

UPGRADE

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has been replaced,” Falk said.

All this was done in the area where the gas tanks were dug up, making the process more efficient.

Aboveground work that has been done includes the replacement of all concrete around the mini mart and adding concrete to a portion of the back of the store where there had been only dirt and gravel.

The work has been expensive, and Falk said prices are continuing to rise — another reason he is eager to have the project completed. He said that since he started planning his renovations in late 2020, the cost of the project has risen by \$25,000. But it’s an important investment.

Falk said the work done will help enable the mini mart to remain in business for years to come.

“This will ensure that the store will be operating for at least another 50 years. Of course I won’t be operating it then. At least I hope not,” Falk said, adding that he then would be about 100 years old.



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REPORT

Continued from Page B1

in a very good position, depending on the strength of the dollar, to really do a good job in increasing our exports,” Sorte said.

Organic growth

One area where Sorte said he was pleasantly surprised was the growth of organic farming and ranching.

Despite the number of certified organic farms decreasing from 657 in 2008 to 455 in 2019, the number of certified organic acres nearly doubled from 105,605 to 196,045.

The value of organic products sold also increased from \$156 million to \$454 million, making up 9% of the total value of market sales in Oregon.

“Organic farming has grown from a niche market to a segment of the market that includes very small farms to large corporate farms,” the report states. “Retail food chains and restaurants continue to expand their organic offerings and the majority of organic products are now sold through retail food outlets.”

Mid-size farms decline

Overall, Oregon added more than 2,000 new farms since 2012. However, the number of mid-size farms has continued to decline.

For example, there were 3,417 new farms established with 1-9 acres, and 21 new farms with 2,000-plus acres. But the number of farms between 50 and 999 acres dropped by 1,217.

The rise in small farms likely reflects growth

in organic farming, value-added on-farm operations, direct sales and agritourism, according to the report.

Meanwhile, large farms reflect the industry’s move toward consolidation to attain economies of scale. Those two factors have combined to squeeze mid-size operations.

Overall, the number of acres in agricultural production has declining a little more than 9% since 1997, from 17.7 million to 16 million acres.

COVID-19 impacts

While the full impacts of the pandemic are still being unraveled, Oregon’s foodservice industry was dealt a major blow.

Between 2019 and the third fiscal quarter of 2020, the sector saw a nearly 15% decline in sales and 23% decline in employment amid pandemic closures. Farms and food processors were also forced to scramble to find new buyers for their products.

Farm gate sales declined

to their lowest point in over a decade, though the USDA still expects overall U.S. farm income to increase 43% from 2019 due in large part to government assistance programs.

Since Oregon has a lower percentage of commodity crops like soybeans and corn, and is more diverse in terms of specialty crops, OSU researchers say they anticipate the state’s reported farm income will be somewhat lower than national averages.



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110 Announcements 110 Announcements

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- Idle Hour
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Slightly gamy

4 Subside

8 Gown's go-with

11 Not easily found

13 Psyched up

14 Wise old bird

15 Banished

17 Mr. Dangerfield

19 Scholarly volumes

21 Stockholm carrier

22 Mince

24 Ely of "Tarzan"

26 Small town

29 Gone up

31 Halloween decor

33 Asian tongue

34 Harmful ray

35 Go to court

37 Felt boot

39 Copper, in the lab

40 — Moines

42 Apprehend a suspect

44 Plied a gondola

46 "X Games" ailer

48 Tigger's friend

50 Santa —, Calif.

51 Gasp of delight

53 Wrestling locale

55 Smeared

58 Quick-witted

61 Hikes the price

62 Midwest state

64 Reduce sail

65 Sandra or Ruby

66 Gives it the gas

67 Instant grass

DOWN

1 Mine find

2 Office machine

3 Snack chips

4 Heron or egret

5 Silver, in chem.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	I	S	A	F	L	A	Y	U	R	T
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- 6 Also not
- 7 They're often inflated
- 8 Minor diplomat
- 9 Overwhelm
- 10 Tissue layer
- 12 Weds in haste
- 16 Dorothy's aunt
- 18 Bit of paint
- 20 Cry loudly
- 22 Oil-field oil
- 23 Busy places
- 25 Fabric surface
- 27 Speedway competitions
- 28 Red-coated cheese
- 30 Cloister dweller
- 32 Collect maple sap
- 36 Maize unit
- 38 Street intersection
- 41 Household member
- 43 Jungly crusher
- 45 Bakery goods
- 47 Cribbage card
- 49 Fierce whales
- 52 Successor to the throne
- 54 Urban train
- 55 Lead balloon
- 56 Simian
- 57 Fawn parent
- 59 Want-ad letters
- 60 Country addr.
- 63 Charleston's st.



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HOROSCOPES

by Stella Wilder

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021

YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder

Born today, you are one of the most solid, stalwart and faithful individuals born under your sign. You are hardworking and quick to dedicate yourself to a worthy cause -- to which you will always apply your best efforts in order to guarantee success. You are confident in your abilities, but most especially in your ability to inspire confidence in others, and though you usually lead by example, you are also quite good at delivering encouraging words at just the right moments and to just the right people.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- You may feel stuck doing work in an unfamiliar environment, but the fact is that you can make this new situation work very well for you today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- You're almost sure to encounter those today who do not share your overall outlook, but resulting discussion may alter your views.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- A small sacrifice on your part early in the day will allow you to reap a much larger reward than usual later on. This may take daring.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Someone's influence may pull you away from something for which you have felt real affinity -- but today's a good day for exploration.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Though you may not be able to think of certain things today in terms of stability and permanence, what you're able to do scores many points.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- You may be adversely affected by someone who is more "in your space" today than you would like. Only a direct approach can fix this.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Showering another with all that is desired may be your intent, but the result isn't likely to be as favorable as you had hoped. Back off some.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Your generosity will pay off handsomely today -- but only

if you're sharing something of value. Others will see through any deception.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- You may find yourself wishing for something that is long gone, but that's just nostalgia playing with you. Cast your eyes forward today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- You're not likely to find another team to join, so you must be willing to put up with things as they are or go it alone. The choice is yours.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Good humor keeps you from taking things too seriously today, but it won't happen by accident. Be sure to remind yourself of this all day long.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- You're not at the end just yet, but you may be able to stop and take a look back at where you've been. This allows you to adjust expectations.

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