

OPINION

YOUR VOICE

Clean energy now

To the editor,
After Oregon's Republican senators left their jobs during the last legislative session, instead of working on our clean energy needs, we need ALL of our state representatives ready to show up and produce results on clean energy during the short session beginning Feb. 3.
There is talk already of a possible repeat walkout or other avoidance tactic, despite the urgent need for us as a state to address climate change. Our legislators, ALL of them, need to hear the clear message that we need and expect robust state legislation to address climate change this legislative session.
Our homes, environment, and livelihoods are already

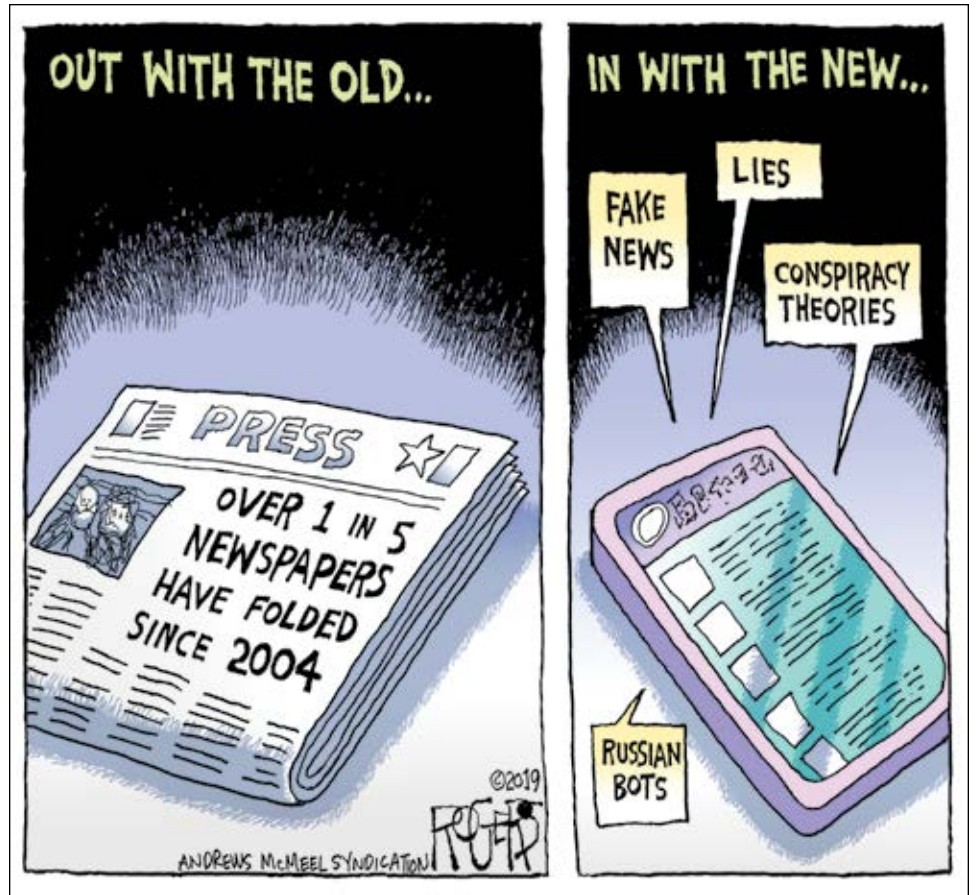
threatened. Our children and grandchildren are rightfully fearful for their futures. Further inaction and/or roadblocking in the state legislature is absolutely unacceptable.
Sen. Chuck Thomsen and Rep. Anna Williams, I urge you to commit to passing meaningful legislation this session to fully transition Oregon to a clean energy economy. We need a firm commitment and a firm delivery date, with clear implementation plans and enforceable benchmarks along the way. Nothing less will move us out of the climate crisis we have collectively created.

