

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Saturday, Dec. 19, the 354th day of 2020. There are 12 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On Dec. 19, 1998, President Bill Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House for perjury and obstruction of justice (he was subsequently acquitted by the Senate).

ON THIS DATE:

In 1777, during the American Revolutionary War, Gen. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to camp for the winter.

In 1843, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England.

In 1915, German psychiatrist Alois Alzheimer, who discovered the pathological condition of dementia, died in Poland at age 51.

In 1960, fire broke out on the hangar deck of the newly completed aircraft carrier USS Constellation at the New York Naval Shipyard; 50 civilian workers were killed.

In 1972, Apollo 17 splashed down in the Pacific, winding up the Apollo program of manned lunar landings.

In 1974, Nelson A. Rockefeller was sworn in as the 41st vice president of the United States in the U.S. Senate chamber by Chief Justice Warren Burger with President Gerald R. Ford looking on.

In 2001, the fires that had burned beneath the ruins of the World Trade Center in New York City for the previous three months were declared extinguished except for a few scattered hot spots.

In 2008, citing imminent danger to the national economy, President George W. Bush ordered an emergency bailout of the U.S. auto industry.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$5.8 million
13-15-18-31-34-42

Mega Millions: \$262 million
1-10-18-20-46 — 15 x4

Powerball: \$287 million
4-23-37-61-67 — PB 7 x2

Win for Life: Dec. 16
1-11-30-61

Pick 4: Dec. 17

• 1 p.m.: 9-9-5-1

• 4 p.m.: 5-4-3-6

• 7 p.m.: 0-9-5-1

• 10 p.m.: 0-4-3-1

Pick 4: Dec. 16

• 1 p.m.: 1-3-5-4

• 4 p.m.: 3-1-5-9

• 7 p.m.: 5-2-7-0

• 10 p.m.: 3-9-2-1

DELIVERY ISSUES?

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Joseph OKs \$3.8 million sewer plant plan

By Bill Bradshaw

Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — A larger-than-usual audience turned out for the final Joseph City Council meeting of the year, Thursday, Dec. 10, when the council gave its approval to a sewage treatment facilities plan and bade farewell to Mayor Teresa Sajonia as she presided over her last session.

Brad Baird of the engineering firm Anderson Perry and Associates presented the council with a finalized plan for the more than \$3.8 million project. He noted it has been more than 20 years since any the city made significant upgrades to the facility and it is not in compliance with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

"It'll get you back into compliance with DEQ," he said.

He said the cost estimate is about \$1 million lower than a previous plan. The city will have until late



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph City Administrator Larry Biden looks on as outgoing Joseph Mayor Teresa Sajoni in her final city council meeting on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020, reads a list of accomplishments she said the council achieved during her two years as mayor.

2023 to adjust sewer rates so it can make its first payment on the loan to cover the cost of the project.

Sajonia reminded the council the project would require about a \$10 increase in monthly sewer rates. Baird said some cities faced with a significant increase opt to break it up into multiple increases rather than

hit residents all at once.

Sajonia said it's the price of waiting too long to address the need for upgrades to the sewer plant. "This is one of the things that, after 14 years, we all have made mistakes in our careers on the council," she said. "This is one of these things about whether or not we raise rates and then

we don't do it. Then what happens is these things increase in price. ... It's just the nature of the beast."

Public Works Director Levi Tickner agreed, saying if the city refused to go along with the plans, the DEQ would begin implementing fines and ultimately force the city into compliance.

"We'll start getting fines and more and more fines," he said.

Baird said he is sure the DEQ would not get too harsh as long as the agency knows the city is working to remedy the situation. The council voted to adopt the facilities plan.

The other major event at the meeting involved Sajonia's handing over the reins of city government to her successor, Belinda Buswell, who defeated Sajonia in the Nov. 3 election. It also involved filling two vacant council seats and preparing for the councilors who voters elected in

November — sitting Councilors Kirsten Rohla and Matt Soots and new Councilor Stephen Bartlow.

The deaths of Marty Hamilton in November 2019 and Richard Pointer in July created vacancies on the council. Six people applied for the two seats, and the council voted Thursday to appoint former Councilor Kathy Bingham and newcomer Tamera Jones to fill the seats.

Jones wasn't present Thursday, but Bingham took her oath of office and immediately joined the council.

As part of her departing address, Sajonia spoke highly of the late councilors,

"There are two councilors I dearly wish were here so I could thank them: Marty Hamilton and Richard Pointer — they deserve so much credit," the mayor said. "They worked so hard to change what was broken."

Alpenfest plans move to Joseph in 2021

Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — After more than four decades at Wallowa Lake, Oregon's Alpenfest will have a new home in 2021.

Directors of the Alpenfest decided in November to move the annual event from its prior location to Joseph, and the festival in September 2021 will be at the Harley Tucker Memorial Grounds.

According to a press release, "a cascade of incidents" prevented the continuation of the festival at Wallowa Lake, where it has been since 1975.

The festival had taken place at Edelweiss Inn for 43 years, according to the press release, but the building's owners deemed it to be too dangerous for future public events after the 2018 festival.

The 2019 festival took place in two large tents at the Wallowa Lake Marina, an effort to keep the event at the lake.

But weather, timing, electrical issues, heating and lighting all made



Mollie B & Squeezebox/Contributed Photo

The Midwest polka band Mollie B & Squeezebox will entertain at Oregon's Alpenfest in 2021. From right are Joe Poper, guitar and mandolin player; Mollie Busta, instrumentalist and vocalist; Ted Lange, accordion and vocalist; and drummer Dana Linblad.

the idea of holding the event in a tent unattainable, according to Chuck Anderson, festival president and alpenmeister. Organizers canceled the

2020 Alpenfest altogether because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Anderson called the move away from the lake a "very reluctant decision."

