

PENDLETON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Duane Davies uses a chainsaw to delimb a tree that was blown over during the early morning windstorm Friday at the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center north of Pendleton. Wind knocked over numerous trees on the property and caused some damage to a greenhouse.

Storm knocks out power

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A windstorm that blew through Eastern Oregon early Friday morning knocked out power to hundreds of residents on Pendleton's North Hill and uprooted trees at the nearby Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center.

Pacific Power spokesperson Ry Schwark said 330 customers lost power at 12:05 a.m. when trees fell on powerlines in Pendleton. And electricity went out for 471 customers at 12:45 a.m. when a power pole broke, knocking out a transformer. Pendleton police reported that occurred at Northwest 10th Street and Gilliam Avenue.

The company restored power to all but one customer by 10:11 a.m., he said. The final work needed is replacing the power pole and transformer, but Schwark said he had no estimate on when that would happen.

"That takes a fair bit of time," he said. Pacific Power provides electricity to customers across the Northwest, including Portland and several coastal counties, which the overnight storm hit hard. Cannon Beach, Gearhart, Hammond, Seaside and Warrenton all had blackouts affecting more than 500 customers, according to the company's website Friday morning.

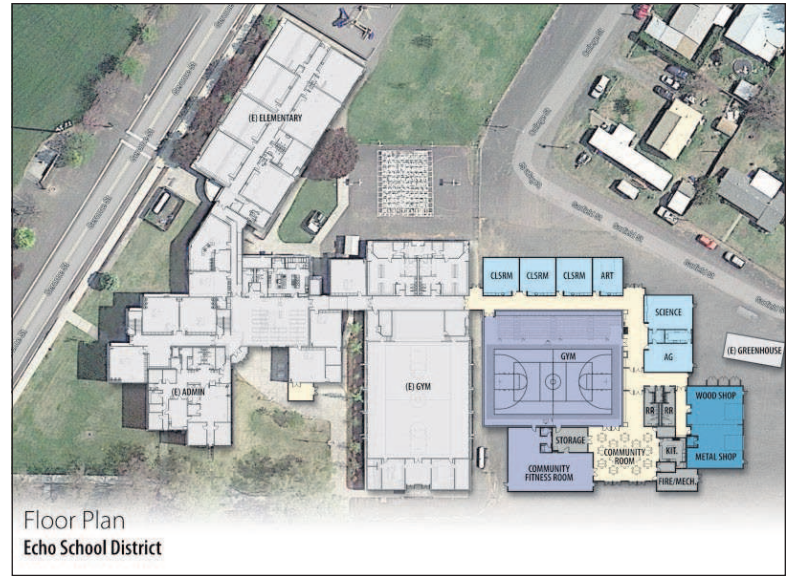
Pendleton fire responded around 7:20 a.m. to a power pole fire at Pendleton Grain Growers McKennon Station, 4600 N.W. McKennon Road, and also Friday morning to Northwest Sixth Street and Carden Avenue for cables knocked down by the wind. Fire department staff said neither were major incidents.

The wind whipped up to 78 mph at CBARC, about 9 miles east of Pendleton, uprooting trees and damaging a greenhouse on the property.



Photo courtesy Ed Struthers
A power pole snapped in the wind sometime early Friday morning at the corner of 10th and Gilliam on Pendleton's North Hill.

ECHO



Contributed by Echo School District
Echo School District plans to start construction on a 3,000-square-foot expansion (shown in color on the floor plan) in March.

School district unveils expansion floor plans

Will include a second gym, new classrooms

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

A planned expansion of Echo School will mean more space for students, but also for the community.

The 3,000-square-foot expansion of the school, paid for by a \$4 million bond that voters approved in May and a \$4 million match from the state, will include a second gym, new classrooms, wood and metal shops, a community gathering space and a fitness room that will be available for community use in the evenings.

Superintendent Raymon Smith said Echo School is at 281 students after its enrollment grew by 40 kids over the last two years. "We're bursting at the seams," he said.

Smith said currently the school's gym is booked solid from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. most days, so adding a second gym to the K-12 school will help relieve some of that scheduling pressure.

The district will also be adding a fitness room with workout equipment that can be separated from the rest of the school and locked with a keycode access. During the day, students will use the equipment, but during the off hours community members who have signed up to receive

the access code will be able to exercise there for free.

"If they want to be able to come in and work out at 11 at night, they can," Smith said.

The same will go for the new commons area with tables and chairs set up, which could be used as a community gathering space.

In addition to three general use classrooms, the expansion will include an art room, a science room, an agriculture room, a metal shop and a wood shop. Smith said the designated spaces will provide new opportunities for those programs — the art teacher will have room for a kiln, for example.

"We're looking to expand our offerings, but also to bring our offerings up to date," he said.

A new entryway attached to the front of the current building will help control access to the school and make the front entrance more obvious to visitors.

Smith said the district plans to break ground on the expansion in March and take 12 months to complete it. Security upgrades paid for by the bond, however, will be installed much sooner.

Smith said if anyone has questions about the planned expansion or wants to give input they are welcome to contact the district office or stop by the school.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.



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Hermiston Herald

Veterans Day Tribute

They've served our country with courage and honor. They've left behind loved ones to risk their lives in protecting their country. They've defended our freedoms and ideals. They make us proud to be Americans.

Join us for Veterans Day Wednesday, November 9 in the Hermiston Herald and Friday, November 11 in the East Oregonian, as we honor the men and women of the U.S. Military. Their courage, hard work and sacrifice are the backbone of our nation, protecting freedom, liberty, justice and all we hold dear.

Bring in a photo and message to 211 SE Byers Ave, Pendleton or 333 E Main, Hermiston; or email to classifieds@eastoregonian.com.

DEADLINE
Thursday, November 3rd

For more information call the East Oregonian at 1-800-962-2819 or the Hermiston Herald at 541-564-4530.

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