lost some weight, is doing well.

On her Facebook page Sturm, who traveled from her home at Ridgefield, Washington, to participate in the search, posted: "I watched as men and women came down that

mountain after searching from sun up to sun down, some strangers, a lot of friends and family and Uncle Andy's brothers along with SAR members. Sitting by the fire to warm up with tears in their eye they wouldn't give up. Thank

you to each and everyone of you that searched."



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