

STANFIELD

Odor complaints, citations spike at 3D Idapro Solutions plant

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian



The 3D Idapro Solutions plant in Stanfield is receiving nearly a citation a day for odor complaints from residents of the town.

A pet food plant in Stanfield has received a string of complaints from citizens who say the odor from the facility is once again permeating the air.

The 3D Idapro Solutions pet food processing facility, on Hoosier Lane, has been the subject of daily complaints from residents. Since last summer, the facility has had problems with an odor control device, called a scrubber, that burned in a fire at the plant. Though company executives came to Stanfield in October and presented a three-part plan to mitigate odors, citizens have been complaining that odors have gotten worse again.

Stanfield City Manager Blair Larsen said in an email to the *East Oregonian* that the plant is now getting a citation nearly every day. He said he has been in communication with the plant every week for most of the year.

"For a 10-day period in early June, they had turned things around, and our complaints had dropped to only one or two per day," Larsen wrote.

But since then he said complaints have spiked again. The city continues to rely on their odor nuisance

ordinance, which states that if the city receives complaints about an offensive odor from a property in city limits from at least four separate households in a 12-hour period, they can issue a citation. The ordinance states that the municipal judge can set the fine anywhere from \$0 to \$2,000 per occurrence.

Larsen said the judge had been escalating the fine, and he heard the most recent ones have been set at close to \$500 each.

Larsen said the company's vice president said they

are hiring a new general manager for the site. He said they are also again replacing equipment that had previously been fixed, and installing additional equipment that will decrease the amount of time the material sits before going into the dryer.

"They are saying that this will result in fresher material going in, and fresher material means less odor," Larsen wrote.

He said despite the increase in complaints, the city has not changed its process.

"Our discussions with our city attorney have indicated that we don't have any other options unless we decide to file a lawsuit against the company. The city council has chosen not to go that route at this time," Larsen wrote.

Some Stanfield residents also started a Facebook group on Wednesday, which states that its purpose is for residents to share ideas and stories, and hopes to end the smell in Stanfield. So far the group, entitled "What's That Smell!?" has gathered about 60 members.

HERMISTON

Graduate gets national teaching fellowship

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

A Hermiston High School graduate will be furthering her skills as a teacher and bringing a global component to her classroom as the recipient of a national teaching fellowship.

Jennifer Macias Morris is a recipient of the NEA Foundation Global Learning Fellowship. One teacher from each state was selected for the fellowship, a yearlong program that helps teachers incorporate more global competency into their schools and communities. The Fellowship will end with a nine-day field study in South Africa.

Macias Morris, a 2007 graduate of Hermiston High School, now teaches first grade at the Libby Center, a public school in Spokane, in a Spanish immersion program. She has also worked as a third grade Spanish immersion teacher in Seattle, and taught English in Chile when she was a college student.

Macias Morris said her parents are both immigrants, and that when she was younger, she was reluctant to embrace her own culture. But as she got older, she said learning about her parents' journey and her heritage made her appreciate her background and others', and encouraged her to teach her students to do the same.

She said she applied for the fellowship because it included a lot of components she wants to bring back to her students.

She will continue teach-

ing while completing online coursework for the fellowship, which includes learning how to work with other community members and teachers to teach students about the importance of cultural understanding.



Morris

"I believe kids should learn about this, especially with everything that's going on in the world, and come up with their own opinions," she said.

In teaching younger students, Macias said she tailors lessons about challenging subjects.

"I come up with kid-friendly language," she said. "The whole point is not to scare them, but help them understand."

This year, she taught her students a unit on immigration, connecting it with current events, including DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

"I asked them to think about if their parents wanted to move to another country because they wanted to make more money, or if a kid their age left on their own, because they were in danger or because they wanted to be with their parents," she said.

She said she tries to teach her students about current events, and includes guest speakers. She had her mother, who emigrated to the U.S. at 17, come and talk to her class.

Students also learn about specific problems facing their city, state, and country, such as food insecurity.

"We talk about what's going on in the world, and get different perspectives," Macias Morris said.

MILTON-FREEWATER

Grove Elementary fixtures go to 'schoolyard' sale

By SHEILA HAGAR
Union-Bulletin

Steffany Esser is going in, come dust or shotgun shells.

Esser, a social studies teacher at McLoughlin High School, is helping the Milton-Freewater Unified School District clean out Grove Elementary School in preparation for its closure. She will be part of a team of volunteers manning a "schoolyard" sale that starts Friday to sell off aged and unneeded classroom fixtures.

The elderly school at 129 S.E. 15th Ave. is slated for demolition in the near future so a soccer complex can be constructed on its site. Built in 1908 as Milton's first school and added on to in 1956, the Grove campus is no longer cost-effective to maintain, Superintendent Rob Clark said.

