

Boardman:

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for plant employees who decided to go back to school. PGE had considered trying to turn the plant, which still has about 20 years of expected life left, into a different type of generation plant, using biomass pellets in a process known as torrefaction, or natural gas. The utility stated in 2017 it had successful test runs using biomass materials at the plant, but later made the decision to close the plant completely.

Lindsey said it was unfortunate the plant wasn't going to be used for torrefaction, which could have been a more stable source of energy than some renewable projects.

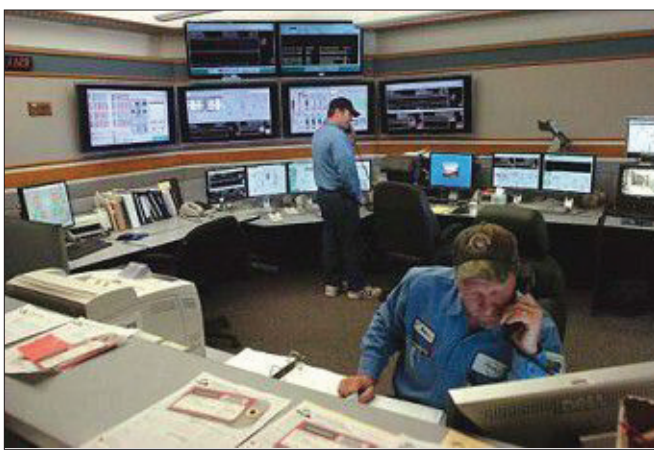
"The wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine," she said.

While some were mourning what the plant closure meant for jobs, others were celebrating what it meant for the environment. DEQ director Richard Whitman called it an "environmental success."

"The closure of the Boardman Coal Plant helps put the state on a path toward cleaner, safer air, while we continue to develop climate-friendly sources of electricity," he said in a statement.

Closure of the plant has been in the works for a decade, after PGE struck a deal with DEQ in 2010 to stop burning coal at the plant by 2020. Environmental groups lobbied for a faster timeline, and the Sierra Club sued PGE over the plant, claiming the utility should have built in better emissions controls before the plant first came online in 1980. That lawsuit was settled in 2011.

Cesia Kearns, deputy campaign director for the western region of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, said in an email



Hermiston Herald, File
Control room operator Nathan Heideman and assistant control room operator Dan Shoemaker monitor the operation of the Portland General Electric coal-powered plant in 2009 outside Boardman.

"THE CLOSURE OF THE BOARDMAN COAL PLANT HELPS PUT THE STATE ON A PATH TOWARD CLEANER, SAFER AIR ..."

DEQ director Richard Whitman

it took a "chorus of community voices and a legal challenge" to bring about the transition to cleaner energy, and those voices are still needed to help diversify Oregon's energy in a sustainable and economic way.

"The closure of the Boardman coal plant is a turning point in Oregon's energy system — as the power of the past gives way to more affordable, cleaner energy sources," she said.

She referenced the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility currently under construction in Morrow County, which, when finished, will be the largest combination of wind, solar and battery storage in North America.

"This is only the beginning of the potential for clean energy and other development in Eastern Oregon, which brings jobs and stable sources of tax revenue for essential services like roads

and schools," she said. "Reducing our contribution to the climate crisis is an economic opportunity for Oregon's rural communities."

The Boardman Generating Station generated enough power to run roughly 500,000 homes, according to Corson, and PGE will use multiple avenues to replace that power supply. One of those is the Wheatridge project, which is a partnership between PGE and NextEra Energy Resources. The 300-megawatt wind farm portion is expected to come online by the end of 2020. The 50 megawatts of solar and 30 megawatts of battery storage are expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

The utility has also put together five-year contracts with various power suppliers, and is planning to issue a request for proposals for "additional long term, nonemitting capacity resources."

Schools:

Continued from Page A1

Browning said as of the first day on Oct. 19, 79 students said they would come back, although on the first day not everyone showed up.

"We had 14 at Highland (Hills Elementary School) today signed up for the Newcomers program but only three showed up," she said.

