

# Biomass experiment delayed at Boardman coal facility

Plans to test burn biomass at the Boardman Coal Plant delayed by weather

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**  
Staff Writer

A major step toward determining whether the Boardman Coal Plant can run entirely on biomass will have to wait a little while longer.

Portland General Electric had planned to conduct a full-day test burn at the plant using nothing but woody debris by the end of December. However, as winter weather had Oregonians cranking up the heat, PGE needed all resources on deck to keep up with the surge in electricity demand.

Steve Corson, PGE spokesman, said the biomass trial at Boardman will instead be held sometime during the first quarter of 2017.

"We were in the midst of the coldest weather we've had this month, and we needed that power generation at the coal plant," Corson said.

Workers at the plant did use a partial mix of coal and biomass for three days — Dec. 6, 8 and 12 — which Corson said provided further information about how the material behaves with the facility's pulverizers.

"It is similar to coal, but there are distinctions," Corson said.

PGE has until 2020 to decide what to do with the Boardman facility, the state's last remaining coal-fired power plant. Rather than install costly emissions upgrades, the utility is researching whether the station can be converted to run on an alternative source of fuel. If not, the plant will be shut down completely.

Earlier this year, PGE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC

A pile of biomass has arrived at the Boardman Coal Plant for a full-day test burn, now scheduled for the first quarter of 2017.

partnered with a newly incorporated business called Oregon Torrefaction, made up of the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Bonneville Environmental Foundation and Ochoco Lumber Company, based in Prineville. The corporation is providing 8,000 tons of torrefied biomass needed to run the Boardman plant for one day, at full capacity.

The process of torrefaction refers to roasting biomass, such as wood waste, at high temperatures in the absence of oxygen, resulting in a brittle, charcoal-like material that can be crushed inside the plant. The hope is that low-value timber, small-diameter trees and forest clutter can become a sustainable source of fuel for the plant, while simultaneously improving forest health and creating rural jobs.

Not everyone is as optimistic. The Sierra Club recently issued a report flagging several concerns with the project's impact on air quality and forest health.

Among its findings, the Sierra Club reports that PGE

would actually need 12,800 tons of dry wood daily at the Boardman plant, since torrefaction does burn off some of the material's total mass. Assuming the plant runs at peak capacity for five months, that adds up to 1.9 million dry tons of unprocessed wood annually.

Logging residue would provide just 6-8 percent of that feedstock, according to the report's estimates. As for additional thinning projects, the Sierra Club cautions against tailoring forest management to meet future energy needs.

"Forest management practices motivated to meet energy needs sets a dangerous precedent for our public forests, especially when continuous large volumes are needed in the supply chain as is the case with the Boardman proposal," the report reads.

Alexander Harris, conservation organizer with the Sierra Club in Portland, spearheaded the report. He said the organization is not pursuing a campaign against biomass, but is watching closely to see that climate and forest conse-

quences are being closely monitored by PGE.

Corson reiterated the project is still in the research and development phase, and many questions still need to be answered before the proposal could even be considered feasible. He chided the Sierra Club report for making some faulty assumptions, such as sourcing of the biomass, which Corson said would come from multiple sources.

"There seems to be a decent possibility the answer to the questions could point to a sustainable, renewable, environmentally responsible solution for the plant that would benefit our customers and the local community," Corson said. "We're continuing our research to make sure we have the best information we can collect before we make any decisions."

A successful full-day test burn would mark the next milestone in the process, and could lead to additional multi-day trials in the future.

Contact George Plaven at 541-966-0825.

# Teen injured after car hits skateboarder

A Hermiston teen was injured when he was struck by a car Friday night while riding his skateboard down North First Place between West Harper Road and West Elm Street.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said that according to witnesses, the 15-year-old boy, Costa Maldonado, was riding his skateboard in the middle

of the roadway and was wearing dark clothing when he was hit by a vehicle, driven by 19-year-old Nicolas Magana of Hermiston.

Maldonado, who had been riding the skateboard, was taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center for treatment.

Edmiston said the cause of the crash is still under investigation.

— Jayati Ramakrishnan

## IN BRIEF

### Eppenbach shares 'bits & pieces'

Longtime Irrigon resident Don Eppenbach will share stories and historical facts about the region during a weekend presentation.

The second in a three-part series, The Columbia River: Bits & Pieces, Stories & Facts is Saturday at 5 p.m. at the Irrigon branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, 490 N.E. Main St. A social hour with refreshments will follow the presentation.

For more information, call Eppenbach at 541-922-3197.

## REPORTS:

continued from Page A5

• Credits Inc. vs. Liobaldo Villa Campos: seeks \$809.55 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Jeannette K. and Randall Case: seeks \$1,096.20 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Raymond Douglas Sinclair: seeks \$2,780.77 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Deann Cravin: seeks \$708.49 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Deana L. Deder: seeks \$3,688.62 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Kristina Engel: seeks \$6,199.05 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Beann and Scott

N. Smith: seeks \$2,541.96 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Jeanette Willman: seeks \$9,979.27 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Jose Luis Frias: seeks \$2,991.16 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Tiare Kay Morlan: seeks \$10,000 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Discover Bank vs. John A. Padberg: seeks \$5,617.74 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Megan A. Escamilla: seeks \$1,310.48 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Jessica L. Reyes: seeks \$1,091.07 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Citibank N.A. vs. Michelle C. Thomas Keyser: seeks \$1,992.94 plus

interest, costs and fees.

