

Oregon celebrates 25,000 electric vehicles on its roads

Observer staff

SALEM — According to a press release from the Oregon Department of Energy, there are now more than 25,000 registered electric vehicles on Oregon’s roads. This marks the halfway point to the state’s goal of at least 50,000 registered EVs by the end of 2020.

As of Aug. 1, Oregon had 26,218 registered EVs, from plug-in hybrids to all-electric models. The Oregon Department of Transportation reports that of the registered EVs, the most popular rides for Oregonians are the Nissan LEAF, Tesla Model 3 and Chevrolet Volt.

Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties represent about three-quarters of Oregon’s EV drivers, but less-populated counties are also plugging in, stated the release. Counties with fewer than 100,000 residents represent more than 3,000 of the state’s registered EVs.

“More Oregonians are choosing electric vehicles, and with 25,000 EVs on Oregon’s roads, we are gaining momentum,” said Janine Benner, director of the Oregon Department of Energy and an EV owner. “We look forward to celebrating when

we reach 50,000.”

The 50K by 2020 goal was identified by Gov. Brown in Executive Order 17-21, signed in November 2017. The executive order detailed a series of responsibilities for state agencies to encourage and support the electrification of Oregon’s transportation system.

“Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon, and EVs are a critical piece of the long-term solution to meeting our reduction goals,” said Richard Whitman, director of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, in the release.

With an array of financial incentives and rebates, Oregonians can save big by making the switch to an EV. The Department of Environmental Quality’s Clean Vehicle Rebate Program offers savings of up to \$5,000 for qualifying EVs. Combined with a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500 and other local incentives, buyers can save about a third of the cost of some EV models.

Information on incentives and on how to charge at home and on the go are available at www.goelectric.oregon.gov.

SCHOOL

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on school supplies. A report on National Public Radio, which aired Dec. 19, 2017, stated that teachers in the United States spend an average of \$530 a year on school supplies for their students.

The supplies provided today by the Elgin Ministerial Association to Stella Mayfield included at least 20 backpacks, numerous pencils and pens, notebooks, folders, glue and boxes of crayons.

Lauri Ferring, pastor of Elgin’s Nazarene Church, which is part of the Elgin Ministerial Association, was moved by how the commu-

nity has reached out to the students.

“This is an awesome way to help,” she said.

Other members of the Elgin Ministerial Association are St. Mary’s Catholic Church and the Christian Life Center.

This marks the second year the Elgin Ministerial Association and the Elgin Lions Club have conducted the school supply drive.

Elgin Mayor Allan Duffy said their efforts reflect Elgin’s character.

“This shows that a community where others care about each other thrives. I see it thriving because of these groups,” Duffy said.

OBITUARIES

UPCOMING FUNERALS AND VISITATIONS

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Aug. 31

Ken Witty:

1 p.m., celebration of life and potluck, 81768 Revis Lane (Witty residence), Enterprise.

George “Doug” McDaniel:

1 p.m., celebration of life, Beth Johnson Room, Wallowa Elementary School; followed by catered lunch at Wallowa Senior Center at 2:30 p.m.

Sept. 7

Michael Lowery:

2 p.m., celebration of life, Eastern Oregon Livestock Show Clubhouse, Union.

George ‘Doug’ McDaniel

Wallowa

George “Doug” McDaniel, 83, of Wallowa, died Aug. 15 at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. A celebration of his life will begin at 1 p.m. Aug. 31 in the Beth Johnson Room at the Wallowa Elementary School, followed by a catered lunch at the Wallowa Senior Center at 2:30 p.m.

Kenneth L. Witty

Enterprise

Kenneth Lee Witty, 79, of Enterprise, died May 27 at his home. A celebration of his life and potluck will begin at 1 p.m. Aug. 31 at the Witty residence, 81768 Reavis Lane. Friends are invited to share their memories and favorite stories of Ken.

TEN DEPOT STREET

Mon-Fri Blue Plate \$12:

Sesame Pork Tenderloin with local Corn on the Cob and Tomato Basil Salad

Bryn McLaughlin

Singer/Songwriter

Thursday 7pm-9pm

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All welcome at Thursday night bingo

LA GRANDE — La Grande Post 43 of the American Legion, 301 Fir St., is hosting bingo from 6 p.m. until 9:15 p.m. each Thursday evening. Everyone is welcome. Cash only, please.

Area closure issued in and around Granite Gulch Fire zone

BAKER CITY — A news release from the Vale District BLM Oregon/Washington announced the enactment of an area closure in and around the Granite Gulch Fire zone to ensure public safety. The area between Rock Creek Trail and Trail Creek Trail, which drains into the Minam River, excluding Elk Meadows, was closed to the public Aug. 23 and will remain until rescinded on Oct. 1, according to the release. This closure is necessary to provide forest visitors protection from the hazardous conditions associated with the current fire situation on the Eagle Cap Ranger District of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. For more information, contact the Vale District BLM Oregon/Washington office, 3100 H St., Baker City, at 541-523-1407.

