

## ENERGY: About 60 percent of PacifiCorp's energy still comes from coal

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dramatically over the years, and are getting to the point where they're competitive with existing generation."

About 60 percent of PacifiCorp's energy still comes from coal, though the company plans to phase out roughly half that generation over the next 15 years. Despite this, PacifiCorp would still own more coal units than any other utility in the western U.S., Ritchie said. Berkshire Hathaway Energy is one of 13 major companies to join the American Business Act on Climate Pledge, along with Apple, Coca-Cola, Google, Microsoft, Wal-Mart and Goldman Sachs.

As part of the pledge, PacifiCorp has already signed purchase agreements for 1,128.8 megawatts of wind and solar energy, with the majority coming from Utah.

The utility will buy 195.1 of those megawatts from Oregon solar projects, and 30 megawatts from Oregon wind farms.

Ry Schwark, PacifiCorp spokesman, said the pledge is an important statement ahead of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris. President Barack Obama also recently rolled out his controversial Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. Oregon is already on track to meet those clean power goals, according to a report in the *Oregonian*.

Schwark said climate change is an important issue to address globally, and PacifiCorp is moving toward a clean energy future while minimizing the impact to ratepayers.

"There are certainly people who will say 'faster, faster' no matter how fast you

go," Schwark said. "We think reducing coal generation over the next 15 years by 40 percent is really quite significant."

Berkshire Hathaway Energy owns other public utilities around the country such as NV Energy and Mid-American Energy Company. Greg Abel, president and CEO of the holding company, said signing the climate pledge is another way to show their commitment to lead on climate action.

"For more than a decade, we have been making significant investments to reduce the impact of our operations on the environment and fostering a more sustainable future by developing renewable energy generation and reducing emissions from our facilities," Abel said.

Contact George Plaven at [gplaven@eastoregonian.com](mailto:gplaven@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0825.

## RODEO: Picks top stock from multiple contractors

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tough ride.

"We've got some young horses that are pretty fun up-and-comers," Korkow said.

Keith Marrington of Calgary Stampede said he brought Lynx Mountain, a feisty saddle bronc that has qualified for the National Finals Rodeo and Canadian Finals Rodeo "many times" and carried Rusty Wright to a win with an 89-point ride in the Calgary Stampede this summer.

"She's really pretty special," Marrington said.

Speaking of special, Marrington said Special Delivery, a stallion that has been earning top bareback status at rodeos right and left, will make an appearance, as will Saturn Rocket and Wild Cherry.

Meanwhile, Bottle Rocket, the jet-black bull owned by Corey & Lange Rodeos that won this year's Calgary Stampede by giving Sage Kimzey a 92.5 ride, will also make an appearance in Hermiston.

"There should be some tough bull riding this year," Marrington said.

In recognition to its dedication to quality stock, the Farm-City Pro Rodeo won the 2014 Remuda Award, given to a rodeo each year by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association in recognition for the "best, most consistent bucking horses" in the country. Stock contractors were Korkow Rodeos, Calgary Stampede, Kesler Rodeos and Mike Corey and Tom Lange.

Korkow described the Remuda Award as winning



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**Korkow Rodeos bucking bulls mill around in a pen at the Double M Ranch feedlot Tuesday waiting to appear in the Farm-City Pro Rodeo this week in Hermiston.**

"the World Series for rodeos." When rodeos like Farm-City cherry pick top-quality stock from multiple contractors, he said, it attracts cowboys who know whatever animal they come out of the chute with will allow them to have a great ride.

"Most of them feel like when they get here they have a chance to win some money, and that's what it takes to get them here," he said.

Marrington said the Farm-City Pro Rodeo is a great place to be a stock contractor.

"This community does rodeo right," he said.

The professionalism, the dirt, the bucking chutes, the pens, the attention to detail and the overall experience are top-notch, he said. Hermiston helps kick off the Northwest rodeo circuit, he said, and cowboys are always excited when they arrive.

Both Marrington and Korkow said they are optimistic those things will

continue when the rodeo moves to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center next year. They said they got a tour of the EOTEC site last year and they feel their input has been taken seriously when it comes to keeping the things that contractors and cowboys love about the current site.

Korkow said one change he is looking forward to is having the animals housed on site instead of outside of town like they are now.

"It will be so much handier," he said, noting that right now he spends hours in the afternoon transporting and settling in stock, only to have to turn around after the rodeo and get them all back to the stockyards.

