

Walden stresses need to improve the progress of Hanford cleanup

East Oregonian

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Oregon Rep. Greg Walden stressed the need to improve progress of nuclear waste cleanup at the Hanford Site during a hearing Wednesday before the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The Republican from Hood River cited a Government Accountability Office report, which he called for in 2017, that raised concerns the Office of Environmental Management’s under the Department of Energy lacked accurate progress reporting, which is hampering the cleanup efforts at Hanford.

Environmental Management is responsible for remediating the environmental contamination from the nation’s nuclear weapons program, including the cleanup of liquid nuclear tank waste, packaging of nuclear materials and decontaminating nuclear facilities, including Hanford.

“The threat of potential environmental disaster and pollution persists in the minds of Oregonians and people throughout the

“THE THREAT OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER AND POLLUTION PERSISTS IN THE MINDS OF OREGONIANS AND PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.”

Oregon Rep. Greg Walden

Pacific Northwest,” Walden said. “With 56 million gallons of Cold War era toxic nuclear waste sitting in corroding and leaking metal tanks, some of which were built to last just 20 years, Hanford is a worrisome neighbor, and the federal government has not always been a trusted and reliable partner.”

The GAO report found the environmental management office is not adequately measuring the progress of cleanup at Hanford and other contaminated sites, and its milestone reporting to Congress is incomplete. Environmental Management “sites renegotiate milestone dates before they are missed, and EM does not track the history of

these changes,” according to the report. “This is because once milestones change, sites are not required to maintain or track the original milestone dates.”

Walden said during the hearing with the amount of public money the government devoted to cleanup at Hanford and the significant threat area communities face, Congress should receive a clearer assessment of whether or not the work is meeting targets.

“DOE spends roughly \$6 billion a year on cleanup,” Walden said, “but we don’t always have clear visibility into what that means in terms of completing the mission. EM reports on the amount of nuclear cleanup completed each year, but for

that amount of money spent, how many radioactive tanks should have been treated? How much soil and water should have been remediated? We don’t have clear answers to these questions because, according to GAO, EM’s performance measures for operations activities do not always provide a clear and reliable picture.”

Walden again called for the establishment of a permanent national repository for the country’s nuclear waste. Hanford is among more than 100 communities nationwide where toxic nuclear waste sits idle, according to Walden, who supports storing the waste in Nevada’s Yucca Mountain.

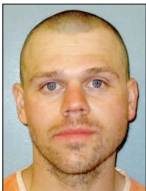
To read Walden’s full comments, click <https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/news/walden-cleaning-up-the-nuclear-waste-at-hanford-and-at-other-sites-across-the-nation-is-a-top-priority/>

To read the full GAO report, “Nuclear Waste: DOE Should Take Actions to Improve Oversight of Cleanup Milestones,” click <https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/696903.pdf>.

Hermiston police arrest storage shed burglary suspect

HERMISTON — Hermiston police on Wednesday arrested Tyler Duane Winterton, 28, of Boardman, in connection to a recent storage shed burglary. According to state court documents, the victim is Fred Maiocco, former superintendent of the Hermiston School District who is serving with the U.S. Army Reserves overseas.

Hermiston police on April 10 received a report about the burglary and theft at one of the storage units at 1835 N. First Place, according to the police and court documents.



Winterton

The theft involved ammunition, coins, jewelry and more worth at least \$10,000.

Police identified Winterton as a suspect and developed a case for his arrest. Officers on Wednesday contacted Winterton in response to a different matter, Hermiston police reported, but at the conclusion of that call for service they put the handcuffs on Winterton for the burglary and booked him into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, on initial charges of second-degree burglary and first-degree aggravated theft.

Inmate’s actions lead county jail to improve security

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

A thieving inmate prompted the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office to beef up security at a jail control booth.

