

# Travel plaza set to open at Farewell Bend

By JAYSON JACOBY  
EO Media Group



For EO Media Group/Lisa Britton

A travel plaza, part of the TravelCenters of America chain, is slated to open this fall at Farewell Bend.

HUNTINGTON — A retail void dating back nearly a decade along a remote section of Interstate 84 could be filled soon.

A new truck stop, including restaurants and a convenience store but not a motel, is nearing completion at Farewell Bend, along the Snake River about 50 miles southeast of Baker City and about 4 miles from Huntington.

The Huntington Travel Plaza, part of the national TravelCenters of America network, could open as soon as Oct. 21, according to Deep Singh of Vancouver, Washington, whose family, along with three other business partners, plans to buy the business.

Tina Arundel, director of communications for TravelCenters of America in Westlake, Ohio, wrote in an email to the *Baker City Herald* that “we look forward to opening a TA travel center in Huntington, Oregon. We plan to open in late October.”

Singh said his family, which owns three gas stations in the Portland area as well as convenience stores, has been aware of the 40-acre property for a cou-

ple of years.

The former truck stop at Farewell Bend, which included a motel, closed in May 2011 and the buildings were later removed. The business had opened in the 1970s.

Huntington offers the only fuel and food on the 73-mile stretch of freeway between Baker City and Ontario.

Singh said he started talking in late spring this

year with Amin Alibhei of Atlanta, who manages the company that owns the property, which is in Malheur County just south of the Baker County border.

The property sold in October 2019 for \$775,000, according to the Malheur County Assessor’s Office. It previously sold, in June 2013, for \$450,000.

Singh said his family and partners, which he didn’t name, will buy the property

as soon as the truck stop is finished, and then operate the business.

He said the travel plaza will be his family’s biggest business venture. Singh said some of his partners have experience in running truck stops.

He said he believes it will be beneficial to be a franchise of TravelCenters of America.

“I think it’s very helpful to have a brand like TA,”

Singh said. “That brand will help bring in customers for us.”

The Huntington Travel Plaza will also bring jobs to the area.

Singh said he hopes to eventually hire around 50 employees, once the entire project, including a truck repair shop, is open. He hopes that will happen within a year.

Initially, though, the 12,000-square-foot busi-

ness will include a 3,000-square-foot convenience store, six fuel pumps for passenger cars and eight diesel lanes for commercial trucks, and two take-out restaurants, Champs Chicken and Naughty Chile Taqueria.

He said the convenience store, in addition to the usual fare of packaged foods and beverages, will have a frozen food section with ice cream.

The sign at the truck stop also lists Huntington Bar and Grill, but Singh said that the dine-in restaurant and bar with video poker, won’t open immediately due to COVID-19 restrictions.

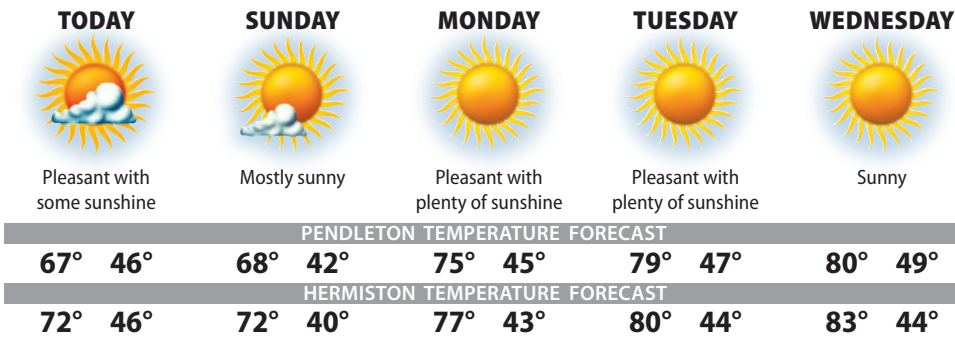
The truck stop will include a lounge and theater for commercial drivers, a barber shop, as well as showers and a laundry facility, Singh said.

He plans to add propane tanks as well, to cater to people with camp trailers staying at Farewell Bend State Park, less than a mile away.

