

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 22, the 22nd day of 2020. There are 344 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Jan. 22, 1998, Theodore Kaczynski pleaded guilty in Sacramento, California, to being the Unabomber responsible for three deaths and 29 injuries in return for a sentence of life in prison without parole.

ON THIS DATE

In 1498, during his third voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus arrived at the present-day Caribbean island of St. Vincent.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces began landing at Anzio, Italy.

In 1970, the first regularly scheduled commercial flight of the Boeing 747 began in New York and ended in London some 6-1/2 hours later.

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, legalized abortions using a trimester approach.

In 1987, Pennsylvania treasurer R. Budd Dwyer, convicted of defrauding the state, proclaimed his innocence at a news conference before pulling out a gun, placing the barrel in his mouth and shooting himself to death in front of horrified onlookers.

In 1994, actor Telly Savalas died in Universal City, California, a day after turning 72.

In 1995, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy died at the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port, Mass., at age 104.

In 1997, the Senate confirmed Madeleine Albright as the nation's first female secretary of state.

In 2007, a double car bombing of a predominantly Shiite commercial area in Baghdad killed 88 people. Iran announced it had barred 38 nuclear inspectors on a United Nations list from entering the country in apparent retaliation for U.N. sanctions imposed the previous month.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$2 million
1-13-20-22-29-32

Mega Millions: \$130 million
16-18-29-31-37-8 x3

Powerball: \$343 million
20-24-38-56-68-18 x2

Win for Life: Jan. 20
9-25-46-60

Pick 4: Jan. 21
• 1 p.m.: 4-5-9-5
• 4 p.m.: 6-5-9-3
• 7 p.m.: 5-3-6-3
• 10 p.m.: 2-6-6-7
Pick 4: Jan. 20
• 1 p.m.: 5-1-8-3
• 4 p.m.: 5-2-4-7
• 7 p.m.: 5-2-6-0
• 10 p.m.: 6-3-2-1

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 your delivery is by motor carrier, delivery should be by 6 p.m.

The Observer office closes at 5 p.m. If you do not receive your paper please call 541-963-3161.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Whatever people in general do not understand, they are always prepared to dislike; the incomprehensible is always the obnoxious.”

— Letitia Landon, English poet

Northeast Oregon

Storms give snowpack a boost

■ Snowpacks have doubled at several sites in Northeast Oregon this month.

By Jayson Jacoby
EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — Northeastern Oregon's snowpack went from paltry to plentiful. And the transformation took just a week or so.

A series of snowstorms that started Jan. 10 more than doubled the water content in the snow at several measuring sites around the region.

Water content, not snow depth, is the key statistic in snowpack because a foot of heavy snow can hold more water than 18 inches of powder.

The mountain snowpack is a major source of water during the spring and summer, when melting snow keeps streams flowing and refills reservoirs.

After a major storm at Thanksgiving, snow was scarce during most of December and the first week of January, leaving the snowpack at a little more than half of average.

In December, for the first time since early April 2019, the U.S. Drought Monitor rated Northeast Oregon as “abnormally dry,” the category preliminary to drought.

But then the jet stream started propelling Pacific storms directly into Northeast Oregon.



Jayson Jacoby/EO Media Group

After a snowy week, the sun shone brightly on fresh powder on Sunday near Phillips Reservoir.

A sampling of the dramatic changes these snowy systems made:

- Schneider Meadows, in the Wallowa Mountains north of Halfway, went from 8.4 inches of water content on Jan. 1 (68% of average) to 16.4 inches now, which is exactly average for this time of the winter.
- Bourne, north of Sumpter, more than doubled the water content, from 4.3 inches on Jan. 1 (63% of average) to 9.1 inches now, 95% of average.
- Moss Springs, in the Wallowas above Cove, went from a water content of 8.6 inches on Jan. 1 (84% of average) to 14.9 inches, which is 8% above average.

