

**B2H**

*Continued from Page A1*

don't have the time nor the resources or anything else to seek the relief I've sought of the little bit of tranquility to deal with this issue."

**B2H not yet approved**

Throughout the end of 2021 and the start of 2022, Idaho Power filed a slew of petitions to gain access to private property across Eastern Oregon via court orders. More than 10 petitions were placed in Union County, including against Larkin and his property.

Each petition is worded similarly, requesting access to the land in order to perform a number of surveys and examinations ahead of the project's potential approval. Most of the work would be done throughout the early spring and into the start of summer — crew size varies from two people to upward of 20 workers on site per day.

According to Jim Kreider, one of the founders of the Stop B2H Coalition, the Oregon Department of Energy has a set of procedures for conducting "over-the-fence" surveys for landowners who choose not to allow access to their property. However, Idaho Power is seeking access to the properties through Oregon Revised Statute 772.210, in order "to acquire real property necessary and convenient for constructing and



**Greg Larkin on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, points out where the proposed Boardman to Hemingway power line transmission towers would be placed on his property near Morgan Lake.**

maintaining power lines."

The surveys vary per location, but consist of largely the same tests. According to the petition, Idaho Power wants to conduct the following surveys at the Larkin location in 2022 or 2023:

- Three-toed woodpecker and northern goshawk
- Rare plant inspection
- Wetlands inspection
- Terrestrial visual encounter survey
- Raptor survey
- Noxious weed survey
- Cultural, Archeological, and historic properties management plan inspection
- Land survey
- Appraisal field visit

"It's kind of a bully tactic," said JoAnn Harris Rode, Larkin's partner.

Harris Rode has worked fire watches in Eastern Oregon for 34 years, which led to her having additional concerns related to the potential power lines. The lines will affect ground tactics as well as access by air in the case of a wildfire — she noted that the ridge is prone to lightning and that a tree on Larkin's property was struck by lightning last September. Larkin has plans to build a small fire tower on his property, but the potential B2H tower would be constructed at the same spot on the plot of land.

"A lot of this is coming

down to cost," Kreider said. "With these individual landowners, we're talking through the processes. For those that want to fight it, we're working with them to find attorneys."

Kreider stated that the bigger picture needs to be considered in the B2H proposal, noting the value of the scenery to landowners in Eastern Oregon.

"For the Grande Ronde Valley, one of the routes is putting (the transmission towers) right in the viewshed. What is the loss of tourism value? They don't really look at that," he said. "They look at the utilities point of view and the public convenience of having this additional energy or resil-



**Greg Larkin and Killie, his blue heeler, make their way toward his property near Morgan Lake on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022.**

ency in the transmission system."

**Long-term effects**

Those opposed to B2H voice numerous concerns about the long-term impacts of the lines. Idaho Power and its partner, PacifiCorp, would make a one-time payment to landowners in order to provide compensation. For Larkin, this money would be used fully in finding a new residence after having no other option but to abandon the land he has worked on for years.

Larkin and other B2H opposers also are concerned about the loss of tourism at Morgan Lake. Living just a stone's throw away from the lake, Larkin witnesses a plethora of visitors on a daily basis walking dogs, watching the sunset and enjoying the views.

"Even if I take myself

out of the equation up there, the amount of people that just come up to pass the lake and watch the sunsets is substantial," Larkin said.

Kreider expressed opposition to Idaho Power moving forward with land surveys before the project is officially approved and underway. In the current pre-condemnation process, the Stop B2H Coalition is looking to work toward legal representation for local landowners impacted by the lines.

As Idaho Power heads to court in order to move forward with its plans, local landowners like Larkin are left looking for answers to protect their properties and their way of life.

"Everything you read from Idaho Power is that it's all ice cream and cake for everybody," Larkin said. "It's not."



**Marjorie Waite, left, climbs the rock wall at Eastern Oregon University's Quinn Coliseum on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022.**

**CLIMBING**

*Continued from Page A1*

Jose de Jesus Melendez, the school district's director of student success.

Hatch is struck by the quick impact the program has on students.

"We see a dramatic increase in self-confidence just in the hour they are here," Hatch said in a video about the Team 5C on the La Grande School District's website.

Climbers use gear similar to that used outdoors, including harnesses around their waists. Climbers thread a rope tied to the harness through anchors in the wall. A stationary partner, known as a belayer, holds the other end of the rope to break any falls. The belayers are EOU students and staff members who have been trained by Hatch and are certified.

Davenport said climbers quickly develop a rapport with their belayers.



