

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 8, the eighth day of 2020. There are 358 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Jan. 8, 2011, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot and critically wounded when a gunman opened fire as the congresswoman met with constituents in Tucson; six people were killed, 12 others also injured. (Gunman Jared Lee Loughner was sentenced in November 2012 to seven consecutive life sentences, plus 140 years.)

ON THIS DATE

In 1815, the last major engagement of the War of 1812 came to an end as U.S. forces defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans, not having gotten word of the signing of a peace treaty.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson outlined his Fourteen Points for lasting peace after World War I.

In 1935, rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi.

In 2004, a U.S. Black Hawk medic helicopter crashed near Fallujah, Iraq, killing all nine soldiers aboard.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$8.4 million
17-31-35-39-43-48

Mega Millions: \$80 million
25-40-41-52-56-21-x4

Powerball: \$258 million
1-11-21-25-54-7-x2

Win for Life: Jan. 6
20-21-52-55

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

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.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Anxiety never yet successfully bridged over any chasm."

— Giovanni Ruffini,
Italian writer

LOCAL BRIEFING

OSSA holding convention in Wallowa County

JOSEPH — Conventions are generally boring and tedious affairs, but for those who love power, snow and wild country, the Oregon State Snowmobile Association's 48th convention may be your ticket. The event takes place from Jan. 14-18 in Joseph. The Wallowa County Gamblers Snowmobile Club is hosting the event.

The event features several days of guided tours, a poker run with a guaranteed \$2,500 purse, an evening banquet and other meals along with plenty of socializing. Gamblers' president and board of directors member, Dustin James, and wife, Lorien James, who is the club secretary and board member as well, are excited about this year's event.

Lorien James said the club last hosted the event in 2011 and every snowmobile club in the state is affiliated with the OSSA. The club is expecting 150-200 members. She also said the conventions allow snowmobilers to experience different places across the state. Luckily, this year's convention happens to coincide with the club's annual poker run.

Vendors also are a part of the event and include the major snowmobile manufacturers and three snow-pac manufacturers, totaling six. Those vendors will stay at Salt Creek Summit out of respect for local businesses.

"We're trying to push and promote downtown Enterprise and downtown Joseph for shopping," she said.

Pub Talk features country singer on business of music

LA GRANDE — Rising country music singer Nicole Lewis returns to her hometown for a Pub Talk on Thursday at Side A Brewing.

Lewis started her music career in La Grande before taking on the Spokane music scene, and now she is pursuing her dreams Nashville, Tennessee, the "country music capital of the world."

Members of the Eastern Oregon University Entrepreneurship Club invited Lewis to speak at this term's Pub Talk. Club advisor and business professor Wilson Zehr in a news release said Lewis' journey represents a specific type of business success.

"What many people do not realize is that musicians, artists and athletes are all entrepreneurs," he said. "They have a product (their gifts), a brand, and a business (career) to manage.



Submitted photo

The Oregon State Snowmobile Association is holding its 48th convention in Wallowa County. The event takes place Jan. 14-18 in Joseph. The Wallowa County Gamblers Snowmobile Club is hosting the event.

The ultimate success of their venture depends on their ability to effectively manage these elements."

Zehr added the rise of streaming services has meant artists such as Lewis have had to change their business models and focus on other forms of revenue to thrive.

Pub Talks offers entrepreneurs a chance to share their stories. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the talk begins at 6 p.m. Informal networking follows the event.

LHS student earns Walden's recommendation for U.S. service academies

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Oregon, announced he nominated 13 students for acceptance to one of the United States service academies. Keith Oswald of Cove made the list.

Oswald, a senior at La Grande High School, is the son of Gene and Jessika Oswald of Cove. Walden nominated him to the United States Air Force in Colorado Springs, Colorado and the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Walden's Service Academy Nomination Board — retired and active-duty military officers who interviewed potential candidates for the service academies — recommended each student based on their academic performance, extracurricular involvement and character. Oswald was the lone nominee from Eastern Oregon.

Eight of Walden's recommendations live in Deschutes County, two are from

Jackson County, and one each hail from Hood River and Klamath counties.

