

Carbon sequestration proposed as 'cap-and-trade' alternative

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon's forestry and environmental regulators would study "sequestering" carbon as a possible alternative to penalizing emissions under a bill before the House Agriculture Committee.

Lawmakers are currently debating a controversial and prominent "cap-and-trade" proposal under which companies that exceed a ceiling on carbon emissions could buy credits from those that fall below it.

Timber companies and several lawmakers are advocating for a less publicized carbon-related bill that would require the Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Forestry to evaluate using "natural ecosystems" to absorb and store carbon while promoting economic development, as well as using tax incentives for companies to reduce carbon emissions.

Under House Bill 4109, the study would also examine "regional approaches" to reduce carbon emissions "other than adopting or participating in a greenhouse cap-and-trade system."

Oregon's annual wildfires emit more carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide, fine particulates and volatile organic compounds than industrial sources or vehicles, said Rep. David Brock Smith, R-Port Orford, the bill's chief sponsor.

Supporters of HB 4109 argue it would encourage discussions about thinning over-stocked federal lands that are prone to catastrophic forest fires.

There's also an opportunity to direct harvested timber toward novel products such as "cross-laminated timber," or



Courtesy Oregon Department of Forestry

As Democrats in the Legislature propose a "cap-and-trade" carbon measure, timber companies and several lawmakers are advocating for a bill that would require the Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Forestry to evaluate using "natural ecosystems" to absorb and store carbon as an alternative.

CLT, which is used for larger-scale buildings.

These objectives can be accomplished without sacrificing "viewsheds" or native fish — otherwise, projects would just wind up in court, said Ken Humberston, a member of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners.

However, the bill encountered some mild criticism from the Nature Conservancy, an environmental nonprofit.

While the group supports carbon sequestration to fight climate change,

the science isn't yet conclusive as to the best return-on-investment for carbon sequestration, said Catherine Macdonald, its Oregon conservation director.

The study should be expanded to include Oregon State University and to examine the most effective methods to increase carbon sequestration, she said.

A work session on HB 4109 is scheduled for Feb. 15, which is the legislative deadline for the proposal to be approved by the House Agriculture Committee.

PENDLETON

Board accepts PHS principal's resignation

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pendleton High School principal Dan Greenough drew supporters urging the school board to hold off on accepting his resignation.

The pleadings did not work.

Greenough, now in his fifth year as principal, submitted his resignation last month. The move drew speculation from some community members about why he wanted to step down effective June 20, including Pendleton business owner Andy McAnally, who last week posted a letter to the school board on his Facebook page questioning why Greenough was leaving.

Greenough has not returned calls from the *East Oregonian* and did not attend Monday night's board meeting. But McAnally and two more Greenough supporters addressed the board.

PHS administrative secretary Becky Anderson said if any board member was the cause of the resignation, now was the time to do better. She also praised Greenough as principal.

McAnally stepped up next. He handed board members copies of the district policy outlining their duties, sat at the mic and read through the list.

"The requirements of the school board do not — I repeat, do not — require intervening in the administration," he said.

The public perception, he continued, is two board members are behind Greenough's resignation, but he did not identify who.

"I'm here to tell you it's causing distrust in our community," he asserted.

Lauren Richards, PHS student body president, said students respect Greenough and he has established a practice of asking seniors their opinions and their plans for the future. That shows he cares about students, she said.

No one from the board responded to any of the comments. The speakers and several others, including supporters who kept quiet, left the meeting moments later. The board voted 7-0 to accept the personnel report, which included Greenough's resignation.

The district has posted the job opening, and Greenough's responsibilities expanded to include overseeing the Pendleton Technology and Trade Center, which houses Hawthorne Alternative High School and some of the district's career technical education programs.

The board also held a closed-door meeting to discuss the evaluation of Superintendent Chris Fritsch, who has been on the job since last summer. After the meeting, the board voted 7-0 to extend Fritsch's contract a third year, through June 2020, along with extending the termination without cause clause of the contract from six months to one year.



Greenough

BRIEFLY

Boardman overpass repaired, traffic back to normal

BOARDMAN — The Interstate 84 overpass at exit 164 in Boardman and the eastbound lanes of the freeway were re-opened to regular traffic Monday after a week of work and final inspections.

The bridge that connects north and south Boardman had been restricted to one lane controlled by flaggers since Monday, Feb. 5, when several girders on the underside of the overpass were damaged by an oversized load on the freeway.

According to the Oregon Department of Transportation, the eastbound freeway lane closure was needed to facilitate repair work.

ODOT bridge crew members chipped out the damaged concrete, constructed forms around the girder sections and pumped new material into the forms to complete the repair.

Jeremy Wolf wins BOT runoff election

After an extended campaign season, voters approved Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Board of Trustees Vice Chair Jeremy Wolf to keep his seat.

According to a CTUIR press release, Wolf won a runoff election Monday against challenger Shana Radford 375-277 more than three months after the two candidates deadlocked at 370 votes a piece in the November election.