"It's almost 1 in the morning by the time we get back into town," he said.

He said not having to transport the animals several miles also decreases the risk to his stock.

Contact Jade McDowell at [jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com](mailto:jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4536.

## TREES: Gathered 53 signatures for petition

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possible future construction plans to repair or replace the sidewalk or street in front of our house. If we removed the trees now, the street and sidewalk would remain in disrepair, which our trees had nothing to do with."

After submitting the letter, the Lovejoys went further, personally offering to pay for any sidewalk repairs near the current trees. When the city council expressed concern over how the tree roots might affect a nearby water main, they also offered to pay for an engineer and arborist to study the issue.

After the council rebuffed

every offer, the Lovejoys were informed the trees would be removed and replaced with gravel as soon as September.

The Lovejoys continued to fight back, gathering 53 signatures for a petition to save the trees.

While 53 signatures might not look like much, it's a significant number in a town the size of Helix — according to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are only 55 occupied housing units in Helix and the total population is 184.

Additionally, the amount of signatures for the petition surpasses the vote totals for each of the five sitting city councilors and the mayor,

all of whom were elected through write-in votes. The sixth member of the city council, Amanda Benedict, was appointed to fill a vacated seat.

Despite the groundswell of community support for the trees, the Lovejoys said the city council disregarded the petition when they presented it at a July 20 meeting.

"They basically ignored us," Trish Lovejoy said.

When reached, both Mayor Jack Bascomb and Councilman Jim Smith declined to comment for this story.

Contact Antonio Sierra at [asierra@eastoregonian.com](mailto:asierra@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0836.

## JAPAN: 'It's amazing how nice everyone was'

Continued from 1A

This year, six Pendleton students and their chaperone boarded a plane for Japan.

It was a link reestablished, a relationship resumed.

The teens had much the same agenda as students who had gone before. They attended an ancient horse festival called Soma Nomaori where several hundred samurai horsemen in armor raced 1,000 meters, competing for 40 shrine flags.

The students stayed with host families. They ate sushi and ramen, bestowed a gift on city officials and visited the Sisters in Spirit sculpture, an identical twin to the one at the Pendleton Center for the Arts.

They experienced karate and a tea ceremony, donned replicas of samurai battle outfits, eyed the Tokyo skyline from atop a giant Ferris wheel, became addicted to soft cream and visited a castle with 600-year-old stone walls. They marveled at high-tech Japanese daily life that abounds: bathrooms equipped with devices that emitted white noise, the multitude of vending machines (several on each

block with everything from cold drinks to cell phones). They sweat in the near-100 percent humidity. They practiced Japanese phrases they had studied with Pendleton watercolor artist Hiroko Cannon, who grew up in Japan.

They, like other Pendleton students in years past, marveled at the gracious hospitality they received.

"It's amazing how nice everyone was," said Pendleton High School junior Cheney Chrisman. "They were very welcoming."

"When we walked down the street, they knew exactly who we were," agreed Hailey Kendrick. "Everyone wanted to shake our hands."

This trip to Minamisoma differed from previous excursions, however, in a few important and sobering ways. On July 24, they drove through a restricted area on their way to see the Tsuruga-jo Castle. The students glimpsed homes and gardens abandoned five years ago. Chaperone Roberta Lavadour looked out the charter bus windows and wondered at the unexpected beauty of the abandoned land.

"I was expecting those areas to look post-apoca-

lyptic, but it was just the opposite," Lavadour said. "It was a stunningly beautiful paradise. The idea that you could never go home again would be crushing."

The beauty was marred by excavation equipment brought in to scrape away contaminated topsoil. Hundreds of thousands of black plastic canvas bags lay stacked in giant piles, ready for transport to a burial site.

"It's a horrible tragedy," PHS graduating senior Riley Kendrick. "It was pretty emotional."

Despite the reminders of the traumatic events of 2011, the students said they felt safe. Electronic road signs supplied information about air quality.

"We never felt endangered," Riley said.

The way the residents have supported each other and marched ahead with life impressed Lavadour.

"I'd like to think that if something like that happens here, we would be as honorable toward each other," she said. "It was an enormous, tragic event but life goes on there."

Contact Kathy Aney at [kaney@eastoregonian.com](mailto:kaney@eastoregonian.com) or call 541-966-0810.

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