

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Friday, Dec. 20,
the 354th day of 2019. There
are 11 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Dec. 20, 1995, an
American Airlines Boe-
ing 757 en route to Cali,
Colombia, slammed into a
mountain, killing all but four
of the 163 people aboard.

ON THIS DATE

In 1803, the Louisiana
Purchase was completed as
ownership of the territory
was formally transferred
from France to the US.

In 1860, South Carolina
became the first state to
secede from the Union as
all 169 delegates to a special
convention in Charleston
voted in favor of separation.

In 1924, Adolf Hitler was
released from prison after
serving nine months for his
role in the Beer Hall Putsch.

In 1963, the Berlin Wall
was opened for the first
time to West Berliners, who
were allowed one-day visits
to relatives in the Eastern
sector for the holidays.

In 1978, former White
House chief of staff H.R.
Haldeman was released
from prison after serving 18
months for his role in the
Watergate cover-up.

In 1989, the United States
launched Operation Just
Cause, sending troops
into Panama to topple the
government of Gen. Manuel
Noriega.

In 1999, the Vermont
Supreme Court ruled that
homosexual couples were
entitled to the same benefits
and protections as wedded
heterosexual couples.

In 2002, Trent Lott re-
signed as Senate Republi-
can leader two weeks after
igniting a political firestorm
with racially charged
remarks.

In 2005, a federal judge
ruled that “intelligent de-
sign” could not be men-
tioned in biology classes
in a Pennsylvania public
school district, delivering a
stinging attack on the Dover
Area School Board.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$76 million
8-24-25-36-42-47

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

Powerball: \$171 million
14-18-26-39-68-9-x2

Win for Life: Dec. 18
3-4-32-56

Pick 4: Dec. 19
• 1 p.m.: 6-8-8-6
• 4 p.m.: 4-7-3-9
• 7 p.m.: 7-3-8-2
• 10 p.m.: 1-1-5-1

Pick 4: Dec. 18
• 1 p.m.: 3-9-9-5
• 4 p.m.: 5-7-7-0
• 7 p.m.: 2-5-2-6
• 10 p.m.: 9-2-9-0

NEWSPAPER LATE?

Every effort is made to de-
liver your Observer in a timely
manner. Occasionally condi-
tions 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

“All the mistakes I ever
made were when I wanted
to say ‘No’ and said ‘Yes.’”
— Moss Hart, American
playwright and director

Union County

Police dog
takes down
fleeing suspect

■ High-speed chase ends in crash, arrest

By Phil Wright
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A
new member of the
Union County Sher-
iff's Office was integral
in Thursday's early
morning capture of a
fleeing fugitive.

Sheriff Boyd Ras-
mussen credited the swift
work of patrol dog Molly for
helping with the arrest of
Lucas Pakapea Kapeli, 31, a
transient from Washington
now facing multiple charges
after a high-speed car chase.

“He could have slipped
away and hid in a field,”
Rasmussen said, but having
a patrol dog at the ready

bit down on the chance of
escape.

According to a news
release from the sher-
iff's office, a Union resi-
dent at 1 a.m. called
911 and reported a
stranger stole his 2006
Chevrolet Suburban
from his driveway. The
caller also said he had left the
SUV unlocked with the key
in the ignition.

A sheriff's deputy respond-
ed to take a report, and soon
after La Grande police officer
Brandon Boucher spotted the
Suburban with a male
driver and female passenger
inside near Walton Road and
Mulholland Drive. Boucher



Kapeli

Baker County

Playground project gains national attention

By Samantha O'Conner
EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — Baker City's plan
to build an all-inclusive playground
this spring at Geiser-Pollman Park
has gained national attention.

On Nov. 24 city officials learned
from PlayCore, a maker of play-
ground equipment, that the Baker
City project had been selected as a
national demonstration site.

“We were surprised. We didn't
even know that there was such a
thing,” said Joyce Bornstedt, the
city's technical administration super-
visor who oversees city parks.

Bornstedt said the PlayCore
design representative the city has
been working with submitted Baker
City's project for the demonstration
site status.

Bornstedt ordered equipment
for the new playground last week.

Installation is tentatively set for May
11-15.

“A lot of things have to happen
before that and we never know about
our weather,” Bornstedt said.

The city's \$245,885 order with
Game Time covers the cost of play-
ground equipment, surfacing and
installation.

The city will take delivery by Dec.
31. Bornstedt said she placed the
order before the company updated its
price schedule on Dec. 11.

“We wanted to make sure we got
our order placed before the prices
went up,” she said.

Although the city has received
several grants and donations for the
project, totaling \$285,461, the city
still is raising money for the estimat-
ed \$299,000 effort, including a couple
of pending grants.

“Even with the pending grant op-
portunities, we're still sitting about
\$10,000 short, so we're still raising
money and we're very confident that
we'll get there one way or the other,”
Bornstedt said.

She said city officials have spoken
to a couple of local service clubs and
will be talking to others about spon-
sorship opportunities.

“That's available to anybody who
wants to sponsor a piece of equip-
ment or make any type of donation
to the project,” Bornstedt said.

Sponsorship opportunities are in
three levels — gold, silver and bronze
— and range from swing seats for chil-
dren at \$975 to a 53-foot-long zip track
with an adaptive seat for \$11,230.

The city received \$164,000 from
the Oregon Parks and Recreation
Department, \$37,740 from the Moda
Assist online voting contest last
spring, \$25,000 from the Leo Adler
Foundation and \$20,000 from the
Sunderland Foundation.

