Daily Planner

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 23, the 296th day of 2019. There are 69 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Oct. 23, 1983, 241 U.S. service members, most of them Marines, were killed in a suicide truck-bombing at Beirut International Airport in Lebanon; a near-simultaneous attack on French forces killed 58 paratroopers.

ON THIS DATE

In 1707, the first Parliament of Great Britain, created by the Acts of Union between England and Scotland, held its first meeting.

In 1910, Blanche S. Scott became the first woman to make a public solo airplane flight, reaching an altitude of 12 feet at a park in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In 1925, talk show host Johnny Carson was born in Corning, Iowa.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of Leyte Gulf began, resulting in a major Allied victory against Japanese forces.

In 1984, BBC Television reported on the famine in Ethiopia; the story, which shocked viewers, prompted rock star Bob Geldof to organize "Band Aid," a group of celebrities who recorded the song "Do They Know It's Christmas?" for charity.

In 2001, the nation's anthrax scare hit the White House with the discovery of a small concentration of spores at an offsite mail processing center.

In 2006, former Enron CEO Jeffrey Skilling was sentenced by a federal judge in Houston to 24 years, four months for his role in the company's collapse.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: $4.8 million
4-17-18-41-43-47

Mega Millions: $93 million
5-11-14-23-25-10-x4

Powerball: $120 million
14-27-29-59-65-12-x2

Win for Life: Oct. 21
2-3-74-77

Pick 4: Oct. 22
- 1 p.m.: 5-4-9-4
- 4 p.m.: 1-6-7-2
- 7 p.m.: 1-6-8-1
- 10 p.m.: 2-4-1-0

Pick 4: Oct. 21
- 1 p.m.: 3-5-3-7
- 4 p.m.: 4-7-8-0
- 7 p.m.: 6-3-9-2
- 10 p.m.: 7-5-9-8

NEWSPAPER LATE?

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If you are not on a motor route, delivery should be before 5:30 p.m. If you do not receive your paper by 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, please call 541-963-3161 by 6 p.m.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Just be yourself — it's the only way it can work."
— Johnny Carson

S. John Collins/EO Media Group

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative plans to install a charging station for electric vehicles on the east side of Resort Street in downtown Baker City. The nearest parking space will be set aside for the electric vehicle using the charger, which will accommodate one car at a time.

OTEC gets green light to install charging station

■ Baker City Council OK's resolution to designate parking space on Resort Street

By Jayson Jacoby
EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative hopes to have a charging station for electric cars installed by the end of the year on Resort Street.

The Baker City Council on Tuesday approved a resolution designating one diagonal parking space on the east side of Resort Street, near Church Street, for an electric vehicle while it's using the charging station.

The station could accommodate one vehicle at a time.

The parking space is between Thatcher's Ace Hardware and the Dollar Tree.

Charlie Tracy, director of engineering for OTEC, said the station will cost about $40,000 to install. Some of the money will come from Oregon's clean fuels program, he said.

Tracy said OTEC has budgeted to install three charging stations — one in Baker City, one in John Day and one in Burns.

"We think it's the right thing do for our members," he said.

The cost of installing the chargers in Baker City, John Day and Burns will have no effect on OTEC's power rates, Tracy said.

The cooperative, which is based in Baker City and has 23,000 members in Baker, Grant, Harney and Union counties, isn't planning at this point to install a charging station in La Grande.

The reason, Tracy said, is that an Electrify America charging station, which can accommodate most models of electric vehicles, is in place at the Walmart in Island City.

There's also an Electrify America station in Huntington, about 50 miles southeast of Baker City.

The situation is different in Baker City.

Although Tesla, probably the best-known maker of electric vehicles, installed one of its Supercharger charging stations in 2015 in the parking lot of the Sunridge Inn in Baker City, those stations can charge Tesla vehicles only.

Other EVs, such as the Chevrolet Bolt and Nissan Leaf, can't recharge at a Tesla Supercharger station.

Tracy said OTEC has added a Chevrolet Bolt, which has a range of about 240 miles when its batteries are fully charged, to its fleet. He said OTEC employees use the vehicle to travel between the cooperative's offices.

Tracy said the charger OTEC will install in Baker City can handle all types of EVs, including ones that use the North American charging port design or the Japanese version. The station would also accommodate Teslas, which come with adapters.

Tracy said OTEC officials want to install charging stations in places where drivers who use them can easily access restaurants and shops while their car's batteries are being replenished.

He said OTEC doesn't want electric vehicle drivers to bypass Baker City and other communities in the cooperative's service area due to a lack of charging stations.

Tracy said the OTEC station would be able to give a typical EV up to 250 miles of driving range in one hour.