Laura Dunn
Hood River

Uplifting views

To the editor,
Driving throughout The

Dalles the last few weeks have been so uplifting. Neighborhoods with so many decorations for the holidays; business windows lit up and decorated in various holiday themes; businesses open longer hours; pictures with Santa available at many locations, has all made our town come alive with activity and joy.
To all who made our town more festive during the holiday season the City of The Dalles Beautification committee says thank you and happy new year!
Your efforts build civic pride and make The Dalles a nicer place to live.
The Dalles Beautification committee includes Tiffany Prince, Connie Krumrich, Brenda Coats, Judy Merrill, John Nelson, Bill Lennox and Max Butensky.
Connie Krumrich
The Dalles



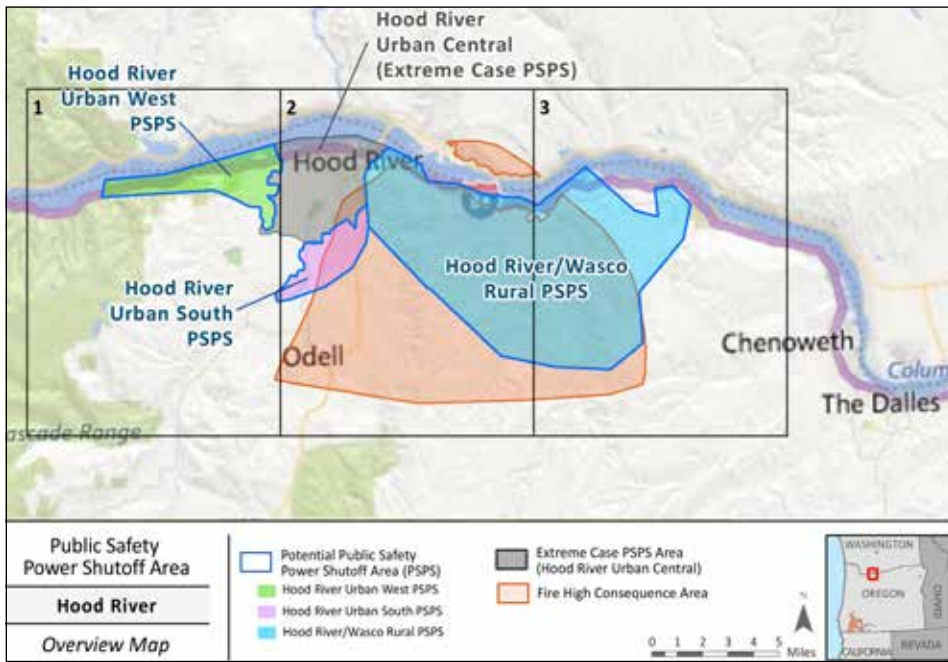
WILDFIRE More information on plan needed

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utility's nature to say part of our plan would be to shut off power, so we very much want to be able to remove that from any plan we have."
Pacific Power does not have a timeline in place for removing the PSPS policy from its plan, but has been working on isolating downtown Hood River's electricity so that it can eventually be removed from the boundary, Berreth said. Additional system-hardening measures could potentially allow the boundary to be reduced further.
Mayor Kate McBride asked Pacific Power to come up with a timeline for when the PSPS could be removed from the Wildfire Mitigation Plan.
"If we knew it was going to be three years, then we as a community can do what we need to do," McBride said. "If we know that it's going to be 10 or 15 or 20 years before we can really not be in that danger, then we may have to do some other more drastic measures ourselves. To get some better numbers and time frames on your end on when you might come to a point where you feel like you aren't going to shut anything off, would help us plan better."
Highlights of the plan are available online at www.pacificpower.net/outages-safety/wildfire-safety/public-safety-power-shutoff.html, but one part of the communication issue is that the plan itself has been largely confidential; the city council members and county commissioners present at the Dec. 17 meeting stated that they did not receive the plan until just days before the meeting—with specific instructions not to share it—and newly-appointed Council Member Gladys Rivera said she did not receive her copy of the plan until the night before the meeting.
"The Hood River / Wasco County Public Safety Power Shutoff document that was developed by Pacific Power and in collaboration with local public safety and health authorities includes critical infrastructure and contact information. For this reason, it was agreed upon by all contributing parties to not make the document public. This was a joint decision," said Drew Hanson, senior communications representative for Pacific Power's parent company, PacifiCorp, in an email-statement following the meeting.
Saunders requested that sensitive information be removed so that a redacted version of the document could be shared, and Hanson has confirmed that document is being prepared.
One of the primary concerns with the plan itself was the short timeline for notifying local emergency management and customers of an impending power shutoff: emergency management is notified up to 72-hours in advance, customers are notified 48-24 hours in advance.
"I would like you to take input from our emergency people here in the city and the county, because they



