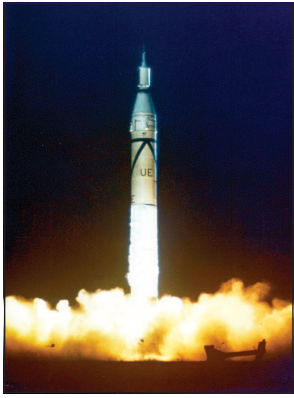


DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Friday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 2020. There are 335 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Jan. 31, 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite, Explorer 1, from Cape Canaveral.

ON THIS DATE

In 1863, during the Civil War, the First South Carolina Volunteers, an all-black Union regiment composed of many escaped slaves, was mustered into federal service at Beaufort, South Carolina.

In 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee was named general-in-chief of the Confederate States Army by President Jefferson Davis.

In 1917, during World War I, Germany served notice that it was beginning a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

In 1929, revolutionary Leon Trotsky and his family were expelled from the Soviet Union.

In 1945, Pvt. Eddie Slovik, 24, became the first U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman announced he had ordered development of the hydrogen bomb.

In 1971, astronauts Alan Shepard, Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14 on a mission to the moon.

In 2000, an Alaska Airlines MD-83 jet crashed into the Pacific Ocean off Port Hueneme, California, killing all 88 people aboard.

In 2001, a Scottish court sitting in the Netherlands convicted one Libyan, acquitted a second, in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$2.8 million
12-15-17-19-23-27

Mega Millions: \$155 million
17-36-47-51-62-21 x3

Powerball: \$40 million
9-12-15-31-60-2 x2

Win for Life: Jan. 29
8-10-18-66

Pick 4: Jan. 30

• 1 p.m.: 0-3-6-6

• 4 p.m.: 3-4-3-3

• 7 p.m.: 3-6-2-8

• 10 p.m.: 7-3-4-6

Pick 4: Jan. 29

• 1 p.m.: 1-6-4-3

• 4 p.m.: 4-3-9-5

• 7 p.m.: 6-4-6-3

• 10 p.m.: 2-9-7-2

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

"Happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have."

— Rabbi Hyman Judah Schachtel, American theologian, author and educator

Coronavirus

Health officials tracking virus outbreak

Observer staff

LA GRANDE — Union County health officials reported they are closely monitoring developments related to the 2019 novel coronavirus.

The virus is a new respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, China. According to the news release from the Center for Human Development Inc., Union County Public Health Department and others, local health officials are taking the new virus seriously but consider the risk of getting the coronavirus in Oregon remains low.

"Because this is a new (novel) coronavirus that has not been previously identified, we are learning more about it every day," according to the news release, "and it is difficult to predict exactly how widespread it will be-

More information

For more information about public health, visit the center's website: www.chdinc.org.

For more information about the coronavirus, visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

The CDC also has more information about travel: www.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/china#travel-notice.

come. It is not clear yet how easily 2019-nCoV spreads from person-to-person."

Some viruses are highly contagious, such as measles, while other viruses are less so. However, as with any virus, there are steps you can take to protect yourself and prevent the spread:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- Stay home when you are sick.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Influenza is much more widespread in the United States and has caused more deaths than coronavirus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated during the 2018-19 season 35.5

million people became sick with influenza, 16.5 million people went to a health care provider for their illness, 490,600 were hospitalized and 34,200 people died from influenza.

"There is a vaccine for influenza, and it is not too late to get it," the news release stated. Contact your health care provider or the Center for Human Development at 541-962-8800 to schedule your vaccine appointment.

The news release also advised avoiding nonessential travel to Wuhan. If you traveled there or been in close contact with someone who has and have flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath and sore throat), contact your health care provider for guidance on how to get help. And be sure to call before arriving.

La Grande City Council

Housing among issues at council retreat

By Sabrina Thompson

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Housing and homelessness are top issues for the city of La Grande, but the city lacks the money to provide an answer.

La Grande city councilors, the mayor, city manager and department directors spent two days in public meetings discussing their plans for the coming year and wrapped up the annual retreat Tuesday night.