The district does not have the funds, nor is it reimbursed, for maintaining facilities that have historical significance, Clark added, noting the property will continue to serve Milton-Freewater children as a soccer field.

The town and district have moved on to prepare for the completion of the Gib Olinger Elementary School a few blocks north. The new school on Mill Street is set to open for the 2018-2019 school year.

In the meantime, Grove has been used this summer by local police departments for active-shooter drills, hence those shell casings, Esser said.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Grove Elementary School will be torn down, to be replaced by a soccer field, and the all the school's fixtures go on sale this Friday.

Plus? Bookshelves for days. And it all has to go — no reasonable offer refused.

From chairs to desks to old electronics to magazine racks, all will be priced at \$1, \$5 or \$10, with the proceeds split between Mac-Hi's National Honor Society, Varsity Club and cheerleading groups.

Students from those organizations will be on hand to help shoppers. Since the sale space is crowded and a bit disorganized, the setup will be along the lines of using a personal shopper, Esser

said. "Tell us what you're looking for and they can go get it."

The sale is cash only, and the goal is to clear \$1,000 for club coffers.

Esser's biggest hope is that the predicted heat wave in the Walla Walla Valley won't cook their chances of a good turnout, she added.

The sale will take place 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday and begins again Saturday at 8 a.m. with a flexible end time, depending on sales.

For more information call, the district office at 541-938-3551.

HERMISTON

City council prepares statewide priorities for sessions

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston City Council on Monday discussed legislative priorities for the upcoming year. The League of Oregon Cities creates a list of priorities ahead of the sessions and asks cities around

the state to weigh in.

A long list of topics being considered included more flexibility for annexation, more mental health funding, steps to solve the Public Employee Retirement System's unfunded liabilities, local control over speed limits, more money

for infrastructure, property tax reform and protection of franchise fees.

City Manager Byron Smith said franchise fees, which telecommunications companies pay to place their infrastructure on city-controlled rights of way, are the city's second largest source

of revenue after property taxes. Telecommunications companies have started to suggest that the shouldn't have to pay those fees and should have more control over the rights of way and the League is interested in a preventative bill strengthening the cities' position.

BRIEFLY

Juvenile injured in self-inflicted McNary shooting

UMATILLA — Umatilla police are looking into a shooting in a McNary neighborhood Wednesday afternoon.

Around 5 p.m., police were called to Chenoweth Street for reports of a male who had a gunshot wound. Police Chief Darla Huxel said the 16-year-old victim was taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston.

Huxel said the boy suffered an accidental, self-inflicted wound to his left hand while handling a handgun.

She said the victim and some of the witnesses were not being cooperative, and that the police had not yet found the gun. The parents were not home at the time of the incident, and are cooperating with the police.

Graham's work featured in new library display

PENDLETON — The colorful paintings of Pendleton artist Judith Graham will grace the walls of the ramp and meeting room at the Pendleton Public Library.

The public is invited to

an artist's reception Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. In addition to Graham sharing about her artistic inspiration, light refreshments will be served.

The library is open Monday through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday/Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about library programs, call 541-966-0380 or visit www.pendletonlibrary.weebly.com.

WILDHORSE
RESORT & CASINO
7/13-15

Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie • 7/18 • 12pm
Singin' in the Rain

\$5 Children's Classic Movie • 7/18 • 10am
Madagascar
Free Small Popcorn & Small Soda

SKYSCRAPER (PG13)
1:40* 6:40
4:20 9:20

ANT-MAN AND THE WASP (PG13)
1:50* 4:30 7:10 9:50

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM (PG13)
1:00* 4:00 7:00 10:00

INCREDIBLES 2 (PG)
1:30* 4:10 6:50 9:30

THE FIRST PURGE (R)
12:00* 2:20* 4:40 7:20 9:40

* Matinee Pricing
wildhorseresort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

BUDWEISER CLYDESDALES APPEARING NIGHTLY!

FARM CITY
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AUG 8-11 2018

WED-SAT ★ 7:45 PM ★ HERMISTON, OR

TICKETS INCLUDE FREE ADMISSION TO THE UMATILLA COUNTY FAIR

541-564-8500 ★ FarmCityProRodeo.com

Athena
Caledonian Games

July 13-15th
= Sunday, July 15 =
11:15 - 2:00 pm Caledonian Ceilidh

The Way We Were
memorabilia sharing at open mic

Athena Clan of Mid
Columbia School of Highland Dance - 1:00 PM

Athena Royal Highland Guard - 1:30 PM

Picnic sack lunches with Caledonian vendors
Bring a blanket and enjoy music, dancing and sharing in the park!

KATHERINE TREFFINGER
NEW PAINTINGS in the
East Oregonian Gallery

at the **PENDLETON**
CENTER
for the ARTS

FREE admission made possible through the generous support of OMG! Burgers & Brew.