Lecture explains fire refugia and pyrodiversity

JOSEPH — Garrett Meigs, PhD, a disturbance ecologist at OSU’s College of Forestry, will give a free presentation Aug. 30 at the Wallowology Natural History Discover Center, 508 N. Main St., Joseph. “Fire Refugia in Oregon’s Forests: Learning from the Land and How to Deal with Change,” part of the Climate Change Biological Impacts Series, will begin at 7 p.m.

Fire refugia — locations that remain unburned or burn less severely than surrounding areas — influence forest regeneration, wildlife habitat and subsequent disturbance dynamics. Understanding the landscape conditions that support fire refugia and overall pyrodiversity may enable land managers and stakeholders to prioritize locations for forest restoration and habitat conservation.

Multiple agencies team up to gain quick control of Mt. Fanny Fire

LA GRANDE — Firefighters from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest teamed up for an aggressive initial attack beginning Aug. 20

on the Fanny Fire using air resources, fire engines and hand crews. The five-acre Fanny Fire, located approximately two miles east of Cove, was caused by lightning.

“The excellent teamwork and dedication of our firefighters was critical for this outcome,” said Bill Gamble, La Grande District Ranger for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. “This is a shining example of the coordinated response envisioned by the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy and a testament to the positive working relationships here in Northeast Oregon.”

There is currently no estimate of the containment percentage due to the spottiness of the burning and the level of heat in some areas. Crews continue to extinguish burning or smoldering material while also carefully managing safety risks as they work in steep terrain.

The road to Moss Springs Campground and trailhead is still open. Drivers should drive slowly and yield to firefighters.

3 Rivers Race will take place Oct. 5

ISLAND CITY — Shelter From the Storm’s annual 3 Rivers Race, which aims to raise awareness of domestic violence, has been rescheduled for Oct. 5. Shelter From the Storm is seeking volunteers to help with the event. For more information on the event and on volunteering, call 541-963-7226. Shelter From the Storm is located at 10901 Island Ave., Island City.

Fiber arts and jewelry exhibit will be inspired by farmers market

LA GRANDE — Art Center East’s fourth annual Fiber Arts & Jewelry Exhibit, to be held in February and March 2020, will have a farmers market theme. This year’s exhibitors are invited to create a piece inspired by a photo taken at a local farmers market. As in last year’s Fiber Goes Vogue exhibit, the photo that inspires each piece will be displayed next to it.

This annual community exhibit creates a platform for the underrepresented branch of visual arts and to showcase local fiber and jewelry artists. The exhibit is sponsored by Union County’s own La Grande Quilt Shop. To find out more about the exhibit — and submit an application to hold your spot — go to www.artcentereast.org/ artist/fourth-annual-fiber-arts-jewelry-exhibit, stop by ACE at 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande, or call 541-624-2800.

OREGON IN BRIEF

From wire reports

Cougar sightings reported on Lewis & Clark campus

PORTLAND — Lewis & Clark College officials say there have been numerous cougar sightings on or near the Portland school.

KOIN-TV reported a notice went out to the campus community alerting people of the sightings at the private college. According to the notice, there was a possible sighting at the undergraduate campus.

A sign posted near the college also warns of the sightings.

Surveillance cameras captured a cougar walking in the Dunthorpe neighborhood last month near the campus.

Hiker dies in fall at Oregon state park

PORTLAND — Authorities in Oregon say a male hiker died after falling 100 feet at Smith Rock State Park.

KOIN-TV reported the male fell while making his way down a climbers’ path toward the northeast Lower Gorge Saturday.

The Deschutes County Sheriff’s office said the hiker was pronounced dead at the scene.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Arrested: Courtney M. Hendrickson, 20, a transient, was arrested on a charge of third-degree theft.

Arrested: Salvador Cruz-Escamilla, 27, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of harassment.

Arrested: Brianna Kay Black, 20, unknown address, was arrested on a Garfield County Washington warrant charging failure to appear in court. The warrant was connected to an original charge of possession of a stolen vehicle.

Arrested: Scott Christopher Lee, 50, Union, was arrested on a parole and probation detainer.

Arrested: Nichole Jean Tracy, 43, Union, was arrested on a charge of misuse of 9-1-1.

Arrested: Richard Darrell Green, 46, unknown address, was arrested on charges of second-degree burglary, second-degree theft and felon in possession.

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cited: Carter Lee Tulppo, 20, unknown address, was cited on a charge of possession of marijuana under 21.

Arrested: Carlson Junior Biamon, 26, unknown address, was arrested by the Spokane Police Department on two Union County warrants. The warrants were connected to original charges of failure to appear in court, two counts; and fourth-degree assault, two counts.

Arrested: Carlos Rojas

Morales, 28, unknown address, was arrested by the Ada County Sheriff’s Office on Union County warrant charging failure to appear in court. The warrant was connected to original charges of unlawful import or export of a marijuana item, two counts; unlawful possession of a marijuana item, two counts; and unlawful delivery of a marijuana item.



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