

CO-GEN PLANT

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met Tuesday morning with members of the Willow Creek Economic Development Group and went over plans and ideas with them also. WCVEDG members also liked what they heard and agreed to write a letter of support in favor of the endeavor.

Christensen said the sorghum is a hybrid developed by a California company called Ceres that must be grown under center pivot irrigation and can get up to 20 feet tall. He said the advantage of using agricultural product rather than wood waste to burn in the co-gen plant is control over the condition of the material. He said with sorghum they can control the moisture content between 30 and 40 percent, and it is generally cleaner than wood. "The trouble with wood waste is the moisture content can be all over the place," he said. "And it can have foreign matter included."

He said trucking the material from the Hermiston area where there is more irrigated land would not be a problem, but admitted that if he could get irrigated growers on board in South Morrow County he would, which would save on transportation costs. He met with Hermiston area growers in February and April and there are cur-



Pictured is the co-gen plant at the South Morrow Industrial Site outside of Heppner.

rently six growers who have crops in the ground. The grower's co-op located in the Ontario area is looking at putting in a 20 megawatt generating plant and also has a pellet operation that sends the sorghum pellets as far away as England. "They are trying to convert from coal power over there and pay premium prices," he said.

Christensen said growers should expect to get 15 to 20 tons an acre of the sorghum and that the co-op is looking for around 5,000 acres to supply the Heppner plant. He said they have 10 growers in the Ontario area and they are averaging 16 to 19 tons per acre. He said the co-op is working on financing to get a co-gen plant operating in that area. Christensen has lived and farmed in the Treasure Valley area for many years, and

is well know there. Heppner Mayor Les Paustian, who is originally from the area, said he did not "know" Christensen, but knew "of him".

Growers in that area formed a co-op, Agri Energy Producers, to control the process from growing to distribution to producing electricity. According to a Feb. 10, 2010, article in the Argus Observer, Christensen said his company had retained Randon Wilson to direct the organization and the financing of the co-op. Wilson directed in the organization of the Snake River Sugar Co-op, the growers group which bought out Amalgamated Sugar Co., and another growers' co-op, United Onions USA, Inc. Christensen said Wilson was probably the best co-op attorney in the western, of not the entire, United States.

The Heppner City Council liked what it heard Monday night and voted unanimously to write a letter of support for the project. "Three different outfits have tried, but none has made it. We think this one is a good fit (for Heppner)," Paustian said.

A company called T2, Inc. was the latest business to look at opening the co-gen plant. T2 had planned on burning wood waste but did not exercise an earlier option to purchase the plant from the Port of Morrow.

For those who would like more information on Christensen's company, Renewable Ag Energy, Inc., may visit its web site at renewableenergy.com. Those who want more information on high biomass sorghum may visit seed producer Ceres web site at www.ceres.net.

DA's Report

The Morrow County District Attorney's Office has released the following report:

-Richard Wayne Nelson, 48, was convicted of Possession of Methamphetamine, a Class C felony, and was sentenced to 18 months supervised probation, 90 sanction units with 30 jail units, complete 80 hours of community service, other conditions, and pay \$1,423 in fines, fees, and assessments.

-Gustavo Franco-Berrera, 19, was convicted of Burglary in the Second Degree, a Class C felony, and was sentenced to 18 months supervised probation, 90 sanction units with 30 jail units, other conditions, and pay \$1,008 in fines, fees, and assessments.

-Jason William Wainwright, 20, was con-

victed of Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, and was sentenced to 180 days incarceration with 180 days suspended, two year bench probation, complete 40 hours of community service, other conditions, and pay \$633 in fines, fees, and assessments.

-Quijas Juvencio Agripino, 51, was convicted of Assault in the Fourth Degree, a Class A misdemeanor reduced to a Class A violation, and was ordered to complete a Level I Anger Management Program and pay \$1,133 in fines, fees, and assessments.

-Jeffrey Keith Key, 45, was convicted of Harassment, a Class B misdemeanor reduced to a Class A violation, and was ordered to pay \$500 in fines, fees, and assessments.

Ione students finish school year with projects



Freshman, Lacey Thompson and Shadow Kendrick show off their toothpick bridge, a project in Erin Heideman's physical science class. -Contributed Photo

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports handling the following business:

March 15: -MCSO arrested a 43 year old male subject on an IJC warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Driving While Suspended Misd.

-MCSO received a theft complaint from a staff member at Heppner High School stating that a student reported \$200 stolen from her wallet while on the bus this morning.

-MCSO had a walk-in report fraud on her debit card.

-MCSO issued a citation to a juvenile female subject for Violation of the Basic Rule by going 87 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO received a driving complaint in which the caller stated that a vehicle was being driven by a male that was heavily intoxicated. The caller gave MCSO the vehicle description and license plate number.