Hood River county and city officials met for a joint work session on Dec. 17 to speak with Pacific Power representatives about the company's Wildfire Mitigation Plan for the first time since the plan was introduced in May. Pictured are, left to right, City Council Member Megan Saunders, Commissioner Bob Benton, Mayor Kate McBride, and Commissioner Rich McBride. Emily Fitzgerald photo



may think that there are certain populations that need more notice than that," said McBride. "I would strongly have you consider something that's longer."
The need to properly forecast weather largely limits how much notice Pacific Power is able to give. There has been talk about creating a publicly-available dashboard that allows the public to view the same weather information that Pacific Power is using to make their decisions, but Berreth expressed concerns about "creating unnecessary anxiety" by sharing too much information with customers, and said they are working to figure out how to curate information so that what is provided to the public is meaningful.
"I would rather customers have more information than less," said county commissioner Les Perkins. "I know you are a private company, so you are used to being a little more guarded; we're used to being pretty open with information," he said.
Since the policy was announced within Pacific Power's Wildfire Mitigation Plan at the start of the 2019 fire season, local emergency management officials have expressed frustration about a lack of effective communication with Pacific Power that made it difficult for them to prepare the community for a PSPS.
"So far, I have been overwhelmed with the outreach," said Perkins. "My concern is that the general public is not receiving information at all and there has been a bit of a disconnect between us and Pacific Power in terms of service providers and what we should be telling the community."
Perkins specifically

referenced a situation that occurred in California in October, when Pacific Gas & Electric initiated a PSPS in northern California that affected an estimated 2.5 million people—including the small community of Humboldt County, which was thrust into chaos during the shutoff.
"I agree with you that the lesson learned out of California was that communication was a huge component of that," said Berreth.
Pacific Power representatives have been meeting regularly with local emergency management personnel for workshops, tabletop drills and other discussions on the plan.
"The plan will change through coordination, communication with you, with communities," said Berreth. "We'll figure out what needs to change within the plan and then we'll change the plan as we move forward ... this isn't a one-time developed plan."
Officials in Hood River and Wasco counties first heard about the PSPS from PacifiCorp on May 30, and the plan went into full effect on June 25; since then, Hood River Emergency Management has held weekly meetings with a coalition of nearly 30 Hood River and Wasco county agencies that have a role in emergencies, including sheriff's departments, school districts, public health departments, local government officials and fire districts in both counties, to talk about issues and concerns about the PSPS and plan for emergency response impacts.
The coalition held four tabletop drills—one in July, two in August, and one in late September — to better understand potential response

implications of a PSPS. Of these, Pacific Power representatives attended two.
Backup power has been one of the primary focuses of PSPS preparation, with both Hood River County and the Hood River Energy Council looking to acquire grant funding for microgrid, solar and battery generator studies and installations at critical facilities county-wide.
The Emergency Management Department is also working to grant-fund a partnership with Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) to create an emergency shelter and backup emergency response site at the school's Hood River campus.
Future prep will involve creating plans to help vulnerable populations during a significant outage, and extensive public outreach.
Pacific Power is currently preparing for the launch of their 2020 communication plan. While public meetings intended for the 2019 fire season were not held, Hanson said that they are currently planning for a spring community safety and preparedness fair in partnership with NW Natural, the Hood River office of emergency management and other local public health and safety groups.
"This event will kick off a series of public meetings in each identified Public Safety Power Shutoff area in Hood River and Wasco counties," said Hansen.
"We will continue to work in partnership, be present when called upon and deliver on our number one priority, which is delivering reliable energy while keeping our communities safe," said Hansen.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

EMAIL COMMUNITY EVENTS TO MGBISON@THE-DALLESCHRONICLE.COM. LISTINGS ARE FREE.

JANUARY

Saturday, January 7
BLANKET DRIVE: The Wasco County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is hosting its 7th Annual Blanket Drive 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. All items collected will be donated to The Warming Place in The Dalles. The Warming Place is also in need of warm socks. Other warming item (such as coats and gloves) will also be accepted. Stop by the parking lot at 523 East 3rd St., across the street from Sawyer's Ace Hardware. Donors can simply pull up to the curb to drop off new or gently used and washed blankets, socks and other warming items.
Thursday, January 9

KIWANIS PROGRAM: Kiwanis meetings are held every Thursday at noon at Spooky's, visitors welcome. This week's meeting includes presentation by Steph Hoppe from Columbia Gorge Community College Foundation on their scholarship program. For more information go to www.thedalleskiwanis.org.
Thursday, January 16
KIWANIS PROGRAM: Kiwanis meetings are held every Thursday at noon at Spooky's Pizza in The Dalles, visitors welcome. This week's meeting includes presentation by Tracy Witkowski, who will talk about foster parenting. For more information go to www.thedalleskiwanis.org.
Thursday, January 23
KIWANIS PROGRAM: Kiwanis meetings are held every Thursday at noon at Spooky's, visitors welcome. Presentation by Carol Dowsett, principal.

