

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Friday, Oct. 25, the 298th day of 2019. There are 67 days left in the year.



TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT
On Oct. 25, 1964, The Rolling Stones made the first of six appearances on “The Ed Sullivan Show.”

ON THIS DATE
In 1854, the “Charge of the Light Brigade” took place during the Crimean War as an English brigade of more than 600 men charged the Russian army, suffering heavy losses.
In 1954, a meeting of President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s Cabinet was carried live on radio and television.
In 1983, a U.S.-led force invaded Grenada at the order of President Ronald Reagan, who said the action was needed to protect U.S. citizens there.
In 1994, Susan Smith of Union, South Carolina, claimed that a black car-jacker had driven off with her two young sons.
In 1999, golfer Payne Stewart and five others were killed when their Learjet flew uncontrolled for four hours before crashing in South Dakota; Stewart was 42.

CORRECTIONS
The Oct. 21 article, “Planning underway to replace Wallowa Dam” from Capltial Press misstated the name of one of the name of the company working on the dam. The correct name is Whooshh.

LOTTERY
Megabucks: \$5 million
3-12-19-41-46-48

Mega Millions: \$93 million
5-11-14-23-25-10-x4

Powerball: \$120 million
5-12-50-61-69-23-x2

Win for Life: Oct. 23
40-58-66-75

Pick 4: Oct. 24
• 1 p.m.: 3-7-2-3
• 4 p.m.: 3-6-8-3
• 7 p.m.: 6-0-1-6
• 10 p.m.: 0-4-7-6
Pick 4: Oct. 23
• 1 p.m.: 5-5-7-0
• 4 p.m.: 6-6-8-4
• 7 p.m.: 6-7-7-8
• 10 p.m.: 6-5-7-2

NEWSPAPER LATE?
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QUOTE OF THE DAY
“Is it really so difficult to tell a good action from a bad one? I think one usually knows right away or a moment afterward, in a horrid flash of regret.”
— Mary McCarthy, American author and critic

Providing ‘big city medicine with hometown touch’

■ Grande Ronde Hospital system grows along with needs of Union County

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

Key community leaders have been meeting for breakfast at Grande Ronde Hospital and it’s clinics once a month since February to hear from the hospital’s CEO and president, Jeremy Davis, about the current state of GRH’s health care system and where it is headed in a national and local perspective.

“As a board we are observing and monitoring national trends that can have a local effect,” Davis said at Thursday’s meeting.

Some of these trends discussed at the meeting included rural hospital closures. Since 2010, 70 rural hospitals across the nation have closed their doors, according to a study by the University of North Carolina’s Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, and 673 more are in danger of closing, according to a National Rural Health Association study. Most of these closures are due to a lack of funds. Fortunately, Davis said, Grande Ronde Hospital remains financially strong and is not in risk of closing.

Much of this stability Davis credits to the community support the hospital receives. He said patient care is at the center of what the hospital is doing and will remain that way through the growth and changes that occur in the coming years.

“We exist because patients choose to stay local for their care,” Davis said. “And it is an honor.”

However, with more patients



Sabrina Thompson/The Observer

President and CEO of Grande Ronde Hospital, Jeremy Davis, has been taking the time to speak with key leaders in the community once a month to discuss the history and future of the hospital.

receiving care from GRH, Davis recognizes the need for growth in facilities and staffing. He said GRH has sometimes found it difficult to attract new providers because many are not looking to live and work in rural communities. He believes, though, that when a community and hospital share a tight-knit relationship, it creates a positive environment that will draw in health care professionals.

“I think they just don’t know better,” Davis said. “If they knew what we have here to enjoy, they’d change their mind.”

Of these things to enjoy, Davis mentioned the above-average pay for a rural hospital and updated facilities and technology. He said having up-to-date equipment and technology improves the care a hospital is able to provide.

This includes the GRH’s 3T (tesla) MRI machine, a 3D mammography machine and telehealth medicine that allows doctors from all over the world to assist with patient care.

He noted that this message has been getting across: GRH has hired 11 new providers in the past year, though some will not begin until later next year.

Beyond technology, Davis said what really makes a difference for the hospital is the hometown feel that has been created. According to data from routinely collected Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) customer satisfaction surveys, GRH consistently ranks in the top quartile in all categories measured, such as hospital cleanliness, transitional care assistance

and patient-provider interactions. While Davis recognizes that the hospital may not be perfect, he said GRH is listening and ready to make changes to improve care.

