

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Saturday, Oct. 17, the 291st day of 2020. There are 75 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY

On Oct. 17, 1933, Albert Einstein arrived in the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

ON THIS DATE

In 1777, British forces under Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered to American troops in Saratoga, New York, in a turning point of the Revolutionary War.

In 1814, the London Beer Flood inundated the St. Giles district of the British capital as vats of beer ruptured, sending more than 320,000 gallons of liquid into the streets.

In 1939, Frank Capra's comedy-drama "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," starring James Stewart as an idealistic junior U.S. senator, had its premiere in the nation's capital.

In 1973, Arab oil-producing nations announced they would begin cutting back oil exports to Western nations and Japan; the result was a total embargo that lasted until March 1974.

In 1979, Mother Teresa of India was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1989, an earthquake measuring 6.9 in magnitude struck Northern California, killing 63 people and causing \$6 billion worth of damage.

In 2014, the World Health Organization acknowledged it had botched attempts to stop the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, blaming factors including incompetent staff, lack of information and budget cuts.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$3.1 million

5-8-10-12-14-48

Mega Millions: \$69 million

11-44-45-46-70 — 25 x2

Powerball: \$72 million

21-37-52-53-58 — PB-5 x2

Win for Life: Oct. 14

25-39-64-70

Pick 4: Oct. 15

• 1 p.m.: 3-3-4-1; • 4 p.m.: 0-7-4-4;

• 7 p.m.: 7-6-5-4; • 10 p.m.: 2-6-9-3

Pick 4: Oct. 14

• 1 p.m.: 7-2-1-7; • 4 p.m.: 4-3-3-9;

• 7 p.m.: 0-4-9-6; • 10 p.m.: 3-1-2-8

DELIVERY ISSUES?

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Wyden talks infrastructure, forest management

By Ben Loneragan
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Infrastructure and forest management were among the primary topics of concern during a Wednesday, Oct. 14, virtual town hall held by Sen. Ron Wyden for Eastern Oregon residents. Nick Powers, of Enterprise, opened the meeting by expressing concerns about broadband infrastructure in rural Eastern Oregon and the unusually high load placed on systems due to remote learning, telehealth and working from home as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. “The fact is we can’t have big league quality of life in rural Oregon with little league connectivity,” Wyden said.

Wyden cited the Move America Act as a primary piece of legislation in dealing with ailing or insufficient infrastructure issues, such as rural broadband. The bill, introduced by Wyden and Sen. John Hoeven, R-North Dakota, in 2019, would allow tax-exempt bonds and tax credits to support infrastructure projects, such as airports, railroads,



Ben Loneragan/East Oregonian

Sen. Ron Wyden speaks during a virtual town hall at the East Oregonian in Pendleton on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020. The town hall, held virtually by Town Hall Project, allowed residents of Umatilla, Union, Morrow and Wallowa counties to pose their questions to the senator.

flood diversions and rural broadband. “In 2021, probably one of the very first bills will be expanding infrastructure,” said Wyden. “I’m going to make sure it includes broadband and opportunities to expand education and health care.” Fuji Kreider, a founder and board member of the La Grande-based Stop B2H Coalition, took the opportunity to discuss

renewable energy infrastructure and forest management as they relate to the proposed Boardman to Hemingway transmission line. She asserted that the proposed 500-kilovolt B2H transmission line from Boardman to Hemingway, Idaho, would pose severe fire risk to the region. Wyden emphasized his support of renewable energy infrastructure, citing his intent to repeal

dozens of federal tax breaks for fossil fuels. “One of my first bills will be to take those 44 energy bills that are really monuments to yesteryear — those energy tax laws — and throw them all in the garbage can and substitute the ones for clean energy and an alternative vision for Oregon and the country,” Wyden said. In addition to renewable energy infrastructure,

Wyden added that a combination of smart forest management and climate science are needed to help mitigate wildfire risks. Wyden cited the National Prescribed Fire Act that he has before Congress as a key piece of legislation in the prevention of catastrophic wildfires. Introduced in September, the legislation would support pre-fire season controlled burns as a way to help reduce hazardous fuels on the forest floor and reduce the severity of wildfires. “Some people say the issue is all forest management or climate science,” he said. “I think the two are very much intertwined, smart forestry policy in rural Oregon is smart climate science policy.” Wyden added that he feels the recent wildfires throughout Oregon and other states have opened eyes to the severity of threat fire poses to communities. “These last few months have really been transformative in a lot of respects,” he said. “People night after night — for weeks — tragically saw how close fire was getting to population centers.”

News Briefs

U.S. Bank to close 32 Oregon branches, including a branch in Elgin

PORTLAND — U.S. Bank plans to close 32 branches in Oregon, most in the Portland metro area, including three in Vancouver, Washington. Nine Oregon branches outside the Portland area will close, including a branch in Elgin. The bank, which was founded in Oregon and based in Portland until 1997, told The Oregonian last week that it will begin the process of closing more than 25% of its Portland metro area branches on Nov. 1. The bank will close 26 branches in the Portland metro area. Nine branches will close in Portland, including one in downtown. The bank will also close two branches in Gresham, two in Hillsboro and one in Beaverton. The bank will be laying off employees at the affected branches. Evan Lapiska, a spokesman for the company, said that U.S. Bank will not be commenting on the number of employees losing their jobs because many will be allowed to reapply for new roles within the company. Employees who are being laid off will have the option to remain in their current roles until January, even if their branch is closing before then. U.S. Bank originally announced in 2019 that it would close 10% to 15% of its branches nationwide by 2021, but the company put a pause on the plan earlier this year due to the pandemic. Since, the company has seen a move to digital banking speed up, and Lapiska said it is likely that U.S. Bank will ultimately close more than 15% of its branches as the company responds to the economic impacts of COVID-19.

