

Thanksgiving electricity surge keeps BPA busy

By **GEORGE PLAGEN**
East Oregonian

Thanksgiving morning is a time to crank up the oven and get cooking on that turkey, pumpkin pie and all the trimmings for a delicious holiday feast.

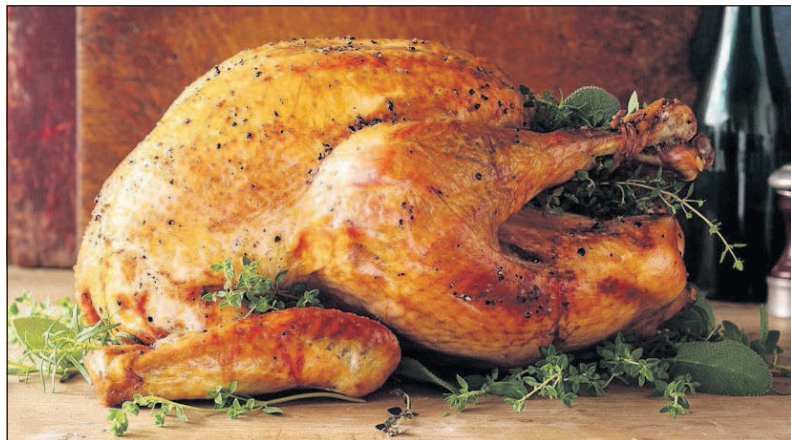
And while the big meal may result in a few bulging waistlines, it almost certainly will cause a huge bulge in electricity demand.

Bonneville Power Administration is bracing for the surge, driven by millions of people across the Northwest who will be busy in the kitchen Thursday boiling potatoes, baking casseroles, steaming veggies and, of course, prepping the all-important turkey.

Electricity use on Thanksgiving tends to peak around 9 a.m., compared to 7-8 a.m. on most weekdays, according to BPA. The overall load is also much higher — usage during Thanksgiving a year ago topped out at 8,527 megawatts, versus just two days earlier when the morning peak reached 8,000 megawatts.

One megawatt of electricity is enough to power 800 average Northwest homes, meaning the additional 527 megawatts used on Thanksgiving morning is enough juice for 421,600 homes.

“We do see some variations during normal weekdays, but this is a pretty significant rise,” said BPA



Contributed photo

The Thanksgiving surge in power demand is caused by the concerted cooking that begins around 9 a.m.

spokeswoman Sarah Burczak.

The real shock, however, comes later in the evening, Burczak said. On a typical November weekday, BPA's regional load sees a second evening peak in electricity use. Thanksgiving, however, bucks that pattern.

By midday, Thanksgiving loads begin to wane and stay low for the rest of the day. Last year, the evening peak was just 7,250 megawatts compared to 8,100 megawatts two days earlier. That 850 megawatt difference is enough for 680,000 average homes.

Burczak calls it the “tryptophan drop-off,” as cooking is likely done for the day and everyone begins nodding off early.

“It's one of those things we can speculate, but we don't have a real solid answer,” she said.

In order to account for the fluctuation, BPA has operators working around the clock to watch electricity consumption and make adjustments as needed. Utilities do their best to pre-schedule for the holiday demand, but if things change, BPA can make real-time power purchases and keep more than 15,000 miles of transmission lines in balance.

“Most of the year, electricity usage follows typical seasonal patterns but severe weather and special events can always present different, even dramatically different, realities,” said Elliott Mainzer, BPA administrator

Thanksgiving & Black Friday business hours

PENDLETON
Wal-Mart: Black Friday wristbands handed out at 4 p.m. on Thursday, shopping starts 6 p.m.
Pendleton Woolen Mills: Closed Thursday. Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday
Walgreens: Open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday and Friday
D & B Supply: Closed Thursday. Open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday
Maurices: Closed Thursday. Open 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday
Western Auto: Closed Thursday. Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday
Rite Aid: Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday. Open 7 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Friday
Bi-Mart: Closed Thursday. Open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday

HERMISTON
Wal-Mart: Open 24 hours
Bealls: Open noon to 1 a.m., Thursday, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday
GameStop: Closed Thursday, Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday
Northwest Farm Supply: Closed Thursday. Open 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday
The Home Depot: Closed Thursday. Open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday
Sears: Open 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Thursday, 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday
Rite Aid: Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday
Bi-Mart: Closed Thursday. Open 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday

and CEO. “This is a time of year we are even more thankful for the many men and women across the Northwest, at utilities big and small, who work diligently to keep power flowing so the rest of us can enjoy our holiday traditions.”

BPA is the federal power marketer that sells wholesale electricity from 31 federal dams to electric utilities in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and parts of Nevada.

Locally, the Umatilla Electric Cooperative buys most of its wholesale power from BPA.

In all, BPA markets about a third of the electricity consumed in the Northwest and operates three-quarters of the region's high-voltage transmission grid.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

Three apply for Port of Umatilla commissioner

Blanc, Mabbott and Tovey seek seat

By **GEORGE PLAGEN**
East Oregonian

Three candidates have applied to fill the soon-to-be vacant seat of John Turner on the Port of Umatilla Commission.

