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WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

Stanfield passes school bond

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By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Stanfield schools are getting an upgrade.

Voters appeared to have approved an \$18 million school bond on Tuesday night, with 65% voting in favor of the bond as of 8 p.m. Passage of the bond will also secure a \$4 million matching grant from Oregon School Capital Improvement Fund.

"It's really exciting," Stanfield School District Superintendent Beth Burton said. "I think this will be good for our whole community, but it will be really good for our students."

The bond will pay for a number of projects, most notably a new middle school wing to be built on to Stanfield Secondary School. Currently, middle school grades are hosted in a modular not attached to the main building.

"The new middle school is definitely the focus, and the largest cost, of the bond," Burton said.

Having the new middle school wing will improve safety, she said, as it will force visitors to come past the main office before accessing classrooms. The bond will also help pay for other safety upgrades, including a remodel of the entryway and front office of both the secondary and elementary schools to improve safety. External safety cameras monitoring the parking lot and grounds will be added, and internal surveillance systems will be upgraded.

Windows will be added to the secondary school, which has no natural lighting in its classrooms. The parking lot for the elementary school will be reconfigured, kitchens will be renovated, asbestos will be removed, the career and technical education spaces will be expanded, and the school district plans to purchase the land the elementary school is built on, which it is currently leasing from Union Pacific.

Burton said she is excited that the district gets to take advantage of the \$4 million state grant, which Stanfield was eligible for after winning a lottery draw for it. If the bond had not passed

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HERMISTON

UNION PACIFIC ANNOUNCES HINKLE LAYOFFS — AGAIN



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A Union Pacific locomotive sits idling on a rail line east of the Hinkle Rail Yard on Tuesday outside of Stanfield. Union Pacific announced a new round of layoffs at the rail yard.

After fall, winter layoffs, UP announces 195 permanent layoffs by July 19

By **JADE MCDOWELL AND PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

The railroad looms large in Hermiston's past, but it will likely play a much smaller role in the city's future.

Union Pacific Railroad filed notice with the state on Tuesday that it will lay off up to 195 employees at the Hinkle Rail Yard in Hermiston and close the yard's supply warehouse and mechanical shop. It stated the 195 layoffs would be completed by July 19 and are expected to be permanent. The bulk layoff is an esca-

lation of the scores of layoffs that have happened incrementally at the rail yard since October 2018.

Hermiston Mayor David Drotzmann said his conversation on Tuesday with UP spokesman Aaron Hunt was a difficult one. The city of Hermiston's June 2018 financial report listed Union Pacific as one of the city's largest employers at the time, estimating the company employed about 500 people at Hinkle. Drotzmann said it was his understanding the latest layoffs will leave between 40 and 45 employees.

"It was both a conversation of frustration and sadness to realize an organization that has made such an impact on the community over the last 25 years is reducing to one-eighth of what it was," he said.

He said the loss of so many jobs in the community will have an economic impact as families move away or cut back their spending significantly while facing unem-

ployment. But he said he was more concerned about the effects on the individuals who lost their jobs.

"Those were good-paying jobs with great benefits," he said.

After Union Pacific laid off more than 80 employees during the fall of 2018 and winter 2019, UP spokesman Tim McMahan declined to share how many employees Hinkle had, but said UP had 1,506 employees throughout Oregon. On Tuesday, he again declined to answer most questions submitted by the *East Oregonian* about the number of employees who will remain at Hinkle or what operations will continue there, but stated the company would move some of Hinkle's operations to yards in Portland, Spokane, Ogden, Utah, Pocatello, Idaho and Nampa, Idaho.

"The workforce reduction is the result

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"Those were good-paying jobs with great benefits"

David Drotzmann — Mayor of Hermiston

CTUIR agrees to buy Pendleton Country Club

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

In the near future, any game of golf in the Pendleton area will be played on a course owned by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The tribes announced Tuesday that the CTUIR Board of Trustees had approved the purchase of the Pendleton Country Club, which is more than 8 miles south of town on Highway 395.

In a press release, the tribes state that the members of the country club approved selling the property after the CTUIR made an offer in March.

The 248-acre property is aboriginal territory for the CTUIR and the Birch Creek

Valley land was also appealing to the tribes for conservation and water rights purposes.

Wildhorse Resort and Casino, which has operated its own golf course on the Umatilla Indian Reservation since 1997, has already assumed maintenance supervision over the country club's 18-hole golf course. The country club property also includes a dining room, bar, pro shop, fitness center, outdoor pool, and recreational vehicle parking spaces.

Wildhorse intends to integrate the country club golf course into its daily operations, and a team led by Wildhorse CEO Gary George will develop

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

A golf cart drives down a fairway recently at the Pendleton Country Club south of Pendleton. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation announced Tuesday that it was buying the 248-acre property south of Pendleton.



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