

## DAILY PLANNER

### TODAY

Today is Monday, Oct. 21, the 294th day of 2019. There are 71 days left in the year.



### TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Oct. 21, 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon clashed in their fourth and final presidential debate in New York.

### ON THIS DATE

In 1797, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution, also known as "Old Ironsides," was christened in Boston's harbor.

In 1917, members of the 1st Division of the U.S. Army training in Luneville, France, became the first Americans to see action on the front lines of World War I.

In 1966, 144 people, 116 of them children, were killed when a coal waste landslide engulfed a school and some 20 houses in Aberfan, Wales.

In 1967, the Israeli destroyer INS Eilat was sunk by Egyptian missile boats near Port Said; 47 Israeli crew members were lost.

In 1985, former San Francisco Supervisor Dan White — who'd served five years in prison for killing Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights advocate — was found dead in a garage, a suicide.

In 1996, President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military survived its first Supreme Court test.

### LOTTERY

**Megabucks:** \$4.6 million  
4-13-25-32-33-39

**Mega Millions:** \$82 million  
18-58-60-65-67-20-x3

**Powerball:** \$120 million  
14-27-29-59-65-12-x2

**Win for Life:** Oct. 19  
10-22-33-64

### Pick 4:

Oct. 20

• 1 p.m.: 9-2-5-0

• 4 p.m.: 3-1-1-9

• 7 p.m.: 0-8-5-8

• 10 p.m.: 5-2-4-5

**Pick 4:** Oct. 19

• 1 p.m.: 4-5-0-8

• 4 p.m.: 4-4-0-7

• 7 p.m.: 8-7-5-5

• 10 p.m.: 6-3-9-2

**Pick 4:** Oct. 18

• 1 p.m.: 8-1-4-6

• 4 p.m.: 4-6-1-5

• 7 p.m.: 9-8-3-9

• 10 p.m.: 6-8-1-0

### 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.

**If your delivery is by motor carrier,** delivery should be by 6 p.m. For calls after 6, please call 541-975-1690, leave your name, address and phone number. Your paper will be delivered the next business day.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Silence is sometimes the severest criticism."

— Charles Buxton,  
English writer

## An early taste of winter



Jayson Jacoby/EO Media Group



Jayson Jacoby/EO Media Group

A storm that moved through Northeast Oregon on Saturday dumped close to a foot of snow at Anthony Lakes, elevation 7,100 feet in the Elkhorn Mountains about 35 miles northwest of Baker City.

### WALLOWA COUNTY

## Planning underway to replace dam

By Katy Nesbitt

For EO Media Group

**JOSEPH** — A fix for the aging Wallowa Lake Dam is on the horizon with \$14 million from the state of Oregon and a series of stakeholder meetings on the calendar.

Gov. Kate Brown included \$16 million in her proposed 2020-21 biennium budget to rehabilitate the 103-year-old dam. Earlier this year, the Legislature approved the project, whittling the amount down to \$14 million and requiring the stakeholders to create a memorandum of agreement spelling out the terms on which the four parties agree.

The dam, owned and managed by the Wallowa Lake Irrigation District, provides water to upper Wallowa Valley farms. As the district's board has sought funding it has also discussed state-required fish passage options with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla.

"The funding for a new dam cures a fish problem and a farm problem," Dan Butterfield, the irrigation district's president, said.

With the current funding, the dam reconstruction project manager, Mort McMillen of McMillen, Jacob and Associates, said fish passage would likely be "trap and haul" — trapping adult, returning sockeye and moving them



Katy Nesbitt/For EO Media Group

The Wallowa Lake Dam will be rebuilt with \$14 million from the Oregon Legislature.

around the dam and into the lake. A future option might be a "Swoosh!" or salmon cannon — a facility into which fish swim and are propelled over a dam.

"We ended up with trap-and-haul system, but could upgrade ... at some point," McMillen said. "That was the compromise — multiple benefits that fit within the budget."

Another compromise proposed in the final hours of the legislative session was a request for allocating some stored water for fish and wildlife benefit. McMillen said the district made an agreement to do so.

Anticipating funding would one day become available, the district hired McMillen to draw plans for a new dam. Because of the risk of a failure, he said the dam has been running at 72% of capacity since 1994. The rehabilitated dam would provide more water to irrigators and allow for more water to be released, increasing stream flows for fish.

"With rehabilitation the district will be able to run the dam for another 100 years and continue to restrict the lake's release for safer operation," McMillen said.

The grant may not be available until 2021, but Butterfield said the board

is eager to get the final engineering design drafted and permitting underway, so its members are exploring loan options.

"Once we get the MOA signed, that's as good as gold to go to a bank and get a loan," Butterfield said. "We put feelers out to a couple different banks."

## USFS seeks public comments

■ Forest Service wants comments on tree thinning project near Troy

Observer staff

**WALLA WALLA, Washington** — The Walla Walla Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest seeks public comment on a plan to remove swaths of insect-infested trees.

The purpose of the Elbow Insect and Disease Project is to reduce the risk and extent of the ongoing insect infestation approximately 9 miles west of Troy. The project proposes to remove trees in several ways, including burning, from as much as 2,600 acres within a 15,600-acre project boundary.

"There is a need to reduce stand densities to increase the vitality of the leave trees, in particular, large overstory early seral tree species," according to the announcement from the Forest Service. "The reduced stand densities would decrease competition for moisture, light and nutrients."

The Forest Service will accept written comments on this categorically excluded action until Nov. 18 to help refine the plan and identify ways to improve project design. The comment period is an opportunity for the public to be involved in the process and offer thoughts on alternative ways the Forest Service can accomplish the project's purpose and need.

The Walla Walla Ranger District also will host two collaboration opportunities during the scoping period, including an open house from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 28, at the Walla Walla Ranger District, 1415 W. Rose St., Walla Walla, and a public field trip to the project area on Oct. 29. For those interested in attending the field trip, contact the Walla Walla Ranger District at 509-522-6290 by Oct. 25.

### More information

#### PROJECT INFO

For additional information about the Elbow Project, contact Joseph Sciarrino at 509-522-6283 or visit the project website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57017>.

#### FOREST INFO

Additional information about the Umatilla National Forest is available at [www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla](http://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla).

**Come in today and let our CARING STAFF help your FALL be HAPPY & FESTIVE!**

**Red Cross DRUG STORE**  
"People Who Care"

1123 Adams Ave., La Grande  
541-963-5741  
[redcrossdrugstore.com](http://redcrossdrugstore.com)

**FAMILY OWNED**

**NORTHWEST FURNITURE & MATTRESS**

215 Elm Street La Grande (541) 963-5440

[northwestfurnitureandmattress.com](http://northwestfurnitureandmattress.com)

Like Us On Facebook

**New Lease on Retirement**

**Enjoy what matters!**

**Give us a call**

**GRANDE Ronde** 1809 Gekeler Ln.  
La Grande

Retirement & Assisted Living **541-963-4700**