"We talk about things in the community," Mayor Steve Clements said. "Things that are important and things that need attention and effort on the city's part."

Clements said the city will complete some of the projects in the short term, some will take longer and some are a continuation of issues the city has been addressing over several years.

The topics came from the city council. Each councilor submitted five projects or ideas based on the city's vision statement and goals. The first day of the retreat focused on general city projects and concerns such as housing and communication. According to the retreat's agenda, the city will begin work on the Comprehensive Housing Strategic Plan,

a five-year outline that must be adopted by 2023 to comply with House Bill 2003. The housing plan also will address the issue of homelessness in La Grande.

Clements during the December 2019 hearing on whether to allow the Union County Warming Station to open said he wanted the city to take a more active role in addressing homelessness. But after the council's retreat, Clements said the city lacks money and resources to pursue a solution.

"However, my personal goal, and what I encouraged other councilors to focus on at this time, is to pursue knowledge and continue to learn about what homelessness means," the mayor said. "Homelessness is a huge concept I am still learning about. No amount of money from any level of government can solve the problem."

The council also discussed using text messages to community to the public.

"Do people want information pushed to them, or do they want to pull information for themselves?" Clements asked. "I think it is a combination of both, and we are looking into the option of text messages and updating the website to spread information."

Other topics included the city's services and programs, infrastructure improvements, the budget, staffing and partnerships.

The La Grande City Council also sits as the Urban Renewal Agency, and the second day of the retreat focused on economic development.

The council plans to continue its call for urban renewal projects, which provides funding to existing and potential businesses that further the development goals. One proposal called for an agency-initiated funding program in which the council selects a downtown property for improvement and offers \$100,000 toward the project. The council also discussed allowing residents to serve on the Urban Renewal Agency.

Councilors did not vote on any proposals during the retreat but will decide the priorities at a public meeting in February or March.

"Everything that was discussed could go to council meetings or we have another work session about it," Clements said. "Having a planning session like this allows us to spend time learning about things that might come up at council meetings and the opportunity to talk fully about a topic in a public meeting."

While both days of the retreat took place in council chambers and were open to the public, the city did not allow public comment in order to give councilors the chance to fully discuss issues.

Deputy running for sheriff

Observer staff

LA GRANDE — Cody Bowen is looking to replace his boss as sheriff of Union County.

Bowen announced his candidacy for sheriff Wednesday, stating his visions and goals for the office "are to foster and build community partnerships, work together to be more effective" with other Union County professionals in law enforcement, emergency services, fire and human services to benefit the entire community.

"We need a sheriff's office that is strengthened through better relationships with community input and interaction," Bowen said. "I believe open communication with the residents of Union County is the most important way for a sheriff to address important issues that affect our community. I will also use my experience to place more emphasis on the youth within Union County so that our community has the brightest future."

He said he wants to work toward taking preventative measures in schools to reach youth.

"I want to get into why people are going into the system and work to prevent it from happening from the start," Bowen said. "We want to keep people from going in

and out of custody."

Bowen said he was born and raised in Union County, attended school in La Grande and Cove and has lived in La Grande, Cove and Union. He worked for Les Schwab Tire Center, La Grande, for 15 years, 10 of which he was a supervisor. He also was a reserve deputy with the sheriff's office for ap-

proximately two years during that time, and in 2011 he took a job as a full-time deputy.

"I discovered a passion for providing the people of Union County professional law enforcement service when citizens needed it most," he said.

Bowen has served as an instructor in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education pro-

gram, as a patrol deputy and for the last five years as the school resource deputy.

Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen is seeking a fifth term. Bowen's candidacy expands the field of challengers to three. Bill Miller of Elgin and Shane Rollins of Cove also are running for sheriff. Miller left the Union County Sheriff's Office

in August 2018 for a job in parole and probation. Rollins has a background in military policing and private security.

Bowen said he has enjoyed working with Rasmussen. He has not had the chance to meet Rollins but worked directly under Miller for a time.

The deadline to file as a candidate is March 10.

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