Meters: 'I was appalled when I learned what they were charging'

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After hearing complaints from several friends about the issue, Paddon circulated a petition that garnered about 100 signatures. The petition asks the county commission to issue a moratorium against Pacific Power levying any kind of opt-out fee until the matter can be re-evaluated by the state Public Utility Commission, which regulates the power company.

"I was appalled when I learned what they were charging," Paddon said.

In a letter shared with the county commission, state Rep. Tiffiny Mitchell, D-Astoria, also echoed these concerns, writing that she found the program overall to be a benefit but noted the loss of local jobs and the cost burden.

The concern over optout fees is not unique to the North Coast. In October, Josephine County commissioners adopted an ordinance prohibiting utilities from charging opt-out fees for customers. The Public Utility Commission sued the county, saying it does not have the authority to set rates.

Pacific Power has submitted an alternative optout plan to the Public Utility Commission, where customers would pay \$9 a month for



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan, left, expresses the concerns of constituents about Pacific Power's new smart meters.

less-frequent meter reads.

It is not within Clatsop County's power to stop the rollout of smart meters or change the rates, according to county counsel. But commissioners felt it was important to communicate constituent concerns to the Public Utility Commission.

"The pricing makes it really unavailable, so that's my concern," Commissioner Lianne Thompson said. "I think it's an upgrade. I'm going to have one at my house ... I respect that other people have a different idea, and I don't want to price people out of a choice."

Commissioner Mark Kujala disagreed, and said while he appreciated the community input, smart meters are a benefit to the county — especially for major public works operations in Warrenton, a city he represents

"I feel strongly that we do not intervene in this," Kujala said.

The county commission will consider sending a letter to the Public Utility Commission.

"I know a lot of people that are very fine with smart meters," Thompson said. "But in respect to people who are not, I want to raise their concerns with the body that has the authority to deal with them. And that's not



Pacific Power representative Alisa Dunlap, far right, gives a presentation about smart meters.



EVENT TITLE:

Could LEMTRADA be right for you?

WHERE:

Baked Alaska 1 12th Street #1 Astoria, OR 97103 **A7**

WHEN:

March 2nd, 2019 at 11:30am

SPEAKER(S):

Leah Gaedeke Portland, Oregon

Hospital: Rural hospitals across the state face increasing challenges

Continued from Page A1

institution will help with corporate issues such as reimbursements and insurance coverage.

"Scale does matter, and it helps us combat all the changes that are happening in the industry to have a partner," he said.

Rural hospitals across the state face increasing challenges of being profitable and retaining and recruiting physicians, said Mark O'Hollaren, director of clinical outreach at OHSU. The university has myriad partnerships providing specialty physicians, services, telemedicine support and education at hospitals around Oregon and southwest Washington.

"OHSU has a statewide mission," he said. "We find ourselves situated in Portland, but we have 96,000 square miles of the state to try and do the best we can to help with the resources we have. It's become very clear we need community partners more than ever



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Mark O'Hollaren, center, director of clinical outreach at Oregon Health & Science University, and Erik Thorsen, right, CEO at at Columbia Memorial Hospital, have extolled the virtues of the two entities deepening their partnership.

before to succeed at all of our missions. Clinical care and research will not be fulfilled from the top of a hill in Portland."

Rural hospitals provide a proving ground to teach potential physicians what operating in environments with more limited resources is like, O'Hollaren said. "It allows them to be exposed, (to) see if that's the kind of medical practice they'd like to do," he said. Since 2015, Columbia Memorial's emergency department has been staffed by OHSU physicians, including Dr. Shannon Lee, one of the first physicians to rotate through the hospital as a medical student.

"When we started rotating residents to Astoria, I wondered how successful it would be," O'Hollaren said. "I'm now told it's one of the most popular rotations for medical students."