"It is an honor to nominate these outstanding young Oregonians to our nation's service academies," Walden said in the statement. "These future leaders have earned these well deserved nominations through years of hard work, dedication and commitment to character. By pursuing higher education at one of our country's select service academies, these students have shown a desire to lead by example, grow intellectually and serve the United States in uniform. I am confident that each nominee will be successful in this admirable endeavor and that their futures will be bright."

Gas prices remain steady

PORTLAND — Gas price averages are showing little movement this week, according to the latest report from AAA Oregon, but that could change if crude oil prices fluctuate due to geopolitical concerns surrounding events in the Middle East.

For the week, the Oregon average for regular fell a penny to \$3.02 while the national average remains at \$2.59 a gallon.

"Gas prices are starting 2020 at higher prices than at the start of 2019," according to Marie Dodds, director of government and public affairs for AAA Oregon. "The national average is about 35 cents more and the Oregon average about 10 cents more than a year ago."

— Observer staff

Police take on distracted drivers

By Dick Mason
The Observer

UNION COUNTY — Union County law enforcement officers cracked down on distracted drivers Monday.

Between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m., members of the La Grande Police Department, the Union County Sheriff's Office and the Oregon State Police — 15 officers in all — sought to remind drivers to keep their eyes and attention on the road.

The police officers, deputies and troopers made a total of 44 stops for various traffic law violations, including the use of mobile electronic devices while driving. All 44 of the drivers were adults. Officers cited or warned 23 people for distracted driving, according to Lt. Gary Bell of the La Grande Police Department.

The saturation patrol

focused on La Grande and Island City and followed a similar effort on distracted driving that took place in April 2018. Bell said police in Union County plan to conduct three more saturation patrols for distracted driving in 2020 but the dates have not been determined.

The focus of the upcoming patrols may be divided between distracted driving and other problem areas law enforcement officers want to address, Bell said, including school bus traffic stops.

The Oregon Department of Transportation also

played a role in Monday's crackdown. The state agency helped arrange planning meetings and provided statistical information on distracted driving.

Information provided in a La Grande Police Department news release indicated distracted driving has become one of the most common reasons for vehicle crashes on America's roadways. According to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, between 2012-2017, nearly 20,000 people died in crashes involving a distracted driver. This total includes 3,166

people killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2017.

Bell said the stats mean distraction was involved in nearly one-tenth of all fatal crashes in 2017.

Wallowa County

Rule change will have impact

By Bill Bradshaw
EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — As many as 172 Wallowa County residents may lose federal food assistance (SNAP) benefits when new federal rules go into effect in April.

The program then will require that able bodied adults work a minimum of 20 hours per week to qualify for assistance. A total of 939 people receive the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance in Wallowa County, according to the most recent Oregon Department of Human Services figures.

An estimated 19,500 Oregonians may be dropped from SNAP in April. The food assistance benefits come via a charge card that is run through a super-market card terminal, and will only pay for approved grocery items. Recipients do not receive a check for food purchases.

The Trump administration's new eligibility rules for the SNAP benefits program, formerly known as food stamps, will require that able-bodied adults work 20 hours or more per week to qualify for the assistance. If they are not working as required, they will be eligible for assistance for only three months in a three year period.

The new federal rule, finalized Dec. 5, will be implemented April 1.

The most recent DHS data — from June — listed 939 SNAP recipients in Wallowa County, which has a population of just over 7,000. Of them, 172 are listed as able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). They could be targeted by the new rule change, Jennifer Grentz, a DHS media contact, said Tuesday, Dec. 31. She said she could not speak to whether the 172 local adults in that category would have their benefits changed.

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WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S CLINIC

PEDIATRIC SERVICES

Did you know the Children's Clinic builds room in their schedule for same-day sick visits?

With the addition of Dr. Zach and Dr. Eve, the Children's Clinic is fully staffed and can accommodate more same-day sick visits than before. These appointments are made on a first come, first serve basis, and are intended for illness or other non-emergent urgent care needs. Parents should continue to schedule well-child appointments in advance with their primary care provider.

If your child needs a same-day visit for illness or other urgent health concern, we encourage you to call the Children's Clinic first for appointment availability.



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