The county board of commissioners during its meeting Wednesday morning approved paying Marv’s Glass, Pendleton, \$5,649 for providing and installing glass at the control site. Sheriff Terry Rowan told the board the substation has a crescent-shaped desk with computers for corrections staff, who usually work there. But sometimes the staff leave the station for other duties.

“Something as simple as this,” Rowan said, referring to a Hydro Flask, “created the need to make that a more secure area.”

A few months ago, Rowan said, an inmate walked by while the booth was vulnerable, grabbed a flask, took it to his cell and “started modifying it.”

Staff recovered the flask, but the sheriff’s office afterward installed doors at the substation, and the glass would prevent inmates from accessing the area.

The board also approved the purchase of 300 nasal doses of Narcan, the opioid overdose reversal medication, for \$22,555.95.

Amy Ashton-Williams, director of county human services, explained the department in 2018 received a state grant, and part of that was to purchase 1,920 doses of the drug.

“So we see this as a treatment response,” she said, “and also as a public health service for individuals.”

She said human services is distributing the drug to county corrections and parole and probation staff and teaching them how to administer it. The department’s total budget for Narcan is \$72,000. She said she would be back asking for the approval to buy more doses.

Commissioner John Shafer is a Narcan instructor and called the substance a boon to the community.

“It’s a lifesaver, it truly is,” he said.

In other business, the board:

- Gave the sheriff’s office the approval to buy 10 Lenovo Thinkpads for \$10,902.20. Sheriff’s Sgt. Josh Roberts told the board the slim laptops will replace aging computer tablets in sheriff’s vehicles and outfit all patrol deputies with mobile computers.

- Authorized a contract for the purchase of a 2019 Chevrolet Equinox from Sherrell Chevrolet Inc., Hermiston, for \$33,934.83. The county sought bids for a new mid-size SUV for the board of commissioners and received six proposals. County counsel Doug Olsen said four had vehicles in stock and ready to sell, and the Equinox from Sherrell Chevrolet was the least expensive.

- Approved paying \$18,404.47 for the cost of ballots for the upcoming May election and gave the OK for the road department to repair McKinney Avenue, Hermiston. Tom Fellows, county public works director, said covering the road in a 2-inch overlay will require 300-350 tons of asphalt for about \$21,000-\$25,000, and the county road crew will provide equipment and labor.

Largest dairy in Oregon plans to make natural gas from cow manure

By GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

BOARDMAN — Oregon’s largest dairy farm plans to turn millions of gallons of cow manure into renewable natural gas, if state regulators approve a key permit for the project.

Threemile Canyon Farms in Boardman already uses waste from about 30,000 cows to generate electricity on site using a methane digester built in 2012. Now the farm wants to expand the facility and install new equipment that will convert the methane into “pipeline quality” natural gas.

But first, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality must OK an amended air quality permit for the proposal. Environmental groups are asking DEQ to deny the permit, arguing that manure-to-gas is inherently “dirty” and a false solution to climate change.

Marty Myers, general manager of Threemile Canyon Farms, said the dairy has an agreement with a buyer in California for the gas, which it will use to make transportation fuel. Myers did not discuss specifics of the contract.

“This project is creating another commodity that is valued by the public and by certain companies that are out there doing business,” Myers said. “All we’re doing is giving them a raw product.”

Opened in 2001, Threemile Canyon Farms is a sprawling 93,000-acre operation with three dairies that supply milk to Tillamook Cheese at the nearby Port of Morrow. The farm often touts its closed-loop system as a model for sustainability, recycling manure as fertilizer to grow a variety of crops from animal feed to organic blueberries.

Part of the system also includes an anaerobic digester to capture methane emissions from the manure, which Threemile Canyon uses to fire three turbines



Photo contributed by Threemile Canyon Farms

An aerial view of Threemile Canyon Farms near Boardman. The farm plans to convert methane from manure into natural gas.

capable of generating 4.8 megawatts of electricity.

Instead of making electricity, the farm wants to process the methane into “pipeline quality” natural gas, removing carbon dioxide, water vapor and other impurities.

