

DAILY PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Friday, Oct. 11, the 284th day of 2019. There are 81 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Oct. 11, 1986, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened two days of talks concerning arms control and human rights in Reykjavik, Iceland.

ON THIS DATE

In 1809, just over three years after the famous Lewis and Clark expedition ended, Meriwether Lewis was found dead in a Tennessee inn, an apparent suicide; he was 35.

In 1906, the San Francisco Board of Education ordered the city's Asian students segregated in a purely "Oriental" school. (The order was later rescinded at the behest of President Theodore Roosevelt, who promised to curb future Japanese immigration to the United States.)

In 1910, Theodore Roosevelt became the first former U.S. president to fly in an airplane during a visit to St. Louis.

In 1958, the lunar probe Pioneer 1 was launched; it failed to go as far out as planned, fell back to Earth, and burned up in the atmosphere.

In 1983, the last full-fledged hand-cranked telephone system in the United States went out of service as 440 telephone customers in Bryant Pond, Maine, were switched over to direct-dial service.

In 2001, in his first prime-time news conference since taking office, President George W. Bush said "it may take a year or two" to track down Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network in Afghanistan, but he asserted that after a five-day aerial bombardment, "we've got them on the run."

In 2006, a single-engine plane carrying New York Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle and flight instructor Tyler Stanger crashed into a high-rise apartment building in New York City, killing both men.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$3.8 million
2-12-13-20-22-30

Mega Millions: \$60 million
5-8-10-17-48-23-x3

Powerball: \$90 million
5-18-33-43-65-2-x2

Win for Life: Oct. 9
29-45-46-64

Pick 4: Oct. 10

• 1 p.m.: 4-4-8-7

• 4 p.m.: 5-9-9-5

• 7 p.m.: 1-7-3-8

• 10 p.m.: 0-1-2-1

Pick 4: Oct. 9

• 1 p.m.: 2-5-7-7

• 4 p.m.: 4-3-3-9

• 7 p.m.: 2-9-7-6

• 10 p.m.: 0-6-6-1

NEWSPAPER LATE?

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Modesty is the highest form of arrogance."

— German saying

WALLOWA COUNTY



Bill Bradshaw/EO Media Group

Patrick Thiel shows off the variety of colors he gets in his organic carrots and beets Oct. 2, at the land he leases just west of Lostine. The plot is protected by a deer fence, without which he'd be unable to harvest a crop.

Organic farmer in Joseph finds market in Portland

By Bill Bradshaw
EO Media Group

JOSEPH — The life of a farmer isn't easy and when you add organics into the mix, it becomes even more difficult.

"Farming is tough," said Patrick Thiel, who operates Prairie Creek Farms on about 25 acres of leased land near Joseph and another few acres outside of Lostine. "There's times the weather will wipe you out. There are times other things will wipe you out. There are times when it'll turn out OK, but those are getting fewer and further in between."

Unlike many in the Wallowa Valley, who rely chiefly on cattle, hay or small grains, Thiel has a wide variety of crops, including several varieties of potatoes, beets and carrots — all grown to organic specifications.

Not all chemicals are banned in organic farming, he said. Often, common, everyday, and non-toxic (to humans) substances can be used instead. For example, ordinary vinegar that can be used as an herbicide. For fertilizer, he uses kelp and molasses diluted in water.

"The overall goal is to avoid sterilizing the soil or introducing substances that destroy the function of the soil," Thiel said.

It's true that running an organic operation allows for more pests and weeds, Thiel said. However, if a weedkiller such as Roundup is used, "It makes it more profitable in the short term," he said. "But in 10 to 50 years, you'll have more difficulty controlling pests and



Bill Bradshaw/EO Media Group

Organic farmer Patrick Thiel, center, discusses the ripeness and quality of his potato crop with his employees Jerry Sparks, left, and Jody Rowe after a freeze killed the vine tops Oct. 2, at Thiel's potato farm near Joseph.

weeds" because they become resistant to the chemical.

Organic farming is "more labor intensive, but it's more productive in the long run," he said.

"One thing that happens when you introduce high levels of nitrogen is it reduces lot of the green foliage, but the product is more watery," Thiel said. "Because of the high nitrates, you don't get as good a flavor."

While organically grown produce remains more expensive than its commercial counterparts, the gap is narrowing.

"The organic industry has been growing by an average of 20% a year for many years," Thiel said. "The first farms were small — a scale that can't compare to a 5,000-acre (commercial) farm. In recent years, more of the larger farms have been converting to organic."

While his cost for production is higher, the market value of his produce is

roughly double," he said, but that "depends on the market." Thiel and his customers, all consider that his Prairie farms produce has much better flavor that even many organic competitors.

Thiel's market is primarily high-end restaurants in the Portland area. What he doesn't sell in Portland will be available at local farmers markets.

He said he's heard stories from his Portland customers of occasions when he'd run out of product and restaurants would have to look elsewhere. "Diners would come back into the kitchen and say, 'What happened to your potatoes? What happened to your carrots?'" Thiel said. Potato harvest had just gotten underway in a serious fashion Oct. 2, when the weather dropped to 24 degrees Fahrenheit and got a good start on killing the tops of the plants. The tubers still have to remain in the ground a couple of weeks to allow the skins to set, but Thiel is finding some he can harvest.

"I've got a dozen varieties of potatoes and some of them are good to go and some need to mature up," he said.

"That's all part of the reason for having a variety. It hedges your bets against all your weather patterns, your timing, your disease and pest issues and your climate getting too wet or too dry."

Hunting buffer removed from lake

By Steve Tool and Ellen Morris Bishop
EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — A change to the state's hunting regulations has Wallowa County residents asking questions.

In the 2019 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife hunting regulations, a quarter-mile-wide no-hunting buffer around the perimeter of Wallowa Lake was removed. Residents and business owners have expressed concern that hunting in this area of private residences would endanger human safety, and given the tame nature of the deer, was unsportsmanlike.

Residents and business owners in the Wallowa Lake Village area expressed strong concerns about ODFW's omission of regulations that prohibited deer hunting in their residential neighborhoods.

"The deer here are a tourist attraction, worth a lot to Wallowa County," Susan Esvelt said. "They walk right up to people. These aren't wild deer. This isn't hunting. It isn't sportsmanlike."

Beyond the deer, residents also worried about hunting in such a highly populated area.

Jill Zundel, who worked at Wallowa Lake Lodge as a teenager, now spends summer and early fall in the family's longtime cabin along the Wallowa River, and worries about the safety of her and her dog.

"I don't think anyone should hunt these deer. They're like pets," she said.

At the Scenic Meadows RV Park, where go-carts occupy the track during the summer, owner Greg Jarman said the area should remain a no-hunting zone.

"The whole idea of hunting here is a little crazy," he said. "ODFW should have left it as it was."

Jarman said he had not encountered any hunters, or heard any shots.

"But there doesn't seem to be as many deer here as there used to be," he noted.

Wallowa County commissioners can designate the area a no-hunting zone.

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