• Worlds Foremost Bank vs. Vern Hamblen: seeks \$2,842 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Swift Transportation Co. of Arizona LLC vs. Peter Henry Rachor: seeks \$5,720 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Justin Lieuallen vs. Scott and Holly Kenworthy: seeks \$2,310 plus interest, costs and fees.

### Judgments

The following judgments have been rendered in Umatilla County courts:

• Midland Funding LLC vs. Daniel Burton: judgment for \$765.17 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Rocky Mountain Therapy Services Inc. vs. Gregory and Melody A. Demaster: judgment for \$955.48 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Donald G. Hoke vs. Safeway Inc.: judgment for \$1,018.80 plus interest, costs and fees.

• O'Hanlon Law Offices LLC vs. James Dale Standley III: judgment for \$3,691.27 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Ray Klein Inc. vs. Carey Leanne Reuben: judgment for \$4,259.42 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Quick Collect Inc. vs. Eric Purcell: judgment for \$926.04 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Quick Collect Inc. vs. Norma Mendoza and Sergio Mendoza Jr.: judgment for \$608.52 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Ray Klein Inc. vs. Mica Bartlett: judgment for \$397.68 plus interest, costs and fees.

• Quick Collect Inc. vs. Danielle Marie and Darren K. Holden: judgment for \$449.79 plus interest, costs and fees.

# JANUARY 2017 EVENTS

## Oregon Truffle Festival

**FRESH TRUFFLE MARKETPLACE**  
With or without wine tasting

Sunday, January 22 • 11am-4pm • Newberg, OR  
Sunday, January 29 • 11am-4pm • Eugene, OR

**THE JORIAD™ TRUFFLE DOG COMPETITION**  
Thursday, January 26 • 9am-Noon • Eugene, OR

**OREGON TRUFFLE MACDOWN**  
Thursday, January 26 • 6:30-9pm • Eugene

Something fun for everyone at OTF 2017!  
TICKETS & INFO: oregontrufflefestival.com

**COPPER TO GOLD: PENNY TASTINGS EVERY DAY IN JANUARY**  
\*Visit us online for winter hours and closures.\*

2014 WINERY OF THE YEAR  
2015 PACIFIC NORTHWEST WINERY OF THE YEAR  
TRAVEL AWARDS 2015

9774 HWY 14, GOLDENDALE, WA 98620  
OPEN DAILY 10AM-6PM  
MARYHILLWINERY.COM

## Worship Community

Oasis VINEYARD  
A COMMUNITY OF HOPE

1255 Hwy. 395 S. • 567-5834  
oasisvineyard.us  
Worship 10:00 AM  
"come as you are"

**HermNaz**  
the best thing about Sundays

1520 W ORCHARD AVE  
Sunday Worship Service  
10:30 am Classes for kids @ 9:15 am  
SEEKING JESUS, SHARING LIFE, SERVING PEOPLE  
www.hermistonnazarene.org

**LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
125 E. Beech Ave. • 567-3232  
Pastor David Dever

Sun. Bible Classes.....10:00am  
Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am  
Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....6:00pm  
www.hermistonlmbc.com

**The Full Gospel Home Church**  
235 SW 3rd  
Phone 567-7678  
Rev. Ed Baker - Rev. Nina Baker

**Sunday:**  
Sunday School.....10:00 am  
Worship.....11:00 am  
Evening Service.....7:00 pm  
Wednesday Service.....7:00 pm  
"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."  
1 Pet. 5:7

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
Saturdays  
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.  
567-8241  
855 W. Highland • Hermiston

**Grace Baptist Church**  
555 SW 11th, Hermiston  
567-9497

Nursery provided for all services  
Sunday School - 9:30 AM  
Worship - 10:45 AM  
6:00 pm  
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM  
"Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"

**NEW BEGINNINGS**  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
Worship Service 10:30 AM  
Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Pastor J.C. Barnett  
Children's Church & Nursery Available  
700 West Orchard Avenue  
P.O. Box 933  
Hermiston, Oregon  
541-567-8441

**Echo Community Church**  
21 N. Bonanza Street, Echo OR  
Phone: (541) 376-8108

Sunday School • 9:30am  
Worship • 10:45am  
Children's Church • 11:15am  
Potluck & Communion ~  
First Sunday of the Month

**Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church**  
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.  
DAILY MASS: Monday-Friday  
.....English 7:00 am  
Thursday.....Spanish 6:00 pm  
SATURDAY.....English 5:00 pm  
.....Spanish 7:00 pm  
SUNDAY.....English 9:00 am  
.....Bilingual 11:00 am  
.....Spanish 1:00 pm  
Office.....567-5812

**St. Johns Episcopal Church**  
Join Us  
On Our Journey  
With Jesus.

Scripture, Tradition and Reason  
Family service 9am Sunday  
N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston  
Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest, PH: 567-6672  
We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

**First Christian Church**  
"Proclaiming the Message of Hope, Living the Gospel of Love"

Bible School: 9:15am  
Worship Gathering: 10:30am  
567-3013  
775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

To share your worship times call  
Terri Briggs 541-278-2678