

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Monday, Oct. 14, the 287th day of 2019. There are 78 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Oct. 14, 1947, U.S. Air Force Capt. Charles E. ("Chuck") Yeager became the first test pilot to break the sound barrier as he flew the experimental Bell XS-1 (later X-1) rocket plane over Muroc Dry Lake in California.

ON THIS DATE

In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt, campaigning for the presidency, was shot in the chest in Milwaukee. Despite the wound, he went ahead with a scheduled speech.

In 1939, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the HMS Royal Oak, a British battleship anchored at Scapa Flow in Scotland's Orkney Islands; 833 of the more than 1,200 men aboard were killed.

In 1960, the idea of a Peace Corps was suggested by Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy to an audience of students at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

In 2001, as U.S. jets opened a second week of raids in Afghanistan, President George W. Bush sternly rejected a Taliban offer to discuss handing over Osama bin Laden to a third country.

In 2003, John Allen Muhammad pleaded not guilty to murder as the first trial in the deadly Washington-area sniper rampage got under way in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$4 million
3-21-22-25-30-38

Mega Millions: \$65 million
14-22-30-37-60-8-x3

Powerball: \$100 million
12-29-34-53-65-23-x2

Win for Life: Oct. 12
6-8-31-76

Pick 4: Oct. 13

• 1 p.m.: 1-6-5-8
• 4 p.m.: 9-4-1-9
• 7 p.m.: 9-4-4-4

Pick 4: Oct. 12

• 1 p.m.: 6-3-4-9
• 4 p.m.: 0-2-1-1
• 7 p.m.: 6-9-2-9

Pick 4: Oct. 11

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

NEWSPAPER LATE?

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If a problem cannot be solved, enlarge it."
— Dwight D. Eisenhower

UNION COUNTY BUSINESS

La Grande travel trailer builder
**CELEBRATES
10 YEARS** ■ Outdoors RV honors milestone with Anniversary Edition

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

In the spring of 2009, Ron Nash saw an opportunity with the closing and bankruptcy of Fleetwood Enterprises Inc. and bought the assets of the company he had previously worked for. At the former Fleetwood plant, at 62582 Pierce Road in La Grande, he started Outdoors RV manufacturing, and for the last 10 years the company has been making premium hitch-on trailers based on Nash's vision of providing quality four-season RVs for the rugged Pacific Northwest. To celebrate, Outdoors RV are releasing a new line of Anniversary Edition trailers.

Outdoors RV's sales and product manager, Darin Nelson, had been a Fleetwood employee, and he has been with Outdoors RV since the beginning.

Recalling his start at Outdoors RV, Nelson said, "Ron sat me down, and when I asked what direction he would like me to take, he said, 'We don't build junk,' and it's been that way ever since."

When Nelson compares his previous and current employers, he said has found pride in the work he does now, building and manufacturing top-of-the-line RVs.

"A lot of the work at Fleetwood was based on the numbers," Nelson said. "Here it is focused on providing what is best for the customers."

In order to achieve this goal, Outdoors RV spends more money purchasing better materials. While this ends up costing customers more money, the trailers they buy last longer and work better, according to Nelson. This was part of what Nash wanted when he started the company.

"There is a customer out there looking for something that is better made," Nelson said.

The other part of Nash's vision, Nelson said, was listening to what customers want. The manufacturing plant gives tours of the facility daily, providing potential customers the opportunity to give input on what they are looking for



Sabrina Thompson / The Observer

Outdoors RV created a special series of trailers to celebrate its 10th anniversary. The units have new features and will only be made for a limited time before the company resumes regular manufacturing.

in an RV.

"We want to show you all of the elements," Nelson said. "We are proud of what we are building."

Because of that, he said, the company creates trailers that have been selling out since the beginning.

"Business isn't rocket science," Nelson said. "Just listen to the customers."

Employees have a hand on every element of the RV along the production line, from building the walls and framework to installing furniture and fixtures. Outdoors RV employs around 200 people from the local community, and all the units are built here. As part of the process, the trailers are tested for quality and function.

Most of the materials come from the United States and Canada. While Nelson said some components you just can't get made in America, everything the company can get, it will. He said this helps ensure the quality of the trailer because the company isn't looking to cut costs through buying inferior products from overseas.

Once a unit has been tested for quality and reliability, and it passes all of the inspections, it is shipped off to dealers in the Northwest. The closest local dealer is in Pendleton.

After Ron Nash passed away in August, his wife, Sherry Nash, took over the company. Like many of the employees of Outdoors RV, she lives in La Grande. Nelson said it is great that so many employees are local because it helps keep the money in the local economy.

In celebrating Outdoors RV's 10th anniversary, the company has developed a new line of trailers, acknowledging the milestone on the inside and outside. The plant began building the line in September, and once the trailers are completed in October that line's design will not be built again. The units have special features including new graphics, fiberglass front tops and a new auto leveling system that will be standard in all the company's anniversary trailers.

"We are looking forward to the next 10 years," Nelson said.

Robin Wortman resigns from UCSCC

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

After eight years with the Union County Safe Communities Coalition, Robin Wortman will be leaving the coalition and returning to her family in Wallowa County. As coalition coordinator, Wortman has been responsible for organizing activities involved with UCSCC's federally funded drug free community grant. The county is accepting applications to fill her role until Oct. 18.

"I am excited for her, for this opportunity she has for a new adventure, and sad for us that we are losing her," DeAnne Mansveld, coalition colleague and substance abuse and tobacco prevention coordinator for UCSCC, said. "We've grown a lot together through the years. It's a new chapter for the coalition as well."

UCSCC is an organization dedicated to making Union County a safe, healthy and drug-free community, according to its website, especially for the youth of the county.

"Kids are our future," Wortman said. "It is important

they have the best start in life possible."

Wortman joined the coalition eight years ago when the position first opened up. She said she saw it as an opportunity to do noble work that could have a positive impact. She also said she liked the idea of working with people who had a common mission in making the community free of drug, alcohol and substance abuse.

In addition to the satisfaction of working toward the coalition's goals, Wortman said, she has enjoyed working with the UCSCC team.

"The hardest thing will be leaving all the wonderful people I have been working with," Wortman said. "We have such a supportive community. I am going to miss interacting with my coworkers and the people of Union County."

As coordinator she has helped in the organization

and implementation of community events like October's Red Ribbon month and an annual multimedia conference for seventh-graders to teach them about online safety and the dangers of substance abuse. She is also a member of the Safe Communities Youth Council and has worked with various community organizations including police, GRH, the school district, fire departments and more to facilitate events.

"Losing someone with her level of expertise and experience, it will be hard to find someone to fill that role," UCSCC Co-chair Stu Spence said. "We have a busy and ambitious outreach schedule. We will need someone who can mobilize these different sectors."

With youth as a focus for the organization, Wortman is in charge of the Youth Council, which works directly with high school students to

create messaging that peers will respond to.

Wortman said the job of coalition coordinator varies from day to day, week to week and month to month. Depending on the needs of the coalition, Wortman could be doing anything from writing grants to interacting with people at a booth during a fair.

"I am not a decision maker, however," Wortman said. "My job is to help implement and move forward the commission's decisions."

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