In accordance with tribal law, Wolf continued his duties as vice-chair but wasn't sworn in for another term along with the rest of the eight-person board in late November. Wolf will be formally sworn in at a ceremony at the Nixyaawii Governance Center General Council Chambers on Friday at 9 a.m.

Under tribal government, the General Council is comprised of all tribal members 18 years and over and has its own officers. The General Council elects the Board of Trustees, the governing body who set policy and make final decisions on tribal affairs.

Fire at River Point Farms damages building

HERMISTON — Umatilla County Fire District crews knocked down a fire that broke out



Photo contributed by Oregon Department of Transportation

Work crews repair the damaged overpass above Interstate 84 in Boardman.

Tuesday afternoon inside a building at the River Point Farms processing plant.

The building, on East Walls Road, was undergoing some maintenance work when a small fire broke out in the roof and walls. The fire caused about \$2,000 worth of damage.

Battalion Chief J.W. Roberts said the fire was caused by someone cutting metal during the maintenance work. He said the fire took between 10 and 20 minutes to extinguish.

Food for Fines benefits area needy

People who have racked up library fines can receive forgiveness while helping others in need.

Organized by the Umatilla County Special Library District, area libraries are participating in Food for Fines. Patrons can gather up overdue books or other library materials (CDs, DVDs and magazines) or settle up with their local library to take care of fines by making a non-perishable food donation. Food received during the program, which runs from Feb. 19-28, will be distributed to the nearest food bank.

Each food item donated will forgive \$1 in fines, up to \$5. Donations will waive library fines only — the program doesn't include fees

for lost or damaged items.

Donated food needs to be in its original packaging. Glass containers, outdated items and opened packages will not be accepted.

This library community food drive presents a great opportunity for residents to give back to the community and learn about the programs and resources libraries have to offer, said Erin McCusker, UCSLD director. Area libraries participating in the program include all public libraries in Umatilla County.

For more information, contact McCusker at 541-276-6449, director@ucslid.org or stop by your local library.

Meeting provides information about dyslexia

PENDLETON — Parents, educators and friends are invited to learn more about dyslexia.

Decoding Dyslexia Oregon is a grassroots movement that is driven by a need for conversations with school districts and policy makers regarding dyslexia. The goal is to raise awareness, empower families to support their children and improve resources for students with dyslexia.

An informational meeting is Thursday, Feb. 22 from 5:30-7 p.m. at

InterMountain Education Service District, 2001 S.W. Nye Ave., Pendleton. People can provide input regarding establishing a regular meeting time.

Scott Smith, a regional instructional coach with ESD, will facilitate the discussion. In addition to sharing about the needs of the community, participants can gain support from others.

For more information, contact Smith at scott.smith@imesd.k12.or.us or 1-888-437-6892. For more about the grassroots effort, visit www.decodingdyslexiaor.org.

Education foundation seeks scholarship applicants

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Education Foundation will award eight scholarships of \$2,500 each to 2018 Hermiston High School seniors.

Important factors in the evaluation of applicants include academic scholarship, community service, leadership and financial need.

The nonprofit organization started its scholarship program in the spring of 2017. HEF also awards grants to district personnel for projects that enhance the educational experience of students.

The application is due by Friday, March 23, with interviews to follow. Applications are available at the high school counseling office. For more information, visit www.hermistoneducationfoundation.org, call George Clough at 541-314-3182 or write HEF, P.O. Box 1096, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to news@eastoregonian.com

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PENDLETON

Violent crime rises, property crimes fall

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Violent crime in Pendleton rose 48 percent from 2015 to 2016, according to the city police department's latest crime report.

Pendleton police collects the crime data the FBI uses in its National Incident Based Reporting System, which tracks 49 crime categories. For that reason, Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts explained the data is a year old when the FBI releases it.

Pendleton police investigated 46 violent crimes in 2016, 15 more than the year before.

The department handled four rapes in 2015 but 11 in 2016. Three of those met the definition for forcible rape, according to the report, while the others were statutory in nature, meaning

they involved people under 18 years who are more than three years apart in age.

The department also saw an increase of aggravated assault for the second year in a row: nine in 2014, 20 in 2015, and 32 in 2016.

Larceny, however, fell from 637 cases to 435, and overall property crime dropped 17 percent.

The Pendleton Police department has 24 officers, one more than what it had in 1968. The report shows total calls for service rose almost 7 percent to 20,403.

Roberts also advised crime data "is merely a reflection of outcomes" and "does not necessarily represent the true picture." While the statistics have value, he cautioned they "should not be used to evaluate, rank or compare the effectiveness of an entity or agency in and of themselves."

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Riley Lankford
Senior - Pilot Rock HS
Senior Riley Lankford is the Pilot Rock High School Student of the Week. Riley is a friend to all and meets everyone with a smile. He is an excellent student and is involved in many activities around the school including leadership, National Honor Society and various sports. One activity he proudly started is "Cookies with God," a non-denominational group of students and adults who meet at lunchtime once a week. Staff and students can depend on Riley to be a positive mentor in all aspects of school. Congratulations Riley!
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