LOOKING BACK

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Road were major construction projects on the county's road agenda.
Train riders William E. and John A. Mussman, taken off a Union Pacific train Tuesday night by Lew Hollohan, railroad agent, were sentenced to 15 days in Wasco County jail after pleading guilty before Judge Glenn O. Allen in justice court yesterday. A charge of passing a car without sufficient clearance was filed yesterday by state police against Orville Frank Brock, 1414 Jackson Street.
Closed to visitors—The Wasco County hospital will be closed to visitors as a protective measure to patients as long as the current siege of colds and respiratory ailments continue, Dr. Gerold G. van der Vlugt, county physician, announced today. The order went into effect immediately, for an undetermined period.
Postal receipts are high, according to an announcement today by Postmaster Ralph Bennett, the total receipts at the local post office for 1939 exceeded those of 1938 by \$1,303.13.
The pupils of the Columbia Heights school will present a program at the schoolhouse Friday night at 7:30 o'clock. Events will include the presentation of a play, "Toyland," by the first three grades, under the direction of Miss Ruth Leonard, and two plays by the upper grades, including "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," directed by Miss Susie Fry. No admission will be charged for the performance, which will be open to all interested persons, it was announced today.
Some 35 members of various agricultural committees in Wasco County will confer here Tuesday on methods of coordinating use of governmental agencies with the development of agriculture.
PORTLAND (UP)—Funds for Bonneville Dam's activities during the coming fiscal year will be slashed if the recommendations of President Roosevelt, included in his budget message to congress yesterday, are approved.
ROME (UP)—It was announced officially today that ration cards will be distributed throughout Italy by January 15.
100 years ago — 1920
The fruit crop for 1920 will be the lightest in many, many years, is the prediction of J. M. Patterson who has made a

careful survey and scrutiny of the damage wrought to orchards by the recent severe weather. Patterson has investigated especially the peach, cherry and apple trees. After observing and cutting open many branches from various trees I have failed to find any considerable number of buds which were not killed by the low prevailing temperatures this year," said Patterson. "The trees as a unit have not been killed but the prospects for a bumper fruit crop for next season has gone glimmering."
One of the oldest residents of The Dalles, born in this city 55 years ago, William Patterson of 1705 East Jackson Street, died at an early hour this morning from inflammatory rheumatism. Patterson has been a carpenter most of his life but for a few years followed farming pursuits in this vicinity. His parents were among the very early pioneers, coming across the plains and settling in Oregon in 1843.
A dog, in the throes of rabies, was shot and killed this morning on route No. 3 by its owner Arthur Panokin. This is conclusive evidence that the disease is rapidly becoming a scourge among the canines of this vicinity. Panokin, who owned the shepherd dog, which is high valued by him, said he first noticed the dog was frothing at the mouth this morning.
Down deep in a song-bird's heart is love of home. At least this is so as regards the world-famed lyric soprano, Alice Nielsen, who will sing at the local high school auditorium tonight.
Two persons were seriously injured in an accident to a bobsled yesterday evening on Garrison Street, when a load of 11 persons was thrown off violently when the sled struck a rock while attempting to avert a collision with a man on skis, who was coming up the hill.
Meeting of the Sorosis club will be held Tuesday afternoon in Hotel Dalles parlors. President Mrs. Curtis will read interesting letters from China. Mrs. Agnes Riley and Mrs. Eunice Boyle will give musical selections. Response to roll call will be current events.
WASHINGTON—Upholding the constitutionality of the most vital section of the Volstead enforcement law, the supreme court declared that 2.75 percent beer and other near beers cannot be sold under wartime prohibition. An important feature of the decision is that the court upheld the action of congress in declaring intoxicating and preventing the sale of all beverages containing half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume with the exception of homemade cider and wine.