Other contributions include:

• \$1,230 from a Facebook
birthday party fundraiser by Karla
Macy, whose son, Gus, has spina
bifida and will benefit from the new
all-inclusive playground.

• \$10,000 from the city budget

• \$2,000 from the Sunridge Inn

• \$2,000 from the Super 8 motel

• \$1,000 from Motel 6

• \$416 from a fundraiser at the
Sunridge Inn during the Hells Can-
yon Motorcycle Rally

• \$363 from an Albertsons fundraiser

• \$238 from a fundraiser by
Brian and Corrine Vegter, owners of
Churchill School

Bornstedt said the city will arrange
a dedication for the new playground,
which she hopes will be open by Me-
morial Day weekend.

La Grande businesses
hosting community chili feed

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Side A
Brewing, in partnership with
other local businesses, is
providing a free community
chili feed Saturday.

“I thought it would be a
nice offering for the commu-
nity,” said Scott McConnell,
Side A Brewing co-owner.

“Especially since it can be
hard around this time of
year to get a nice meal for
the family.”

The event runs 4-8 p.m.
at the La Grande Presby-
terian Friendship Center,
1308 Washington Ave. Local
businesses, including JaxDog
Cafe, Kneads Bakery and
Grocery Outlet, are provid-
ing sides, drinks and des-
serts while Side A is making
the chili.

“We are making chili be-
cause it is a signature warm
dish and easy to make in
bulk,” Side A front-of-house
manager Brittany Dalton



Staff photo by Sabrina Thompson

Travis Hansen, kitchen manager and co-owner at Side A
Brewing, prepares food for the lunch rush.

said. “I think the holiday sea-
son is a great time to look at
what the community needs.”

The event also will have
live music and giveaways.

While there is no cost for
the meal, donations will be
accepted and go to three
Union County programs: the
Friday Backpack Program,
which provides food over
the weekend to elementary
school students who are in

stopped the vehicle, and the two occupants provided identification.

Kapeli was driving, and his identification, the sher-iff's office reported, was false.

Boucher told the driver to shut off the ignition, but he instead took off and dragged the officer a short distance.

La Grande Police Chief Brian Harvey said Boucher suffered only minor injuries.

“He was able to get disengaged pretty quickly,” Harvey said.

City police and Oregon State Police troopers pur-sued the Suburban, but the sheriff's office reported police ended the chase due to the “driver's extremely reckless driving and speeds in excess of 100 mph.”

A deputy soon found the Suburban on McAlister Road and tried to pull it over. Again, Kapeli sped away, this time turning east onto Highway 203 and continuing onto Curtis Road. Another deputy set out spike strips to blow out the Suburban's tires, but Kapeli saw that and reversed direction.

“The speed and reckless nature of the reversal caused the vehicle to overturn and come to a stop,” according to the sheriff's office.

The female remained inside while the driver took off running. Rasmussen said deputy Dane Jensen then released Molly, who took down Kapeli.

Jensen and Molly re-turned last month from training in California and have been patrolling since. Rasmussen said this was Molly's first significant action in the field, and she proved to be a worthy invest-ment.

Law enforcement took Kapeli and the passenger to Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande, where medical staff examined and released them. The sheriff's office then arrested Kapeli for unlawful use of a vehicle, misdemeanor and felony fleeing, reckless driving, reckless endangering, crimi-nal mischief, giving false information to police and us-ing another person's driver's license.

Kapeli remains in the Union County Jail, La Grande. The sheriff's office also reported it is detaining the passenger but she might not face charges.

Kapeli also had a war-rant out of King County, Washington, stemming from a Nov. 2 home invasion, for first-degree robbery, first-degree kidnapping, third-degree assault, unlawful possession of a firearm and fleeing police.

Rasmussen said the sheriff's office was aware Kapeli could be in the area but did not know an exact location. He said the apprehension of Kapeli goes to show how well law enforcement agencies here work together.

The district attorney's office arraigned Kapeli on 10 initial counts Thursday afternoon, including misde-meanors of reckless endan-gering and reckless driving and the two felonies for vehicle theft and fleeing in a vehicle. Circuit Judge Wes Williams set Kapel's bail at \$75,000.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO, MONTANA

REACH 3 million Pacific Northwesterners with just One Call!



■ PNDC CLASSIFIED - Daily Newspapers
29 newspapers - 1,187,980 circulation
Number of words: 25 • Extra word cost: \$10
Cost: \$540 (Runs 3 consecutive days including wkds.)

■ PNDRN 2x2 DISPLAY - Daily Newspapers
27 newspapers - 1,016,864 circulation
Size: 2x2 (3.25"x2") Cost: 1x 2x2: \$1,050

More info: Cecelia@cnpa.com or call (916) 288-6011



I would like to thank my valued customers,
residential & commercial

Wishing you a Merry
Christmas & Safe &
Happy New Year!

Don's Lawn Service
Don Junker, owner





FAMILY
OWNED



NORTHWEST
FURNITURE & MATTRESS

215 Elm Street La Grande (541) 963-5440



northwestfurnitureandmattress.com

Like Us On
facebook

Season's Greetings



Holiday Design by
Addalyn Pointon of
Lewiston, ID.



La Grande
904 Adams Ave
541-962-7600

Elgin
109 S 8th St
541-437-1811

La Grande - Valley
2313 Adams Ave
541-963-3434

Baker City
1190 Campbell St
541-524-7667