**Central Elementary student Briley Riley-Heisinger makes her way up the rock wall at Eastern Oregon University's Quinn Coliseum on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022.**

"There is an instant feeling of trust," she said.

Much of the instruction Davenport and Hatch provide to students is focused on safety.

"Safety is always our top priority," Davenport said.

Climbing tips include encouraging the students to look to their lower extremities when moving up the walls.

"Push with your legs, not your arms. That is

where your strength is," Davenport told students on Feb. 11.

Davenport said that the challenges posed by wall climbing are as much mental as physical.

"Climbing is creative problem solving while you are moving," she said.

A total of 482 students in 21 classes are participating in the Team 5C program.

Davenport tells children EOU's climbing

wall is open for families each Monday through Thursday from 4-9 p.m.

She said the children are very excited when they hear this.

"Their eyes light up. They say, 'You meant we can come back?'" Davenport said.

Davenport said she and Hatch try to inspire students by using the word "yet." She said that if a student comes down and is discouraged after not making it to the top, she will try to make the boy or girl realize that they will have many opportunities to reach the top in the future.

"We'll tell them, 'You know what, you didn't get there yet.' This gives them an open door to come back another day and try again. We want the kids to walk away from this feeling great," Davenport said.

**MORE INFORMATION**

Registration is now open to teachers for the 10-week online EOU Reading Clinic. The deadline to enroll in the 2022 summer cohort is May 31. Teachers should contact their school principals or other Regional Education Network leadership for information about stipends. The EOU Reading Clinic accepts donations through the EOU Foundation to support its ongoing work. Visit [eou.edu/foundation/general-donation-form](http://eou.edu/foundation/general-donation-form) and include "EOU Reading Clinic" as a memo, or contact Ronda Fritz at [rfritz@eou.edu](mailto:rfritz@eou.edu) for additional information.

**LITERACY**

*Continued from Page A1*

— but it jumps to 70-80% when you just look at children of color."

Addressing this systemic problem earned Fritz and the EOU Reading Clinic an \$80,000 grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust over the next two years. Fritz's peers in higher education are also taking notice.

EOU, originally a teachers' college, has a long history of graduating top-notch teachers, and the College of Education is already working to incorporate Fritz's findings into its wider curriculum for undergraduate and graduate students.

"It became a larger conversation about how we're training teachers at EOU," Fritz said. "We need to shift to include scientific evidence about how children learn to read and the best methods for teaching literacy."

Fritz said structured literacy intervention involves explicitly teaching children the code of language, rather than passively exposing students to literature and hoping they pick it up on their own.

"In the last couple of decades evidence has started to converge from neuroscience, cognitive science and psychology all coming to the same conclusions," she said. "Modern brain research is confirming what educators had found effective for a while. We're finding that brain struc-

ture and transformation requires explicit teaching of that code, not leaving it to chance."

Teacher prep programs had taught that reading was as natural as speaking, but Fritz said modern data doesn't support that approach. She pointed to growing evidence that universities should adjust the methods pre-service teachers learn for teaching reading.

"It's a call to action for higher education to acknowledge that, and EOU is answering the call and leading the way in the state of Oregon," Fritz said.

Structured literacy intervention has already shown positive results in states like Mississippi, where literacy rates shot from the bottom to among the best in the country after just six years.

"Other states have made incredible gains by ensuring teachers are trained in the science of reading," Fritz said. "Science tells us that using the right instruction, 95% of students should be at grade level by the end of third grade."

That increase has a lasting impact because third grade reading scores can predict high school dropout rates, college attendance and even incarceration. Fritz said those foundational years ensure students can access curriculum later on because they've mastered reading.

"Teachers are hungry for these methods to make a difference for kids that are struggling in their classrooms," Fritz said.

**Charles & Eileen Stewart**

10304 A 1st St.  
Island City, OR

[cstewartpc@gmail.com](mailto:cstewartpc@gmail.com)

**541.910.5435**

**OLD HICKORY**  
— BUILDINGS & SHEDS —

Authorized Dealer

Pay cash or Rent to own

5 YEAR WARRANTY

U-HAUL AUTHORIZED DEALER

mowers | small engines | chainsaws | garden tillers | trimmers | trailers | utvs

**Meeting YOUR OUTDOOR POWER NEEDS**

**CALL NOW!**  
to schedule service for the **Winter Specials**  
starting in **November**  
Up to **33% OFF**

**INLAND**  
Turf & Equipment

**541.963.4985**

10303 W. 1st St. La Grande, OR  
[WWW.INLANDTURF.NET](http://WWW.INLANDTURF.NET)