As regulated by the state, the district can bring those students into the building for in-person instruction for only two hours per day, supplemented by the distance learning the rest of the student body is receiving. Students are divided up into "cohorts" of 10 students and are not allowed to come into physical contact

with other cohorts while at school. Browning said the district is also spacing desks 6 feet apart, requiring masks and following other protocols.

The Hermiston Association of Teachers did not return emailed questions about protocols in the school building before this week's *Hermiston Herald* went to print.

Some other districts in the area have also begun limited in-person learning, including Morrow County School District, which has allowed some students in the permitted categories to return to each of its schools in cohorts of 10.

Umatilla School District has not returned any students to the classroom.

"While we have been very close, we still have not met the metrics," Superin-

tendent Heidi Sipe said.

She also said the state is expected to release new metrics soon, and the district wants to provide stability for families by making sure when they reopen they aren't immediately changing plans again.

Sipe said she is "counting down the seconds" until she gets to see students in the buildings again. However, the Oregon Legislature has yet to pass any liability protections for schools that would protect them from a lawsuit if they brought students back without properly meeting their metrics and then a student or employee got COVID-19.

"If we don't follow the rules to a T, the fallout could be huge, and affect students for generations to come," she said.

Umatilla County remains on state COVID-19 watchlist

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

Umatilla County remains on the governor's COVID-19 watchlist as the state monitors the county's progress on fighting the virus.

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, Umatilla County Public Health announced 15 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in county residents, for a total of 82 cases over the previous seven days. The county needs to be down to eight cases a week for three weeks in a row, along with a test positivity rate of less than 5%, to reopen schools completely.

The Oct. 20 news release stated the county currently has seven residents hospitalized with the virus, and 168 presumptive cases. Presumptive cases are people who are showing symptoms of COVID-19 after com-

ing into close contact with a confirmed case, but they have either not gotten tested or not received their results yet.

Since the pandemic began, Umatilla County has 3,120 confirmed cases and 14,797 negative tests.

Umatilla County Public Health announced one new death of a resident with COVID-19 in the past week.

The county's 43rd death was a 69-year-old woman, who tested positive Oct. 5 and died Oct. 14 at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston. She had underlying conditions.

On a statewide level, on Oct. 20 the Oregon Health Authority announced 346 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 and six new deaths of individuals who tested positive for COVID-19, raising the state's death total

to 633 since the pandemic began.

A list of workplace outbreaks in Umatilla and Morrow counties can be found in the Oregon Health Authority's weekly reported, published each Wednesday, at govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19. The weekly report also breaks down the state's COVID-19 data by gender, race, ZIP code and other demographics.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID-19 tracking website, Oregon has one of the lowest cases per capita numbers in the country in the past 7 days, at 7.9 cases per 100,000 residents. Nationwide, the CDC has reported more than 8.1 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began, and 219,499 deaths of people with COVID-19.

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110 Announcements

CELEBRATE OUR LOCAL VETERANS!
Place a photo of a veteran or currently serving hero with their name, military branch and rank for **FREE** in our special section to publish in the East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald on November 10th! Deadline is November 2nd. Email the photo to classifieds@eastoregonian.com or mail to one of our offices: 211 SE Byers Ave, Pendleton, OR 97801 or 333 E. Main St., Hermiston, OR 97838. (Please indicate if you would like the photo mailed back to you.) Call 541-564-4538 if you have any questions.
We also have larger message ads available for \$40 or \$60 that would include artwork, photo, name, rank and a personal message. (Must be prepaid and private party only.)

110 Announcements

****Notice****
The Island Cemetery Board of Directors is providing the following notice.
There are a number of Island City Cemetery plots designated "reserved" on the cemetery plat with no record of payment. If you believe you have a reserved plot for which payment has been made, please provide the receipt of payment which you received at the time of payment or canceled check designating the plot number(s) paid for to Island City Hall, 10605 Island Avenue, Island City, OR 97850, by December 15, 2020. Documentation can be presented in person, via email: karen@islandcityhall.com or mailed to: Island City Cemetery, PO Box 844, La Grande, OR 97850
If documentation of payment or payment is not received by December 15, 2020, the plot's reserved status will be removed, and plot will be available for sale. You may call either Alan Keffer, 541-910-4525, or Dave Johnson, 541-910-1881, to verify the payment status of any plot you believe to be reserved.

