

**SMALL GROUP OF HELIX RESIDENTS MAKING PROGRESS ON PRESERVING CITY HALL**

LIFESTYLES, C1

**PREP FOOTBALL: STANFIELD RALLIES PAST WESTON-MCEWEN**

SPORTS, B1

WEEKEND EDITION

143rd Year, No. 252

WINNER OF THE 2019 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

# MONEY FROM MANURE



George Plaven/Capital Press

Methane captured at the Threemile Canyon Farms manure digester is currently fed into three generators capable of producing 4.8 megawatts — enough power for a city the size of Boardman.

## Rural meets non-rural through unique method — cow manure

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**  
*Capital Press*

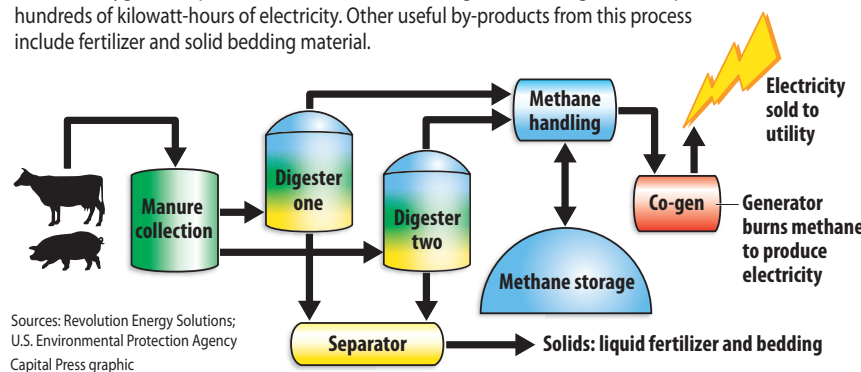
**B**OARDMAN — A thousand miles separates Threemile Canyon Farms in Eastern Oregon, surrounded by high desert and sagebrush, from the crowded freeways of Los Angeles.

Though they might seem like distant strangers, the mega-dairy and the megalopolis are about to be connected by a most unexpected resource — cow manure.

Threemile Canyon Farms is Oregon's largest dairy with 68,340 cattle, including 33,000 milking cows. In 2012, the

## Anaerobic digesters explained

Biogas is generated when microorganisms convert manure into methane in a closed space, absent of oxygen. This process is known as anaerobic digestion and digesters can produce hundreds of kilowatt-hours of electricity. Other useful by-products from this process include fertilizer and solid bedding material.



Sources: Revolution Energy Solutions; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Capital Press graphic

farm built an anaerobic digester to capture methane emissions from all that manure. It has since used the gas to generate electricity, which it sells to the interstate utility PacifiCorp.

In June, state regulators approved an expansion of the facility, and Threemile Canyon installed new equipment to purify the methane. Farm managers now

plan to inject it into a nearby natural gas pipeline, which will transport it to Southern California to produce cleaner-burning fuel for trucks.

"Renewable natural gas is gaining a lot of momentum in the marketplace," said Marty Myers, general manager of

*See Manure, Page A9*

## Brown issues ban on vaping products

### Oregon has seen eight cases of vaping-related respiratory illness

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**  
*Oregon Capital Bureau*

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has imposed a six-month ban on the sale of flavored vaping products.

Eight cases of respiratory illness associated with vaping have been reported in Oregon as of Oct. 1.

In two of those cases, the patients died, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

People vape by breathing in and out through electronic cigarettes or vape pens that heat liquid to create a vapor. That liquid can contain nicotine, THC and other ingredients, such as flavorings. The industry has been criticized for promoting sweet-flavored products that appeal to children, such as bubble gum and crème brulee flavors.

The ban does not cover unflavored vaping products.

"My first priority is to safeguard the health of all Oregonians," Brown said in a statement Friday. "By keeping potentially unsafe products off of store shelves and out of the hands of Oregon's children and youth, we prevent exposing more people to potentially dangerous chemical compounds, and help lessen the chance of further tragedy for any other Oregon family."

Brown added that the "safest option" for people right now is stop vaping altogether, in line with what Oregon Health Officer Dean Sidelinger advised Sept. 26.

"Until we know more about what is causing this illness, please, do not vape," Brown said. "Encourage your friends and family members to stop vaping immediately. Talk to your children about the dangers of vaping. The risks are far too high."

Last week, the state health agency had suggested a six-month ban as one of the policy options Brown could consider.

She is also ordering state agencies to develop "long-term solutions" for the

*See Vape, Page A9*

## Oregon DMV warns of crunch for Real ID

### Getting passport means bypassing long lines at DMV

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
*East Oregonian*

PENDLETON — Oregonians have little less than a year to continue using their state-issued driver's licenses or identification cards for domestic flights. Come Oct. 1, 2020, they will need to show passports or driver's licenses or other identification that meet the standards of the Real ID Act.

The Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division is urging residents to have their passports at

the ready.

The Real ID Act of 2005 came out of a recommendation from the 9/11 Commission to establish federal security standards for driver's licenses and other forms of identification. According to the Department of Homeland Security, 47 states have complied with the law while New Jersey, Oklahoma and Oregon have extensions to become compliant.

Tom McClellan, administrator of the Oregon DMV, during a press conference Tuesday at the Port of Portland said the 2020 deadline is "hard and fast," and the agency is moving as fast as it can to meet it. The DMV set the weekend of July 4 to overhaul its computers systems to meet Real ID requirements.

"It's absolutely as soon as we could have it ready to go is July 6 of next year," McClellan said.

Going with the Real ID option on driver's licenses and the like could cost an extra \$20, and Oregon would become the last state to provide the options with less than three months before the federal Transportation Security Administration stops accepting the state's regular forms of identification. Tom Fuller, Oregon Department of Transportation communications manager, told reporters present that's "not enough time for DMV to produce enough Real ID licenses to meet the demand of nearly a million Oregonians who are going to want one and who will need one to board a commercial flight."

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about passports, visit [www.co.umatilla.or.us](http://www.co.umatilla.or.us) and click on the link for "Records" on the drop down menu under the "departments" tab or call the records office at 541-278-6236. You also can find passport information at <https://travel.state.gov>.

But a passport, McClellan said, "is a definite way to get through security at the airport."

Oregon has more than 75 centers that handle passport applications, including most county clerk offices. Steve Churchill, public records offi-

*See DMV, Page A9*