

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 18, the 352nd day of 2019. There are 13 days left in the year.



TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT

On Dec. 18, 1998, the House debated articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton. South Carolina carried out the nation’s 500th execution since capital punishment resumed in 1977.

ON THIS DATE

In 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

In 1916, during World War I, the 10-month Battle of Verdun ended with French troops succeeding in repulsing a major German offensive.

In 1917, Congress passed the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting “the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors” and sent it to the states for ratification.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler signed a secret directive ordering preparations for a Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. (Operation Barbarossa was launched in June 1941.)

In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the government’s wartime evacuation of people of Japanese descent from the West Coast while at the same time ruling that “concededly loyal” Americans of Japanese ancestry could not continue to be detained.

In 1956, Japan was admitted to the United Nations.

In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first nuclear facility to generate electricity in the United States, went on line.

In 1972, the United States began heavy bombing of North Vietnamese targets during the Vietnam War.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$7.5 million
8-23-26-30-32-43

Mega Millions: \$40 million
22-30-53-55-56-16-x2

Powerball: \$160 million
3-6-12-32-64-13-x3

Win for Life: Dec. 16
4-12-49-58

Pick 4: Dec. 17
• 1 p.m.: 9-9-7-6
• 4 p.m.: 9-1-6-3
• 7 p.m.: 3-5-3-8
• 10 p.m.: 2-2-7-1
Pick 4: Dec. 16
• 1 p.m.: 8-0-0-2
• 4 p.m.: 5-9-8-2
• 7 p.m.: 1-4-6-2
• 10 p.m.: 7-9-5-1

NEWSPAPER LATE?

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Whoever wants to be a judge of human nature should study people’s excuses.”

— Christian Friedrich Hebbel, German poet and dramatist



Staff photo by Sabrina Thompson

Union County deputy sheriff Tony Humphries helps Owen Quintanilla shop for his family Tuesday at the Island City Walmart during Shop with a Cop.

Bringing Christmas joy

■ Local law enforcement officers hold annual Shop with a Cop event at Walmart

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Fifteen local elementary school students had the opportunity Tuesday to shop for their family alongside local law enforcement officers at Walmart during La Grande’s 11th annual Shop with a Cop event.

Members of the La Grande Police Department, Union County Sheriff’s Office and Oregon State Police took children around the store with \$150 each to spend on parents, siblings and other relatives. Once the children completed their lists, they could pick out an item for themselves. Each child also went home with a \$100 Safeway gift card, and those whose family did not have a Christmas tree received one.

“It is a great one-on-one relationship we get to have with the kids while they’re shopping,” La Grande police Sgt. Jason Hays said. “We build that relationship and they can see the police are someone safe they can go to.”

Hays has been coordinating the event since 2008 when he heard about other police departments offering shop

with a cop programs. Hays said public support for the event has grown over the years with businesses and private donations occurring year-round to supplement a \$2,000 grant from Walmart. The officers who participate volunteer their time in helping the kids shop, wrap their gifts, eat lunch with them and help bring the kids and the gifts back home after the event.

“We get to give back something positive to the community,” Hays said. “Everyone benefits from this, the parents, the officers, the kids, they all get something out of it.”

Most of the children did not need the full two hours they had to shop, though many wandered back and forth around the store. Toys and clothes filled the carts that each officer pushed around, and as the morning went on the youth opened up, their timid greetings at the beginning of the morning evolving into camaraderie.

“It is so fun to see (the children’s comfort level change). When they first get off the bus they aren’t sure about giving you a high five, and then as the day goes on they warm up to

you more,” said state trooper Kainoa Delatori.

During the shopping trip, Alicia Wimer, mother of student shopper Tobias Wimer, ran into her son and the officer with him, joking she wasn’t looking into the cart. She said she is grateful her son has the opportunity to participate.

“I’m really happy for him,” she said. “It feels really good. The idea that he can give gifts to his family makes my heart melt.”

Once the children had selected their gifts, they had pizza and drinks with their shopping partners. Hays said this allows the children even more time to get to know the law enforcement officers and form a bond with them. Many of the officers at the event said interacting with the kids and seeing the joy on their faces is the reason they participate in the annual event.

“My favorite part was getting myself a gift,” said Matthew Lopez, who was paired with state trooper Chas Koenig, then added, “and getting my family things because Christmas is about family and giving.”

Eastern students help feed hungry

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

LA GRANDE — An Eastern Oregon University sociology class did its part in helping those in need by collecting nearly 500 pounds of food and toiletries during a project partnering with Haven for Hunger, an emergency food pantry started by EOU students.

Bill Grigsby, EOU professor of sociology who teaches the social welfare class, assigned his students a project regarding the topic, and after conversation about the needs of the community, they selected a food drive.

“The project has multiple goals,” Grigsby said. “One, to alleviate household food insecurity. Two, to build social capital — that is, work with community partners such as schools, public agencies, nonprofits. Three, to raise

awareness of the problem in the community and dispel the notion that it is somehow caused by laziness and lack of motivation, rather than poverty, struggle and hard choices. Four, to reduce the stigma people feel around asking for help.”

Students visited 99 houses in the Eagle Cap area and along N Avenue in La Grande to speak with residents about the need for food and toiletries in the community. They left bags for those who were not home to put items into and came back on a third day to collect donations.

They gathered a total of 496 pounds of donations that will stock the food pantry at the Koinonia House, or K House, at 900 Sixth St., where Haven for Hunger operates its pantry.

“It started out as another grade in the class (but) it

became more interesting,” sociology junior Megan Boals said. “We are alleviating the need for those who are hungry and helping keep the pantry going.”

In the study of sociology, students are working toward understanding different perspectives that make up society, including the perspective of those who can’t afford basic needs.

“Food is essential to life, and I believe that everyone should have access to it,” junior Maliah Russell said. “I am humbled that I am doing my part in helping our community, and I am humbled in the fact that so many community members were willing to donate and

Officials get look at new fire truck

By Bill Bradshaw
EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — Enterprise city officials got their first look at the Enterprise Fire Department’s latest addition Monday, Dec. 9 — a new pumper/tender truck made by Pierce Manufacturing in Florida.

The truck, which holds 3,000 gallons of water for extinguishing blazes, arrived Nov. 25 to replace a 1978 tender in which the engine blew a year and a half ago, Fire Chief Paul Karvoski said. He showed the truck to the officials before last week’s city council meeting.

The \$272,000 truck was paid mostly through a federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant, but only cost the city \$11,000, he said, adding the annual competitive grant for \$500 million had 45,000 applications this year.

“We got lucky,” he said. “I’m glad we finally got a new truck.”

The department’s fleet now is comprised of two 1,600-gallon pumper/tenders, one of which is considered the “first-out truck,” Karvoski said. The new truck, also a pumper/tender, holds nearly double the water. The fleet also has two rescue trucks, a ladder truck for reaching tall structures, a city pumper designed to connect to city fire hydrants and a wildland truck with a 350-gallon tank designed for use on grassfires.

Karvoski said the new truck brings the department up to speed. While it was down a truck, the department was able to rely on the two other pumper/tenders and, he said, in an emergency, they have a mutual-aid agreement with the Joseph Fire Department.

Although the department now is fully equipped, there are needs for the future, Karvoski said. He’s preparing to apply for another grant through the same program to replace old, underperforming extrication equipment often used to extract people trapped in crashed vehicles, but also to tear through metal doors, cages and anything else firefighters need to get into.

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