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PEP-10966

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THE DAILY ASTORIAN

5 GHEDULE

Evening listingsTHURSDAY

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THURS	DAY	EVENING	4			A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach					F	EBRUARY 28		
Α	L	6 рм	6:30	7 рм 🥌	7:30	8 рм	8:30	9 рм	9:30	10 рм	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
(2) KATU	(2	KATU News at 6 (N	ı)	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	Grey's A. "We Didn'	t Start the Fire" (N)	Million Little Thing	"Goodbye" (SF) (N)	How to Get Away	With Murder (N)	News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel	
KOM		KOMO 4 News at 6		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Grey's A. "We Didn'	't Start the Fire" (N)	Million Little Thing	"Goodbye" (SF) (N)			KOMO4News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel	
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(6) KOIN		KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra			e Round, Part 3" (N)			S.W.A.T. "S.O.S."		News (N)	(:35) Colbert	
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8 KGW		KGW News at 6:00		Tonight Cassidy		Titan Games "Chan		Brooklyn 99 (N)		Law & Order: S.V.		News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show	
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(10) KOPB				` '				Midsomer M. (:50) Midsomer "The The Orville "Identity, Pt. 2" Pt. 2 of 2 (N)				ery! "Endeavour: Game"		
(12) KPTV		6 O'Clock News (N		Family Feud		Gotham "Nothing's						News (N)	Page Six TV	
(E) KPDX		Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly			8pm Prime News (N		9pm Prime News (Big Bang Theory		American Dad!	The Game	
■ KCPQ		Modern Family				Gotham "Nothing's			y, Pt. 2" Pt. 2 of 2 (N)			News (N)	The Simpsons	
20 TBS		Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld				Big Bang Theory			Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)	Seinfeld	
KZJO		Black-ish NCAA Basketball (Black-ish	Mom				Q13 News at 9 (N)			Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	
29 ESPN		NCAA Basketball (L)				SportsCenter (N)				SportsCenter (N) NFL Live		SportsCenter (N) Now or Never (N) UFC UFC 232		
(31) NICK						NCAA Basketball Gonzaga at Pacific (L) SpongeBob SpongeBob		★★ Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs ('0				Friends	Friends	
32 DISN		Coop & Cami	Coop & Cami		Raven's Home 3/3					Sydney to the Max		Andi Mack	Raven's Home	
34 FAM						Siren "Distress Call"			Animated) Voices of E			The 700 Club	navell 3 Hollie	
35 FMC		(5:30) ★★ The 40-Year-Old Virgin ('05) Catherine Keener, Paul Rudd, Steve Carell. Movie (:25) Mechanic: Resurrection ('16) Jason Statham.								(:15) ** Pompeii (2014, Adventure) Emily Browning, Jared Harris, Kit Harington.				
36 LIFE		Grey's A. "Good M				Bring It! Fan Chat "A Star is Born" (N) Brin				(:05) The Rap Game "SuperNova" (N)		DaBrat/ RapGame		
33 ROOT						NCAA Basketball Portland at St. Mary's Co				NCAA Basketball Santa Clara at Loyola N				
39 FS1		NCAA Basketball Arizona at Oregon State (L)			NCAA Basketball Washington at California (L)			Fair Game						
(43) SPIKE			Friends	Friends							: Pet Detective ('94)			
44 COM		(5:45) Parks and Re			1	The Office		The Office		Broad City (N)	The Other Two (N)			
(45) HIST		Swamp People "Cl		Swamp People "Le	viathans"	Swamp People "No	Man's Land"	Swamp People "Co		(:05) Truck Night "((:05) Swamp People		
46 A&E	(46	The First 48 "Love Hate/ A Soldier's Life"		The First 48 "Runner Runner"		The First 48 "Family First" (N)		The First 48 (N)		60 Days In "Loose	Lips Sink Ships" (N)	(:05) The First 48 "Bad Lick/ Red Dawn"		
47 TLC	(47	Yes Dress "Don't Show the Goodies"						Dr. Pimple Popper "Mic Drop Pop!" (N)				(:05) Untold Stories "Deep Trouble"		
48 DISC		Building Off the G			ntana Mountaintop"	Off Grid "Appalachi	an Underground"	Build Off Grid "Big	Sur Modern Retreat"	Building Off Grid '	'Mushroom House"	Building Off the G	rid "Alaska"	
49 NGEO		Access 360° World		South Africa		State Troop. "Arme		Alaska Troopers "I		State Troop. "Deep	Woods Standoff"	State Troop. "Arme		
50 TNT		(5:00) NBA Basketba					h Jazz at Denver Nuggets Site: Pepsi Center				Inside the NBA		NBA Basketball Phi./Okl.	
61 AMC		(5:25) ★★★ Twister (1996, Action) Bill Pax				*** Cast Away (2000, Drama) Helen Hu						A Bronx Tale ('93, Dra) Robert De Niro.		
52 USA		NCIS "Hit and Run"		NCIS "Canary"		NCIS "Hereafter"		NCIS "Detour"		NCIS "Prime Suspec		NCIS "Seek"		
53 FOOD				Chopped "Count Yo		Chopped "Lamb Sla		Chopped "Chicken		Beat Flay (N)	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	
54 HGTV			Desert Flippers				Flip/Flop Nashville		Flip/Flop Nashville			House Hunters	House Hunters	
56 FX		★ Daddy's Home (2015, Comedy) Mark				★ Bad Moms (2016, Comedy) Kristen Bell,				Better (SP) (N)	Better Things	Better Things	Bad Moms ('16)	
CNN CNN		Cuomo Prime Time								Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		
53 FNC								<u> </u>		Hannity		The Ingraham Ang		
61 CNBC		Shark Tank								Shark Tank		Paid Program	Paid Program	
63 BRAV								Million Listing "Hell or High Water" (N)				Watch What (N)	Million Dollar List	
64 TCM 65 SYFY				★★★ Somebody Up There Likes Me ('56 1, Action) Cam Gigandet, Maggie Q, Paul Be				:15) ** Torever Amber (1947, Drama) Action) Hiroyuki Sanada, Tadanobu Asano,				ell. Deadly Class "Rise	Movie	
(162) RFD		SF Machinery	Small Town	Rural America 'Live				, Action) Hiroyuki Sar Grown		SF Machinery	Small Town	Time Life Library	Above	
102 KFD	(16)) is machinery	JIIIdii IOWII	Inuidi America Live	€ (F) (N)	Steve Lantvit	nuidi Eve. News	GIOWII	raiiii Wonitor	or Machinery	DINGII IOWII	Time Life Library		