360 Garage Sales

ONE DAY ONLY
Saturday, Oct. 24th; 8 AM - 7 NW 9th St. Pendleton, OR

Estate Sale: Antiques, brass beds, dressers, holiday decor, oriental rugs, a little bit of everything! Friday & Saturday, 9am-4pm. 81650 Buell Lane, Umatilla.

Must Sell

Estate sale: Household furniture, tools, kitchen appliances/dishes/utensils/gadgets, linens, canning jars, sewing items/patterns/fabric, scrapbooking items, wall decor. Many, many, more items are for sale and many are antiques as she has lived in the house for over 45 years. 715 Cassen Ct Hermiston. Friday, Saturday, Sunday October 23rd, 24th, 25th F&S 9am - ?/Sun 9am-2pm

ATTENTION!

HUGE MOVING SALE!!!
Everything must go. Depression Glass, Antiques, TV's, Secretary, Reclining Love Seat, Plus Size Women's clothing NWT, Jewelry, Office/School Supplies, Collectibles, Furniture, Household Items, Tools, and so much more! Corner of Carden and NW 8th Street. 123 NW 8th St Pendleton. October 23, 24th and 25th, 8am to 4pm.

502 Real Estate

541-377-6855
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\$417,000 - ECHO VIEWS!
½ block from Echo Golf Course. Open floor plan w/lots of natural light. Master suite w/walk-in closet, deck. Lower level w/3 bedrooms. **Call 541-377-5058 cell. #20210732**

Coldwell Banker Whitney & Associates 541-276-0021

\$215,000
Well-kept/ great neighborhood! 3bed, 1bath, North Hill. New gas range, new gas water heater, new bathroom tile. Deck w/ views, garden RV space. **Jed 541-969-2887. #20524793**

Coldwell Banker Whitney & Associates 541-276-0021

504 Homes for Sale

\$299,000
Flat, commercial lot zoned C3, between Hampton Inn Hotel and Social Security/ASCS Office. Great location near I-84 Freeway interchange, hotels, restaurants, gas. **Jef 541 969-9539 cell. #18531931**

Coldwell Banker Whitney & Associates 541-276-0021

\$139,000 REDUCED/PILOT ROCK
2 bedroom, 2 bath home w/ spacious living and dining room areas. Double car garage, pad parking area, plenty of storage. Minimal yard work. **Marsha 541-377-5152 cell. #20080022**

Coldwell Banker Whitney & Associates 541-276-0021

\$475,000
4.16 acres overlooking McKay Reservoir. 3 bed, 4.5 bath, 3248sf (m/l) on main level. Spacious open floor plan. 1078sf (m/l) basement w/bonus room, bath. In-ground pool, patio. **Kevin 541-969-8243. #20616259**

Coldwell Banker Whitney & Associates 541-276-0021

\$219,900
3 bed/ 2 bath home w/vaulted ceilings, formal dining area, completely remodeled kitchen and bathrooms. Gas range, farm sink. New A/C, high efficiency furnace. #20591474. Jason 760-409-6842 cell.

Coldwell Banker Whitney & Associates 541-276-0021

\$194,500
3 bed, 2 bath brick home w/ beautiful private back yard. 1200sf (m/l), 1 level. Attached garage, + additional shop/oversized garage. Back covered patio, corner lot. **Jerry 541-969-6378 cell. #20227127**

Coldwell Banker Whitney & Associates 541-276-0021

613 Houses for Rent

3 bedroom (possibly 4), 2 bath, located in Pendleton. \$1250/mo. 1st, last + deposit. 541-276-5227

Arlington: 3 bedroom, central heat/air, \$1150/month, First & last plus \$500 cleaning deposit; 541-379-4111

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