Turner, who is preparing to take over as Pendleton mayor in January, will resign from the port commission in December. His term runs through May 2017.

Robert Blanc, Tamra Mabbott and Dave Tovey all submitted letters of interest to join the port, which is responsible for expanding trade and economic development in the region. The candidates met

with the port commission Tuesday to discuss their qualifications for the job.

Blanc is a graduate of Whitman College in Walla Walla, and spent 25 years working for Pioneer Implement Corp, the family-owned John Deere dealer started by his father. That company sold to RDO Equipment in 2004, and Blanc currently works as a financial advisor for Edward Jones in Pendleton.

“I have a deep appreciation and a good understanding of what agriculture and agribusiness means to economic development throughout Umatilla County,” Blanc wrote in his

letter to the commission.

Mabbott is the current planning director for Umatilla County. She said her involvement in economic development and land use planning would be an asset to the port, and believes the county and port share a common mission.

“I see a very clear nexus between what the county does and what the port does,” Mabbott said.

Tovey is the executive director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, but said he would serve the port strictly as a private citizen. He highlighted his accomplishments overseeing tribal development since 1986, especially at Wildhorse Resort &

Casino and Tamástlikt Cultural Institute.

Tovey said it is imperative the region continues to work together.

“I think we're doing a lot of great things in this county,” he said.

Kim B. Puzey, general manager at the port, said the commission should be ready to appoint Turner's replacement at the next meeting Dec. 13. Applications for the position are still being accepted, and can be sent to P.O. Box 879, Umatilla, OR 97882 or by dropping it off at the port office, 500 Willamette Ave. in Umatilla.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.



Photo contributed by Oregon State Police

Two men are charged with poaching this trophy mule deer buck in Wheeler County.

Two men charged after poaching trophy buck

East Oregonian

FOSSIL — Two men face charges for poaching a trophy mule deer buck near Fossil in Wheeler County.

Erland Suppah Sr., 69, of Warm Springs, and Oscar Finley, 40, of Wapato, Washington, were cited for illegally shooting the buck on private property from the highway during closed season. An investigation was completed by the Oregon State Police,

Wheeler County Sheriff's Office and Warm Springs Department of Natural Resources.

Suppah is charged with unlawful taking of a buck deer during closed season, hunting on enclosed lands and hunting within a prohibited area. Finley is also charged with illegal poaching and hunting on enclosed lands without permission.

The deer was seized as evidence by authorities.

Tree festival builds community through holiday fun

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

With the theme of “Building a New Tomorrow,” the Pendleton Festival of Trees is doing just that.

Presented by St. Anthony Hospital, money raised from the event will go toward the remodel project of its former urgent care clinic, which will be the new home of the Pioneer Relief Nursery. Another nonprofit organization will benefit from the center's move — the Pendleton Warming Station will take up residence in the building being vacated by the relief nursery.

“I personally appreciate the community support,” said Barb Ceniga, Pioneer Relief Nursery executive director. “We are making a difference, I see it every day.”

The relief nursery, Ceniga said, helps fill the gap for families in need. The organization seeks to stop the cycle of neglect and child abuse through early intervention, education and essential support services.

The Festival of Trees kicks off with a gala event Friday, Dec. 2 beginning at 6 p.m. with the silent auction opening and tree viewing at



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

A young man looks at a Charlie Brown-themed Christmas tree during Family Day activities at a past Festival of Trees. Pendleton Convention Center. This year's event is Dec. 2-3.

the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate. At 7 p.m., heavy hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar will be available. The program features live entertainment, a hospital foundation presentation and the live auction. Tickets are \$30.

Up for auction are a handful of large trees and more than a dozen small trees that are magnificently decorated. In addition, an array of gifts will be scattered around the trees, which come with the winning bid.

“They all have their own

theme,” Ceniga said. “They are all very unique.”

In addition, the Hawkins family created the special community tree, which is called, “The Holiday Harvest: Hawkins Style.” Also, themed gift baskets created by different hospital departments will be available for bid.

The fun continues Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Family Day. Thanks to a generous donation from Wildhorse Resort & Casino, admission is free.

When children and families enter the convention center, they will find numerous creative activities to engage in. Everything from making ornaments and face painting to pictures with Santa and live entertainment will set the tone for the holiday season.

Members of Ceniga's staff and board of directors have supported the Festival of Trees over the years. However, beginning last year as partners in organizing the event, they have taken a larger role in the festival. Ceniga said that has provided additional opportunities to connect with the public.

“It's been a chance for us to reach out and thank the community,” she said. “It's just a really nice time to say thank you for supporting our organization in supporting families in need in Pendleton.”

For more information about the festival, call 541-966-0528 or visit www.sahpendleton.org/foundation. For more about Pioneer Relief Nursery, call 541-215-1017.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

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