— The Oregonian

Wolf kill illegal, ODFW says

Baker City Herald

BAKER COUNTY — Oregon State Police are investigating the unlawful killing of the breeding male wolf from the Cornucopia pack in eastern Baker County. The wolf died from a gunshot wound on or about Sept. 24, according to OSP.

This incident occurred northwest of New Bridge in the Skull Creek drainage of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Forest Service Road 7741 accesses the Skull Creek drainage and the wolf was found off the 125 spur road. That’s about 1 mile east of Eagle Forks campground. Anyone with information can contact OSP Sgt. Isaac Cyr through the Turn in Poachers (TIP) hotline at 1-800-452-7888. Biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)



Oregon State Police/Contributed Photo

A collared gray wolf was found shot and killed in eastern Baker County in late September.

trapped the wolf and fitted it with a GPS tracking collar in December 2018. According to ODFW, the breeding male and female of the Cornucopia pack bred for the first time in 2019. The breeding female is a radio-collared wolf that dispersed from the Pine Creek pack, also in eastern Baker County, and the breeding male that was killed in September had dispersed from

the Walla Walla pack in Union, Umatilla and Wallowa counties. The pair produced three pups that survived to the end of 2019, according to ODFW. Data from the wolves’ collars showed the pack used a 162-square-mile area in the Pine Creek and Keating wildlife management units, with 92% of the location points on public land.

Correction

The Observer brief on Oct. 15, “La Grande Police participate in Drug Take Back Day” incorrectly identified the drop off location. The correction location for drop-off is at the Safeway parking lot at 2111 Adams Ave.

Student breaches Pendleton’s digital classrooms

By Antonio Sierra
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton School District is shoring up its cyber security system after a student gained access to its emails and classroom platforms on Monday, Oct. 12. Superintendent Chris Fritsch said the student used the district’s email system to send cyberbullying messages to several district students that morning. The district already was looking into the breach when the student hacked into the district again to post pornographic material into virtual classrooms at

McKay Creek Elementary School and Sunridge Middle School in the afternoon. Fritsch said teachers noticed the pornography within a minute and removed it from their classrooms. In an Oct. 13 email to staff, Fritsch discussed some of the consequences the student may face. “Police will be continuing with their investigation and working with the District Attorney’s Office regarding any charges,” he wrote. “The District, for its part, will be determining the appropriate level of sanctions. The District is still gathering

evidence as well and will determine the appropriate course of action once its investigation and review of the facts is completed.” Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts identified the student as a 13-year-old boy, but he wouldn’t go as far as to call the student’s actions “hacking.” “Frankly, it’s not overly complex,” Roberts said. Roberts said the student figured out the pattern to the passwords students were issued to access their emails and digital classrooms. The student then spent hours using the pattern to make educated

guesses at what other students’ passwords were. Roberts said he found out about the incidents Oct. 12, and by the next day, police were able to trace the messages back to the student with the help of the district’s IT contractor, the InterMountain Education Service District. Roberts said police met with the student and his parents, where he admitted to accessing the school’s systems. Roberts said the district will refer the case to the Umatilla County District Attorney’s Office, but he added the outcomes for youths can vary.

La Grande School Board OKs contract with sheriff

By Dick Mason
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande School District’s School Resource Officer program has received a boost. The school board voted Wednesday night, Oct. 14, to approve a one-year intergovernmental agreement for the program, which has been in place at least five years. The program provides the La Grande School District with a deputy from the Union County Sheriff’s Office. The deputy works throughout the academic year, visiting schools and

meeting with students, faculty and staff. The school district first had an SRO about 15 years ago. That SRO was an officer from the La Grande Police Department. The school district later had to discontinue the program because of financial problems before it was reinstated in 2015. Robin Maillie, chair of the La Grande School Board, said having a school resource officer creates a safer environment and promotes positive attitudes toward law enforcement by making it possible for students to get to know

sheriff deputies. “They are less afraid when they can interact and develop personal relationships (with school resource officers),” Maillie said. The new contract calls for the school district to pay the Union County Sheriff’s Office \$39,657 for the September to December period. The money will be provided in two payments of \$19,828.50. The amount to be paid in the January to June period will be billed at a prorated amount based on the salary and benefits of the deputy assigned to the position.

The reason the September to December amount for 2020 is not certain is Cody Bowen will be the SRO for this period. Bowen has been the school district’s primary SRO since 2015. However, it is not clear if Bowen will continue serving as SRO in 2021 because he is a candidate for Union County Sheriff in an election that will be conducted Nov. 3. The school district will thus be billed in the January to June period in a prorated amount based on the salary and benefits of the deputy assigned to the position.

State forestry ends fire season after rain dampens area

LA GRANDE — The Oregon Department of forestry announced the end of the fire season in the Northeast Oregon District effective Saturday, Oct. 17, at 12:01 a.m. “The last few days have brought quite a bit of precipitation across the region,” according to a press release from the forestry department. “While the district is comfortable with removing the general fire season restrictions, it

The nonprofit will give funding to five main street hubs in Klamath, Malheur, Umatilla, and Union counties in Oregon, and a hub in Skamania County in Washington State. The USDA’s Rural Community Development Initiative is providing funding and the money can be used for improving housing, community facilities and economic development projects in rural areas. The Rural Development Initiatives could not be reached for further comment.

— EO Media Group