Jennifer Peterson, city recorder in Huntington, population 445, said the potential for new jobs is exciting.

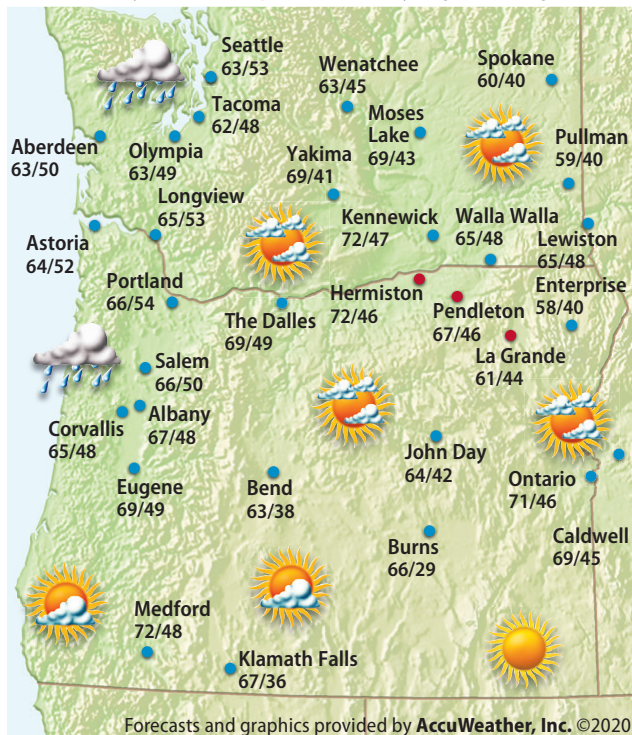
“It would be good if they could provide some jobs for people in town,” Peterson said.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



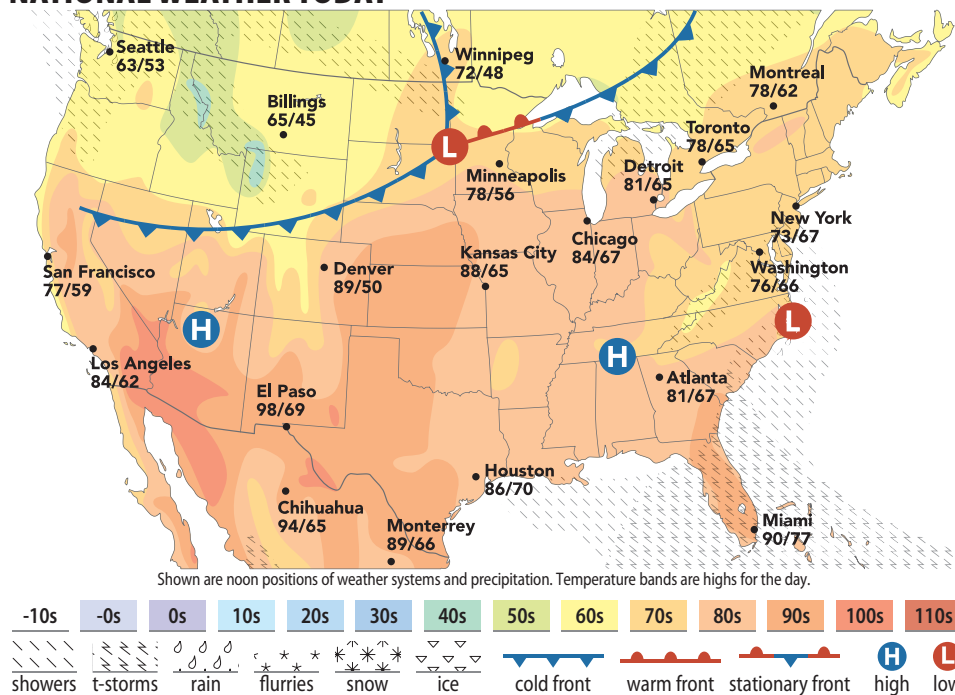
## ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	71°	49°
Normals	74°	47°
Records	99° (1952)	21° (1926)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.07"	
Month to date	0.12"	
Normal month to date	0.44"	
Year to date	8.73"	
Last year to date	10.85"	
Normal year to date	8.86"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	74°	51°
Normals	75°	45°
Records	95° (1952)	26° (1934)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.07"	
Normal month to date	0.35"	
Year to date	1.73"	
Last year to date	4.76"	
Normal year to date	6.50"	
WINDS (in mph)		
Today	WSW 8-16	Sun. NNE 3-6
Pendleton	W 8-16	NW 4-8
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	6:48 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	6:44 p.m.	
Moonrise today	4:57 p.m.	
Moonset today	1:05 a.m.	
Full	Last	New
Oct 1	Oct 9	Oct 16
		Oct 23

