



STUDY FROM THE SKY
REGION/3A



MARINERS SLUG WAY TO WIN
SPORTS/1B



U.S.'s first all-wood high-rise
NORTHWEST/2A

EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2017

141st Year, No. 167

WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

BOARDMAN

Permitting begins for state's largest solar farm

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

State permitting is underway on the western edge of Morrow County for what may become Oregon's largest solar farm. Invenergy LLC, a development company based in Chicago, has proposed building the

Boardman Solar Energy Facility, a sprawling 600-acre array that would generate roughly 75 megawatts of electricity. If approved, the project would increase overall solar energy production statewide by nearly 30 percent.

But first, Invenergy needs to obtain a site certificate from

the Oregon Department of Energy. The company submitted its preliminary application in January. Regulators also approved Invenergy's request for an expedited review, which allows developers to skip filing a Notice of Intent for facilities producing less than 100 megawatts.

Katie Clifford, siting analyst for the Department of Energy, said the next step is to issue a draft proposed order that will include a staff recommendation to the Energy Facility Siting Council, which has final say on the site certificate. The public

See SOLAR/8A

UMATILLA

Two new voices join city council

Torres-Medrano, Keith chosen out of a field of eight

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

A recent college graduate and a director at the Umatilla Medical Clinic will serve as Umatilla's newest city council members. Selene Torres-Medrano and Mark Keith were appointed out of a field of eight candidates during Tuesday's city council meeting.

"I'm very excited eight community members were willing to step up. That's amazing. I love that," Mayor Daren Dufloth said.

Keith was appointed outright after the first round of voting by the council, while

Torres-Medrano won her seat after a third round of voting came down to her and former city council member Lyle Smith. At that point Smith asked Dufloth, who was tasked with breaking a tie, to vote for Torres-Medrano and give her a chance to serve.

Torres-Medrano graduated three weeks ago from Washington State University's Tri-Cities campus with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences. She said during her time as a college student she juggled schoolwork, commuting, two part-time jobs, motherhood and participation in five or six different campus organizations. She also served on the last bond committee for Umatilla School District. She applied for the council position because she is looking for new ways to serve now that she is back in Umatilla full time.

"I've always been busy and I like being busy," she said. Umatilla's population is now more than 50 percent Latino, but there was no Latino representation on the council. Torres-Medrano said she was raised not only in the community of Umatilla, but also the Hispanic community, and she felt she could be a diverse voice on the council.

"I think I can bring one of those unique perspectives," she said. She also said her vision for Umatilla was one of increased community engagement, which will help make Umatilla more successful, and a destination instead of a place just to pass through.

Keith said his inspiration to run for city council started in January, when he had lunch with Congressman Greg Walden while attending President Donald Trump's inauguration.



Torres-Medrano



Keith

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Umatilla County Director of Human Services Amy Ashton-Williams and Umatilla County Health prevention education specialist Amanda Walsborn talk about suicide prevention Thursday in Pendleton.

Teen lives on the line

County mental health professionals discuss suicide prevention

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHAN**
East Oregonian

About a dozen people commit suicide each year in Umatilla County, and 1 in 5 of those are under the age of 24.

Though not often discussed openly, mental health professionals say its an issue that needs to be acknowledged, and that there are resources for people who might be at risk or

want to help prevent a tragedy.

In Umatilla County between 2003 and 2012, 24 people between the ages of 10 and 24 committed suicide. Between 2013 and 2015, nine people in that age group died by suicide, according to the Oregon Violent Death Reporting System.

Oregon Public Health data collected between 2003 and 2012 shows that Umatilla County's rate of suicide was roughly the state average. A report by the Center for Disease Control in 2012 found suicide

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Who to call in a crisis

Good Shepherd Medical Center
541-667-3400

Umatilla County Crisis Line
541-240-8030

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Spanish Language National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-888-628-9454

SafeOregon reporting line
844-472-3367
or tip@safeoregon.com

Crisis Text Line: 741741

Oregon Youth Line
1-877-968-8491 or text "teen2teen" to 839863

The Trevor Project
1-866-4-U-TREVOR (for LGBTQ youth)

Native Youth Crisis Hotline
1-877-209-1266

Military Helpline
888-457-4838 or text MIL1 to 839863

Alcohol and Drug Helpline
800-923-4357 or text RecoveryNow to 839863

PENDLETON

Nearly sold out, Whisky Fest announces opening acts

East Oregonian



EO file photo

The Zac Brown Band performs at the 2016 Pendleton Whisky Music Festival at the Round-Up Grounds.

Having already conjured Maroon 5, the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest is now summoning MAGIC!

Andy McAnally, a co-organizer for the July 15 music festival at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds, announced Tuesday that MAGIC! will perform as one of the openers for Maroon 5.

A reggae-pop band based in Los Angeles, MAGIC! scored a No. 1 hit on the Billboard charts with "Rude."

MAGIC! will be joined by three other opening acts spanning styles and genres.

Although Whisky Fest

decided to move away from a country headliner in its second year, the genre will still be represented at the event by Runaway Jane.

The country trio has opened for Garth Brooks and Willie Nelson, acted as the backing band to Carrie Underwood at the Country Music Awards and has already put out a Top 25 country song called "Lipstick." The band also features guitarist-vocalist Jennifer Wayne, the granddaughter of John Wayne.

The local music scene will also be represented by Little McKay Creek Band. And as

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