As for cost, he said OTEC plans to charge a $1 connection fee per vehicle, and then a per-minute fee as electricity is being transferred to the vehicle's batteries.

Tracy said OTEC hasn't calculated the kilowatt-hour rate for the electricity dispensed from the charging station. But he said it's likely that a driver who pulls in with batteries nearly empty, and then uses the charger to fully recharge the vehicle, would pay about $15.

The amount of time needed to recharge a car would be based not only on the charge level of the batteries but also on the age of the vehicle.

Tracy said older EVs, such as the first generation Nissan Leaf, can't recharge as rapidly as newer vehicles such as the Bolt.

New courthouse clock receives funding

By Bill Bradshaw
EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — Wallowa County can expect to have a new clock atop the Wallowa County Courthouse soon, now that full funding has been realized with a $2,500 pledge made Oct. 14 by the Enterprise City Council to the total $6,250 cost of the new clock. The city's contribution for the new timepiece will come from the city's Opportunity Fund.

The new clock will be custom-made by the Verdin Co., of Cincinnati, to fit the space previously occupied by the old clock. Like the previous courthouse clocks, it will have four faces that will fill each side of the lamppost-like tower on the courthouse grounds.

The new clock will be installed sometime after Jan. 1 under the guidance of John Hillock, Wallowa County commissioner and owner of Enterprise Electric.

"Depending on the weather, it'll be a one-day installation," he said.

The previous clock stopped working and simply was not worth repairing, Hillock said. County Commission Chairwoman Susan Roberts was instrumental in having the original clock installed in 2000 when she was mayor of Enterprise.

"Those clock motors were really cheaply made and there was no way to get into them short of taking the top off," Hillock said.

Hillock said the new clock will have a master timepiece that will control three clocks on the other faces of the tower, and will reset after a power outage using a GPS system that controls all four units.

"That's pretty much common in schools and such to have a GPS reset," he said.

The contract provided to the council states that it will take 45 to 60 days for Verdin to fabricate and ship the new clock. Hillock said it must be paid for in advance, so he is going to begin collecting pledge monies soon.

Before approving the city's contribution, Councilman Ronnie Neil asked about putting a clock on two sides of the clock tower and thermometers on the other two, a move he thought might save money, but Hillock said the main cost was the clock's master unit. Neill also expressed concern about the clock's three-year warrantee, which he thought might be insufficient.

To fund the new clock, Wallowa County has pledged $2,000, the Rotary Club $1,500, Rotary member Evelyn Swart $250 and with the city's $2,500, meeting the the total of $6,250 needed for the clock.

Rich Wandschneider, Rotary Club president, said Swart's $250 donation came from her recent win in a Rotary lottery. The club has been a driving force behind getting the clock replaced.

ATV proposal faces challenge

By Bill Bradshaw
EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — The City of Enterprise is expecting opposition to a proposed ordinance liberalizing the use of four-wheelers within city limits the city council was told at the regular city council meeting Oct. 14. A town hall-type forum to allow public input on the proposed ordinance has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Nov. 6 at city hall.

"We do have more opposition than I thought we'd have," city recorder Lacey McQuead said.

During the September council meeting, members discussed an ordinance that would allow unlicensed drivers younger than 16 to operate ATVs on city streets for work purposes, such as plowing snow or mowing lawns.

McQuead said the city has received five letters, all strongly opposed to the proposed ordinance. She plans to read three into the record at the town hall meeting.

In addition to the letters, McQuead said City Attorney Wyatt Baum told her that dropping the driving age below what Oregon Revised Statutes requires "is not an option." Essentially, it's too great a liability for the city.

"He will not support that," McQuead said. "He does not suggest we move forward or set an age that goes against the ORS. He does not recommend it at all."

She said there may be a way around it by revising the current ordinance.

"If we take the age part out of it, they can drive a four-wheeler at 15 years old," she said. "They just have to pass the class, they have to follow the rules and everything else that goes with it."

She said there would be an attempt to make clear what the city is hoping to accomplish at the town hall.

McQuead also asked the council to set a time limit for participants in the town hall. The council agreed to the five-minute limit for speakers.

"I know we're going to have a couple people who will show up who've been very vocal and we're likely to get off track if we don't limit it," she said.

In other business, the council approved three Community Economic Tourism Related Activities grants totaling $5,000. Approved were a $2,000 grant requested by the Greater Enterprise Main Streets and a $2,000 grant for the Wallowa County Ice Rink. Councilman Dave Elliot said working committees recommended the entire requests for these two because of the numbers of tourists they attract. A request for Fishtrap, also for $2,000, was halved to $1,000, Elliot said.

"Because they're not as tourist-oriented, we agreed on 50%," Elliot said.

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