"We know that our loyal attendees look forward to the lake environment and some will be disappointed," he said in the release. "But recent circumstances forced

us to make a hard decision, and we trust that Alpenfest will continue to provide a rousing good time."

The return of the festival in 2021 will bring with it internationally popular polka band Mollie B & Squeezebox, and Alpenfest regulars Tirelean Dancers, Shelby Imholt, a Swiss yodeler, and virtuoso accordionist Alicia Straka. Additionally, Randy and Ashley Thull will provide free polka lessons.

The 2021 event, which will run from Sept. 23-26, features a procession down Enterprise's Main Street on Thursday, Sept. 23, and "Accordions at Alpenfest" at Terminal Gravity. TG also will be the location of a tradition tapping of the first keg of Alpenfest beer, and the brewery will provide the bulk of the festival's brews, according to the release.

Performances take place Friday and Saturday evening, and Saturday afternoon, and the Alpine Fair plans to operate Friday through Sunday.

Oregon group continues push for universal health care

Union County chapter hears comparison with U.S., Canada

By Kaleb Lay

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The debate over implementing a single-payer health care system in the United States may have fizzled out with the nomination of now President-elect Joe Biden, but that hasn't stopped one group from pushing for such a system in Oregon.

Health Care For All Oregon, a statewide advocacy network with some 130 members, wants to bring that single-payer system to the Beaver State, and the group's Union County chapter has been doing its part to help in that fight.

HCAO's Union County



EO Media Group/File Photo

Supporters of Health Care for All Oregon convene at the Capitol in Salem in April 2017 to encourage their legislators to work toward universal publicly funded health care. The Union County chapter of Health Care for All Oregon held a virtual meeting Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020, to learn about Canada's single-payer health care system.

chapter held a Zoom meeting Tuesday, Dec. 15, with guest speaker Francine Brazeau, a Canada native who worked in the U.S. health care system before returning north.

The meeting focused on the differences between U.S. and Canadian health care, the latter of which is a single-payer system.

"It's been pretty amazing to see the (Cana-

dian) system at work," Brazeau said.

Brazeau said while health care procedures in the U.S. were advanced and high quality, they were far more difficult to access compared to Canada, where the medicine is just as advanced.

Meeting-goers questioned Brazeau on how the Canadian system functioned — how it was funded, what problems it had, its effects on different parts of the population — to understand how such a system in Oregon might work.

Brazeau noted Canada's health care is funded nationally but administered provincially and population-dense parts of the country tended to pay disproportionately more than those in rural areas. She also said many of the common criticisms of single-payer health care in the U.S. didn't materialize in

Canada's system.

"The atrocious wait times? I'm not seeing them," Brazeau said. "One of my friends in Toronto, he's about 76 years old, he got a hip replacement last June and he was on the waiting list. He only waited three weeks for the hip replacement. The myth that there are people dying waiting is just, I've never seen anything like it. If you need a medical procedure done, you will get it."

The wait times, Brazeau said, were reasonable in her experience caring for her elderly father as well. She said Canadian health care allows its users to choose their provider and a doctor being "out-of-network" was a foreign concept.

HCAO's efforts to implement a single-payer system in Oregon center around the formation of a legislative task force due to the passage of Senate Bill 770 last year. The task force

is charged with recommending a plan for universal health care in Oregon to the Legislature, and a member of the task force attended Union County HCAO's meeting with Brazeau.

Cliff Bentz, who represented Union County in the Senate at the time, and Greg Barretto, who continues to serve in the House, both voted against SB 770.

Health Care for All Oregon remains far from realizing its goal, and Union County's chapter faces a steep uphill battle in selling any such universal health care plan in the rural, conservative-leaning locale. Nonetheless, the small but determined group will surely continue to advocate for health care as a right to all Oregonians.

For more information on HCAO's Union County chapter, visit unioncountyhealth.org.

Two hospitalized after prison brawl

By Liliana Frankel

Malheur Enterprise via AP StoryShare

ONTARIO — Two inmates needed medical care last week after a fight at Snake River Correctional Institution, Ontario, that involved 36 inmates, according to Oregon State Police and prison officials.

Amber Campbell, prison spokesperson, said the fight on Wednesday, Dec. 9, started over an incident of perceived disrespect in the

dayroom associated with the inmates' housing unit. Although the fight involved three dozen men, it didn't spread beyond the housing unit to other parts of SRCI, Campbell said.

She said correctional officers halted the fight with chemical spray and verbal commands, and that no weapons were involved.

However, two inmates were hurt badly enough to need outside medical care. They were treated and

returned to the prison.

State Police Sgt. Javier Marquez said a third man also was injured badly enough to merit investigation.

"Our focus was to concentrate on those three adults in custody who were injured," he said.

Campbell said the facility placed all 36 men involved in the disciplinary segregation following the fight, and the prison is conducting its own review of the incident.

Suspect in attempted murder caught

Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Oregon State Police reported troopers Thursday evening, Dec. 17, arrested an attempted murder suspect from South Carolina near Baker City.

According to a report from OSP Senior Trooper Nicholas Hagedorn, South Carolina police notified state police the department was tracking James Shawn Nichol, 48,

of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and he might be at the rest area north of Baker City.



Nichol

Nichol was wanted for the attempted murder of his mother, and a nationwide warrant

was issued for his arrest. South Carolina police reported Nichol may have been driving his mother's

2015 Subaru Forester.

Troopers found the vehicle at the Baker Valley Rest Area on the westbound side of Interstate 84 near milepost 295 at about 5:50 p.m. Thursday.

Nichol was alone in the vehicle and sitting in the driver's seat.

Troopers arrested him without incident and took him in the Baker County jail on the attempted murder warrant.