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 105° in Needles, Calif. Low 25° in Angel Fire, N.M.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# Congress acknowledges 155-year-old betrayal of Warm Springs, Wasco Tribes

By EMILY CURETON  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

WARM SPRINGS — Their compromise created the state of Oregon.

Faced with the threat of forced removal or worse, in 1855 leaders of the Warm Springs and Wasco Tribes forfeited their claim to roughly 10 million acres, and moved to a reservation. In exchange for land to offer white settlers, brokers for the United States government made promises. Among those: Tribal members would not be stopped from traveling off the reservation to hunt, fish and forage, as they had done for millennia.

But just 10 years later, in 1865, a U.S. official betrayed the agreement, drawing up a so-called “supplemental treaty” that prohibited Tribal members from leaving the reservation without permission.

This week, Congress voted by unanimous consent to nullify that 155-year-old document, in an acknowledgment that Tribal leaders and elected officials from Oregon have sought for decades. The 1865 Treaty Nullification Act now heads to President Trump’s desk for his signature.

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Director of Governmental Affairs Louie Pitt said the bill is righting a historical wrong, but also protecting against future injustices.

“The ability to live as Indian people off of the creator’s gifts to us — the fish, wildlife, roots and berries — that is as important to us as

*“IT WAS NOT SOMETHING WE LOST. IT WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS TAKEN.”*

— Louie Pitt, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs director of governmental affairs

the air we breathe,” Pitt said, adding that: “It was not something we lost. It was something that was taken.”

Oregon has long had a policy of not enforcing the 1865 supplemental treaty. Democratic Gov. Kate Brown disavowed it last year, and efforts to formally nullify the document trace back to one of the

state’s most powerful Republicans, Sen. Mark Hatfield, who left office in 1997. Pitt said nonetheless, it matters what is written down because political winds will shift.

“Things can change in the state of Oregon, and things could change in the United States,” he said.

“I look forward to President Trump signing this bill into law so that we can fully right this long-standing wrong,” Rep. Greg Walden, R-The Dalles, who sponsored the House version, said in a press release Tuesday, Sept. 22.

The press release also quotes Democratic sponsors, Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden of Oregon.

Through U.S. policies, three distinct tribes were settled on one reservation, in what is now known as Central Oregon. In 1937, the Warm Springs, Wasco and Paiute Tribes formed a confederacy and adopted a constitution for self-governance.

Pitt said he’s worked 20 years to get rid of the 1865 supplemental treaty, and that now, he’s waiting to celebrate until the President signs it into law. Even then, he said: “There’s a lot of work to do, yet.”

## IN BRIEF

### Union County mini mart rejects mask ordinance

UNION — Falk’s Mini Mart in Union posted a sign Sept. 15 stating the store will not enforce mask mandates. The two-page sign stayed up for about a week before someone reported it to Oregon’s Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

Dennis Falk, the store’s owner, said the state agency told him to take down the sign or face a fine.

“I guess there is no being a free American anymore,” Falk said.

The sign in the store’s front window said:

“As of 9/15/20, the day the mask request was to end ‘but’ (Gov.) Kate Brown extended it to 11/3/20. So masks are still required until then. We are asking you to be free Americans! Make your own educated decision on if you need a mask or not. We will not force you to put one on. It is not our place to go against your freedom as Americans!!!”

Falk said he put up the sign because he was tired of the mask mandate and how political everything with COVID-19 had become. The store also has political stickers on its door in support of President Donald Trump’s reelection and recalling Brown. Falk took the sign down Tuesday, Sept. 22.

— EO Media Group

**CORRECTIONS:** The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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