Elgin

City moves toward neighborhood watch

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

ELGIN — Crime in Elgin has ticked up in the last several months, according to Union County Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen.

Spurred by three major arrests for theft and burglary last week, citizens of Elgin are planning to create a neighborhood watch.

“A community watch program is a great way to get extra eyes and ears on the community to keep it safer,” said Elgin Mayor Allen Duffy.

The city has called a public meeting for Monday at 6 p.m. at the



Rasmussen

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— Elgin Mayor Allen Duffy

Community Center, 260 N. 10th St., to discuss forming the watch, which would consist of a group of residents who are willing to volunteer their time to help keep their community free from crime.

Elgin contracts with the sheriff's office for law enforcement services. Three deputies and Rasmussen will work with the city and members of the watch to prevent and respond to crimes.



Duffy

In the meantime, Duffy encouraged residents to report anything that may be out of the norm, such as different people or vehicles frequenting the area or excessive traffic, to the sheriff's office non-emergency line (541-963-1017) or to the mayor's office (541-437-2253).

“This reporting could help the sheriff's office after a crime has been committed, or calls could prevent crime from taking place,” Duffy said.

For an emergency, however, call 911.

Rasmussen said having the neighborhood watch will be helpful in

keeping down crime in Elgin. Other towns, including North Powder, have implemented a neighborhood watch with success.

“Citizens are more aware, which is helpful because we can't be everywhere,” he said.

Recent vandalism at churches and the trio of arrests for theft and burglary preceded the call for citizens' involvement. Rasmussen said the recent rise in crime will likely decrease as more citizens are intentionally aware of their surroundings.

The meeting next week also will cover additional details about the watch and an introduction to the deputies who will be involved.

Wallowa County

Enterprise mulls need for utility rate hikes

■ City looks to implement water increase July 1, sewer hike Jan. 1

By Bill Bradshaw
EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — The city of Enterprise is putting together figures to determine how large of a rate increase to charge residents for water and sewer services.

Those calculations are not complete, but Recorder Lacey McQuead said he hopes to have most of that information to present to the city council at its Feb. 10 meeting.

McQuead said at the Jan. 13 meeting she is proposing to stagger the increases so the water increase will be implemented July 1, and the sewer increase on Jan. 1.

“I'm hoping this will open up the conversation for us,” McQuead said Jan. 13.

In addition to the staggered implementation of the increases, McQuead said she has yet to learn if an increase of 1%, 1.5% or 2% will be necessary to meet the rising costs

of supplying water and sewer service to residents. Several council members agreed they hoped to keep the rate increase to \$2 per household.

She presented a graph that showed a steady increase in water rates since 2015.

In January 2014, the council passed a resolution to develop a rate structure for a five-year period to meet the debt obligations according to the loan for the Enterprise Water Improvement Project. The

last water rate increase was July 1, when water was increased to \$39.15 per unit for service inside the city limits.

Sewer costs were a bit different.

“Sewer has bounced a little bit for a couple of reasons,” she said Jan. 13.

One of those is a \$514 actual cost for liability insurance for the sewer department for this year.

Another is a list of replacement parts for sewer department equipment.

McQuead was supplied

with estimated costs of potential replacement items by the sewer plant operator and presented them to the council Jan. 13.

McQuead emphasized the rate hikes have nothing to do with comparing Enterprise's rates with those in other cities of similar size and circumstances.

In 2012, an assessment of the sewer rates was completed, including evaluating the average water use during the winter, McQuead wrote in an email. At that

time, the rate for sewer was \$56.50 (the same rate since 2009) and stayed at that rate until 2013-14. That year, the sewer rate increased to \$58.50 and in 2014-15 it went up to \$59.50.

There has not been a sewer rate increase since, she said.

McQuead wrote another increase is needed to help the emergency or backup funds for the water and sewer departments stay afloat by providing enough money to replace vital equipment.

Celebrating National CRNA Week!

CRNA Week: January 19-25, 2020

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