FROM PAGE ONE



Oregon State Police/Contributed Photo **Oregon State Police is looking** for information on this vehicle, according to a press release on June 15, 2022.

Reward offered for info on poaching case

Hermiston Herald

Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife is looking for help in finding the owner of a light-colored SUV last seen around October 2021 near Hermiston.

A camera caught a picture of the vehicle, but the license plate is unreadable, according to OSP.

According to the department, "it is believed the vehicle may reside in the Benton County area of southeast Washington and is connected with a poaching incident nearby."

In a press release, the department states it "has exhausted all other leads in this case and is now urging anyone with information regarding this case to call the Oregon State Police Tip-line at 800-452-7888, *677 or email at TIP@osp.oregon.gov.

The reference case No. SP21-290284.

Meanwhile, Fish & Wildlife is publicizing the Turn In Poachers program, which offers preference points or cash rewards for information leading to an arrest or citation for the unlawful killing of wildlife and or waste of big game.

"Cash rewards can also be awarded for turning in people who destroy habitat, illegally obtain licenses/ tags, and for the unlawful lending/borrowing of big game tags," according to the press release, which adds that rewards can be as high as

DEQ

Continued from Page A1

The Port of Morrow collects wastewater from food processors, storage facilities and data centers in its industrial park outside Boardman. The port has a DEQ water quality permit that allows it to use the nitrogen-rich wastewater for irrigation on nearby farms, but the permit includes limits on how much nitrogen the port can apply to the farmland and how much nitrate and moisture can be present in soil prior to applications.

'The amended notice cites the port for additional occurrences of applying wastewater containing nitrogen to fields that already had too much existing nitrate or moisture in the soil," according to the statement. "Having too much nitrate or moisture in the soil when applying wastewater increases the likelihood of nitrates flowing down into the groundwater rather than remaining in the soil for crops to use."

DEQ also reported the port documented additional violations to DEQ in its annual report and in email and phone reports of noncompliance. The additional violations occurred between November 2020 to February 2021 and November 2021 to February 2022.

The revised fine totals \$2,100,351.

DEQ in its amended notice stated it "acknowledges that the port is committed to finding a long-term solution to the management of its wastewater that both promotes beneficial reuse and is protective of public health and the environment."

Even so, according to the notice, since DEQ issued the notice, the Port of Morrow has not submitted a plan to achieve compliance with the nitrogen loading limits in the permit. The new notice requires the port to "develop and implement an approval plan to achieve compliance with both the nitrogen loading and moisture content limits in the permit."

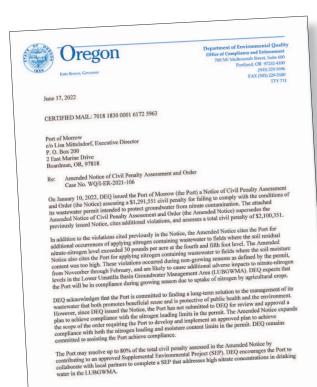
Because the port already has an appeal going with the initial fine, the DEQ explained it does not need to submit a new appeal, although it can submit an amended request for a hearing.

The state environmental department also encouraged the port to collaborate with local partners to complete a "Supplemental Environmental Project" that addresses high nitrate concentrations in the drinking water in the groundwater management area. DEQ stated the port could resolve as much as 80% of the penalty through such a project.



Hermiston Herald, File

Industrial facilities operate Jan. 11, 2022, at the Port of Morrow near Boardman. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality announced Friday, June 17, 2022, it increased the penalty against the port for nitrate pollution from \$1.3 million to a little more than \$2.1 million.



Oregon Rural Action, an Eastern Oregon community organizing and advocacy organization, in a press release before the DEO announced the larger penalty issued a notice that Morrow County Commissioner Jim Doherty was meeting Friday at 6 p.m. with Boardman residents in the West Glen neighborhood where most of the 60 wells tested had above the maximum contamination levels for ni-

penalties emphasize that people in the Boardman area have been in harm's way for a long time

She said it was past time to get residents immediate help, emergency water, crucial information and conduct water testing to ensure access to safe drinking water.

LOCAL BUSINESSES TO THE RESCUE

The Boardman Chamber

"The amended notice cites the port for additional occurrences of applying wastewater containing nitrogen to fields that already had too much existing nitrate or moisture in the soil. Having too much nitrate or moisture in the soil when applying wastewater increases the likelihood of nitrates flowing down into the groundwater rather than remaining in the soil for crops to use."

- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

It states that a group of local businesses are helping. These businesses, that are working in "close cooperation with Morrow County Health Department officials, are Amazon Web Services, Boardman Foods, Lamb Weston, Calbee North America, Threemile Canyon Farms and Tillamook County Creamery Association.

These businesses are taking steps that include "helping the County Health Department to distribute safe drinking water, assisting well-owners and residents in the process of ordering and paying for testing kits/ filtration systems and providing information on wells from the Oregon Health Authority, according to the press release.

The press release directs people to co.morrow.or.us and the Morrow County Health Department's Facebook page for the most up-to-date informasite (71320 E. Columbia Blvd., Boardman, OR 97818) to assist in both English and Spanish and to provide testing bottles and a collection site for well water testing, information from Oregon Health Authority on wells, as well as support and information on certified reverse osmosis filters.

Water must be collected on the same day it is brought in for testing, according to the press release. Testing is available Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Those interested in the onsite services provided at Boardman Foods can reach out to contact@boardmanfoods.com.

Beginning Thursday, June 23, the Boardman Chamber of Commerce (101 Olson Road) will also support the community offering the same services as available onsite at Boardman Foods.

\$1,000. More information is at oregon.gov/osp/programs/fw/ Pages/tip.aspx.

trates, with dozens up to five times the level. Kristin Ostrom, executive director of Oregon Rural Action, said the DEQ

of Commerce issued a press release Friday, June 17, that should come as good news for many people.

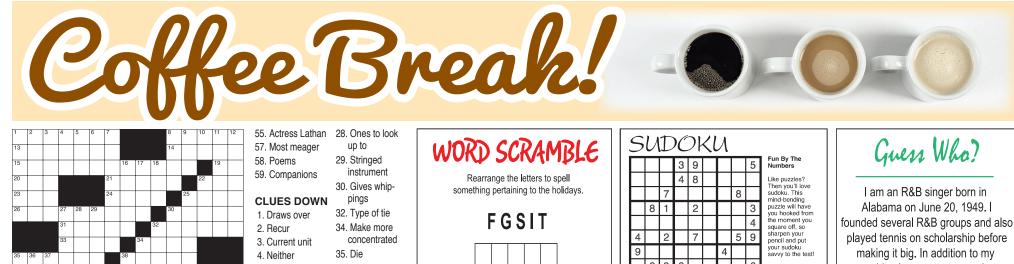
tion about available help during the current emergency. It also states that Boardman

Foods will have a person on-

For information regarding services located at the Chamber, contact info@boardman chamber.org.

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