Myers said the farm is working with Equilibrium Capital, a Portland investment firm, to fund the \$30 million conversion.

“They like this type of project,” Myers said. “It’s good for the environment.”

In the meantime, DEQ must also approve a modification of the facility’s air quality permit, which regulates emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

Laura Gleim, DEQ spokeswoman, said the modified permit does not increase emissions limits. In fact, it currently allows for up to 74,000 tons of greenhouse gases per year — equivalent to 57,608 passenger cars. Yet Threemile Canyon emitted just 32,529 tons in 2017.

However, Gleim said the permit only covers emissions at the digester, not the

dairy itself. In objections filed with DEQ, a coalition of environmental groups said the agency should take into account all emissions at Threemile Canyon in its permitting.

The coalition includes Columbia Riverkeeper, Friends of Family Farmers, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Humane Voters Oregon, Food & Water Watch, Center for Food Safety, Center for Biological Diversity, Animal Legal Defense Fund, Farm Forward and Factory Farm Awareness Coalition.

Amy van Saun, senior attorney at the Center for Food Safety in Portland, maintains the project will only further endanger air and water quality in Morrow County and the Columbia River Gorge.

“Instead of granting this permit, we demand that the state take action to prevent toxic and environmental

ly damaging air emissions from mega-dairies like Threemile Canyon, and to stop the continued pollution of groundwater with dangerous levels of nitrates, a problem only exacerbated by methane digesters and the expansion of mega-dairies in Oregon,” van Saun said.

The groups’ comments come as the Oregon Legislature recently declined to advance several bills that would treat large dairies as industrial facilities, spurred in part by the year-long debacle involving another large dairy near Boardman, Lost Valley Farms, which shut down earlier this year.

“If Oregon approves this proposal, it will be a step backward for our commitment to stop climate change and will further entrench the factory system of livestock production,” said Tarah Heinzen, senior attorney at Food & Water Watch in Washington, D.C.

There’s nothing like ART for giving you a sense of accomplishment. Be a Maker.



Youth, teen, and adult classes each week - many are FREE!
Pendleton Center for the Arts - pendletonarts.org

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO, MONTANA

REACH 3 million Pacific Northwesterners with just One Call!



■ PNDC CLASSIFIED - Daily Newspapers
29 newspapers - 1,187,980 circulation
Number of words: 25 • Extra word cost: \$10
Cost: \$540 (Runs 3 consecutive days including wkds.)

■ PNND 2x2 DISPLAY - Daily Newspapers
27 newspapers - 1,016,864 circulation
Size: 2x2 (3.25"x2") Cost: 1x 2x2: \$1,050

More info: Cecelia@cnpa.com or call (916) 288-6011



PNPA
Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association



WILDHORSE
RESORT & CASINO
5/3 - 5

Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie
Showing Wednesday at 12PM
LETHAL WEAPON

Ugly Dolls (PG)
12:40a* 2:50p*
5:00p 7:10p 9:20p

Long Shot (R)
1:30p* 4:10p 6:50p 9:30p

Avengers: Endgame (PG13)
11:20a* 2:10p*
6:00p 7:00p 9:50p
ED 3:10p* 10:50p

Breakthrough (PG)
11:40a* 2:20p* 4:50p 7:20p

Shazam! (PG13)
10:00p

Yokai Detective Yikachu (PG)
Thursday, May 9th • 4:00p, 6:30p

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



EQUIPMENT
10
FRIDAY
MAY
10am
AUCTION

LIC#2144

HERMISTON
Estate of Bill Bloodsworth
Preview May 9
NE of town 5 Mi on W Walls Rd
Call or Online for directions

**TRACTORS, TRUCKS,
PICKUPS, TRAILERS,
CARS, FARM EQUIPMENT,
LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT**
Catering: Mario's Basque BBQ
Bid Onsite or Online.
call/visit/509297292.com



BOOKER
.AUCTION