-MCSO received a 911 call stating that the family was receiving harassing phone calls from an unknown subject.

-BPD arrested an 18 year old male subject for False Info to a Police Officer. The subjects name was determined to be Alex Alejandro Flores, 18.

-Boardman Ambulance received an EMS call regarding a male with severe abdominal pain and vomiting. The patient was transported to Good Shep-

herd Hospital.

-Boardman Ambulance received an EMS call regarding a 62 year old male who thought he might be having a stroke. The patient was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital.

March 16: -MCSO was notified by Multnomah County Sheriff's Office that Gregoria Toves Torre Jr, 31, had been arrested on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for Failure to Appear/DUII.

-MCSO received a driving complaint regarding that vehicles were driving recklessly and at high rates of speed on Tower Road.

-MCSO issued a citation to Larry Jo Bartlemay, 51, for Violation of the Basic Rule by going 70 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-BPD received a report of a verbal dispute. A deputy made contact with the subjects and warned them that if it happened again they would be lodged for disorderly conduct. Both subjects were highly intoxicated.

-Boardman Ambulance received an EMS call regarding a 30 year old female with difficulty breathing. The subject had a rash starting to form on her chest and was feeling lightheaded.

-Irrigon Ambulance received an EMS call regarding an 86 year old female with kidney problems and diabetes. The subject was dehydrated.

-Irrigon Ambulance received an EMS call regarding a 51 year old male who was dizzy

and pain in his head and stomach. The subject was having difficulty talking but was breathing fine.

March 17: -MCSO received a report from a female subject in Irrigon who stated that a pick-up full of men wanted to assault her boyfriend.

-BPD received a report of a missing four year old child last seen near the Boardman Pharmacy. The child returned home.

March 18: -MCSO received a report of a white Dodge 4-door pickup stopping and subjects getting out of the vehicle and breaking windows in a residence. BPD and MCSO responded. BPD found windows broken but no one home.

-MCSO issued a citation to Charles Edgar Cates, 77, for Violation of the Basic Rule by going 75 mph in a 55 mph zone.

March 19: -MCSO arrested Cecile Marie Wilson, 55, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear/Driving While Suspended.

-MCSO issued a citation to a male subject in Lexington for Violation of the Basic Rule by going 75 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO issued a citation to Aparicio Magdalena Gonzalez, 43, for No Operator's License, Violation of the Basic Rule by going 52 mph in a 35 mph zone.

-MCSO received a report of a drunk driver in Heppner. Timothy Allen Moomey, 47, was arrested for DUII. Moomey was also cited for DUII BAC

refusal.

-MCSO received a request from an officer for extra patrol for a subject in Irrigon. The victim had been receiving threats and his boat had been vandalized at McNary Dam today.

-MCSO received an assault report from a female subject who stated that she had temporary custody of a 16 year old boy who got physical with her earlier today.

-MCSO received a report from a female subject who stated that she thought her ex-husband had physically abused her son. MCSO responded and arrested Mike Dodge, 47, for Assault IV Domestic.

-MCSO received a report of a car on I-84 causing other drivers to go off the road to get out of its way. OSP was notified.

-Boardman Fire Department received a report of a house on fire. The reporter was a small child and there was a strong language barrier. BPD and Irrigon Fire Department assisted.

March 20: -MCSO received a report of white females between the ages of 20 and 25 years assaulting the caller. BPD assisted.

-MCSO was notified that a male subject had been arrested and after being fingerprinted at the jail he was identified as Jorge Gutierrez Avila, 41. The subject had an HJC warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/DUII. The subject was lodged at UCJ with an MCSO hold.

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-BPD arrested Nick Lawrence Harrison, 21, on an HPD warrant for Failure to Appear/Traffic Driving While Suspended.

-BPD received a noise complaint involving loud music. An officer made contact and the subject turned the music down.

-Boardman Ambulance received an EMS call regarding a 69 year old male with a broken arm who had fallen out of bed and broken the other arm. BPD assisted.

area.

-BPD issued a citation to Brenda Galvin, 20, for No Operator's License/No Insurance. Subject was arrested and lodged at UCJ on a circuit court warrant for Failure to Appear II/Failure to Appear Contempt of Court.

-Irrigon Ambulance received an EMS call regarding a female with chest pains, nausea, vomiting, and sweaty. The patient was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital.

March 21: -MCSO received a report of a threat from a caller who stated that his uncle physically threatened him and was acting out of control. This has been ongoing and has gradually gotten worse. The caller stated that neither had been drinking and there are weapons in the residence but are secure. A deputy made contact and determined that no crime had been committed. They subjects were advised that they might want to make other living arrangements.

-BPD received a report of a male subject in Boardman buying mass quantities of gift cards. The reporter believed that it might be part of a scam. Officers made contact with the subject.

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