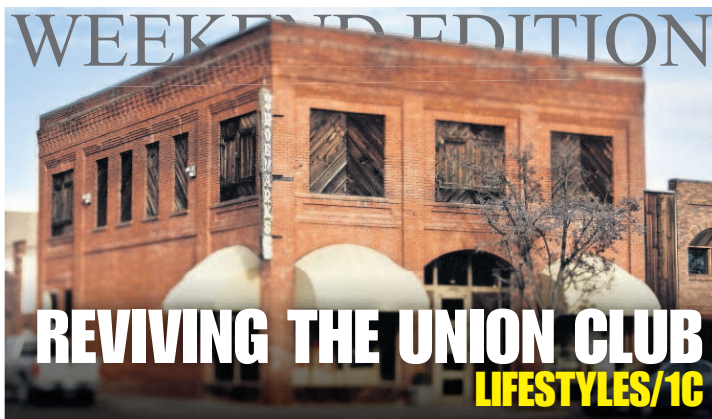


UMATILLA BEATS IRRIGON
SPORTS/1B



REVIVING THE UNION CLUB
LIFESTYLES/1C



ELK HOOF DISEASE 6C

EAST OREGONIAN

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GOBHI: Lifeways crisis services below standards

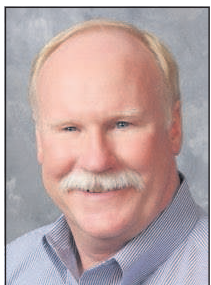
By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Umatilla County's mental health provider has been given until Feb. 20 to make key changes to its crisis services or risk losing its contract.

Lifeways Inc., the community mental health program in Umatilla County, was put on notice by its administrative organization, Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc.

In a statement, GOBHI CEO Kevin Campbell said Lifeways will likely need to hire an outside consultant to oversee the program.

"It has become quite clear that things are not improving fast enough," he said in the release. "We believe that it's time for



"It has become quite clear that things are not improving fast enough. We believe that it's time for Lifeways, Inc. to get some outside help."

— Kevin Campbell, GOBHI CEO

Lifeways, Inc. to get some outside help."

Campbell said he could not say who the consultant would be, but that it would be someone from within Oregon. He said the goal of the new position would be to listen to community partners, meet the needs of law enforcement and get a mobile crisis service completely functional.

"We think that will happen quicker if [...] the outside party is accountable to both Lifeways and GOBHI," he said. "We're not talking about taking over the program — we're talking about bringing in professional help."

Campbell said Lifeways had been trying to improve their crisis

See LIFEWAYS/12A



Lifeways Inc., the community mental health program in Umatilla County, has been given until Feb. 20 to make key changes to its crisis services or risk losing its contract.

EO file photo

PENDLETON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton High School freshman Daniel Lamont was homeless for about four months last year living in a tent with his mother in the backyard of a family member's house. During that time, Lamont said he spent a lot of his time at the Pendleton Public Library.

Homeless in high school

3 percent of Pendleton students in impermanent housing

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

According to state statistics, nearly 3 percent of Pendleton students get up, go to school and then find themselves sleeping in a tent or crashing on a couch for the night.

For Pendleton's homeless student population, high school life is about enduring impermanent housing while balancing their lives at school.

For the Lamonts, the difference between having a roof over their head was a missed deadline.

Tasha Lamont and her 15-year-old son Daniel were kicked out of their subsidized housing when she didn't turn in her recertification paperwork to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in time.

Tasha said she takes full responsibility for the mishap, but she also didn't know where else to go. She wasn't in a domestic abuse situation or addicted to drugs, so shelters geared to help people dealing with those situations were not available.

The pair could go to places like the Pendleton Public Library or Walmart

Homelessness increases in Oregon

Every two years, during the last ten days of January, there is a nationwide effort to count every homeless person in the United States. The last such point-in-time effort took place in 2017. According to the Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services:

- The number of people experiencing homelessness in Oregon was 13,953. This was a 6 percent increase since 2015.
- 70 percent of this population were people living in households without children
- About one out of four homeless people were in households with children, and were more likely to be sheltered
- 4 percent of the homeless population, or 605 people, consisted of unaccompanied children under the age of 18.
- There were 3,387 chronically homeless people, making up 24 percent of the total homeless population.

during the day, but finding an overnight place proved more difficult. The Pendleton Warming Station doesn't accept anyone under 18, so Tasha had to cross that off her list as well.

By August, the Lamonts had settled into their only option: a tent in a family member's backyard.

Daniel said the following months in the tent were tough, especially when he had to get up in the morning without heat.

He tried to keep his homelessness under wraps, but rumors began to spread. Whenever a classmate dropped him off after school, he would get questions as to why he went through the back instead of to the front door.

He would tell them that his family would let him in through the back door, but that didn't stop the gossip from continuing to churn.

See STUDENTS/12A



KATHY ANEY
Comment

A dark and stormy night

I love a good storm. When lightning sizzles through the sky and rain batters the window glass, I can't look away. I pull up a chair.

If the storm rages inside my body, however, it's quite another matter.

When my husband Bill got the flu a couple of weeks ago, I brought him soup and tea. I didn't

More inside

Flu season hitting earlier than usual
REGION/3A

worry about getting the flu. After all, I hadn't seen a doctor for anything other than a routine

checkup in years. I exercised every day and ate plenty of vegetables. I arrogantly believed I was so healthy, flu would take one look and back away, hands lifted in a gesture of submission. A virus would bounce off my body like hot oil in a Teflon pan, right?

Wrong. Several days ago, my chest tightened and a chill reverberated through my body. Shaking it off, I went on with my day. Within hours, flu hit me over the head with a tire iron, or so it seemed. I had the classic array of influenza symptoms: difficulty breathing, sore throat, runny nose, fever, cough and weakness. I slept for 24 hours straight.

I wrote about the flu just before I got sick.

In the story, Dr. Ann Thomas, public health physician for the State of Oregon said flu season had taken off dramatically in the last few weeks. Thomas predicted a record-setting season. She urged people to run to the nearest pharmacy

See FLU/12A