“You are more than just a number to us, you are a neighbor,” Davis said of the people GRH cares for.

Beyond informing the community about the hospital’s history and future, the key leader breakfasts allow GRH to hear from other organizations that serve the people in the area and discuss how the hospital can continue working with these groups to provide better outreach and support. Key leaders include members of the media, educators, community outreach providers and those with a stake in the medical and health care industry. The most recent breakfast meeting was held September in Elgin, and the next will take place in November in Union at the hospital’s clinics.

“We want to grow,” Davis said. “We want to support the local economy.”

GRH employs 4.7% of Union County’s workforce and offers a variety of specialty services. Davis said the hospital is always seeking to add more. Nationally there is a call for more mental health services, and Davis said GRH is looking to answer that call with efforts to improve access to mental and behavioral health services. The confusion and complexity of the financial side of the health care system is also difficult to navigate across the country, and Davis said GRH is glad to be a hospital that provides patient financial service counselors to help guide people through the system.

“We like to say we are big city medicine with a hometown touch,” Davis said.

School district considers how to use funding

■ La Grande School Board considers best ways to use expected Student Success Act funding from the state

By Dick Mason
The Observer

The La Grande School Board will be making a big budget decision later this year.

The board will be deciding how the school district will spend the funding it will receive via the Student Success Act, which the Oregon Legislature passed earlier this year. The legislation provides funding for student services.

The school district is expected to receive between \$1.7 million and \$1.8 million in Student Success Act funding during the 2019-21 biennium.

La Grande School District Superintendent George Mendoza told the school board Wednesday at a work session how he felt the money could best be spent.

He provided the board with a list of additions that may be formally proposed at a later meeting.

The list was formulated based in part on input provided by teachers, classified staff and parents during

meetings Mendoza had with them at each of the school district’s schools. Representatives of these three groups were asked to submit prioritized lists of the additions they would like to see made with Student Success Act funding.

Topping the list in terms of voter points received was an additional school district nurse. The school district already has one but needs at least one more to help it meet recommended student to nurse ratios.

The other priorities receiving the most points from the groups include an added counselor at La Grande Middle School, which presently has 560 students; a number of positions for educators who

would provide support and guidance for students with behavior issues; a summer school program; more funding for staff professional development; and the hiring of an additional English Language Learning teacher and an ELL para professional.

The additional ELL teacher would be half-time. ELL teachers help students for whom English is often their second language.

The total cost of the top 13 proposed additions would be nearly \$1.454 million.

Additions not on the list of top 13 recommended by Mendoza include a career technical education teacher at La Grande Middle School and additional funding

for meal programs, which would allow more students to receive free breakfasts and lunches at schools.

Mendoza said the importance of providing meals to all students needs to be recognized.

“Students can’t focus (when they are hungry),” Mendoza said.

Within the next three months, the superintendent will present the school board with a proposed list of expenditures. The board will then vote on how the district will use the Student Success funding.

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Grande Ronde Hospital proudly welcomes: Eve Koltuv, MD

Joining the Grande Ronde Hospital and Clinics team as a Pediatrician



Eve Koltuv, MD

Dr. Eve Koltuv joins the GRH Children’s Clinic from Brooklyn, New York, where she spent several years as a Pediatrician after completing her residency and receiving her Doctor of Medicine from SUNY Downstate College of Medicine. Dr. Koltuv enjoys working with children and teens – getting to know them, building relationships with them, and watching them grow and change over time. She is passionate about creating a partnership with parents and sees herself as a guide through medical issues as well as parenting concerns. Her practice focuses on the whole child, especially growth and development, behavior, healthy sleep and lifestyle habits, and good nutrition. When not caring for patients, Dr. Koltuv enjoys spending time outdoors, including hiking, backpacking, nordic and alpine skiing, and biking. She is an avid reader, loves to travel, and especially relishes time playing and adventuring with her husband and two children.

GRH Women’s & Children’s Clinic

710 Sunset Drive, Suite E, La Grande
541.663.3150 • grh.org/pediatrics/

Learn more about Dr. Koltuv in our online Provider Directory at www.grh.org today!



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