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# EAST OREGONIAN

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## PGE seeks permit to increase pollution limits



Contributed photo by Michael Durham  
**Construction of the Carty Generating Station as seen in August 2015.**

Company says Carty plant in Boardman needs more flexibility in permit

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
*East Oregonian*

Portland General Electric's natural gas-fired power plant in Boardman would be allowed to emit more than three times as much carbon monoxide and eight times as much smog-causing pollution if a new permit is approved.

Dan Serres, conservation director with the environmental organization

Columbia Riverkeeper, called the higher amounts "eyebrow-raising." Steve Corson, spokesman for Portland General Electric, said the new permit would allow for the upper limit of pollution at the plant, which still would be within federal standards for air quality.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is holding a public hearing on the proposal Thursday at 6 p.m. in Boardman at the Port

of Morrow's Well Springs Room.

Portland General Electric can emit 99 tons of carbon monoxide a year at the Carty plant under the DEQ's current air quality permit. The new permit would increase that to 324 tons a year.

Volatile organic compounds would see a larger jump, from 24 tons a year to 194 tons a year. VOCs are organic compounds that combine with other elements

in the atmosphere to cause ozone or smog.

"The way PGE initially got this permitted was with the expectation of a lower pollution profile than what they're asking for," Serres said. "This was really eyebrow-raising for us to see this huge proposal coming from the gas-fired plant."

Serres also said the permitting process for

See **CARTY/8A**

## Lifeways brings on consultant to restore confidence

By **KATHY ANEY**  
and **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**  
*East Oregonian*

Lifeways recently received an ultimatum: change its ways or lose its contract.

The mental health provider responded by engaging consultant Paul Spriggs-Flanders to help the agency improve crisis services for Umatilla County.

In past months, Pendleton and Hermiston police chiefs and others have criticized Lifeways for leaving it up to law enforcement officers to de-escalate mental crises encountered on the streets. Often, they said, people in crisis end up in jail or back on the streets without receiving adequate treatment. They also complained that Lifeways won't deal with people in mental crisis who are also intoxicated.

Kevin Campbell, CEO of contracting agency Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. issued a public statement in early January saying that if Lifeways didn't make "key changes" by Feb. 20, its contract for crisis services in Umatilla County would be terminated.

Spriggs-Flanders could be just the one to put Lifeways on a better course, said Campbell. He said Spriggs-Flanders, the founder of the Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness, has worked in the trenches and recently retired from the Enterprise mental health center.

See **LIFEWAYS/8A**

# LIVING ON THE MOON

## NASA classes teach basics of lunar colonization

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

On Feb. 6, SpaceX launched a rocket into outer space that the company envisions could one day carry supplies to the moon.

Two weeks later, NASA had students from Pendleton High School working on how humankind could establish a lunar colony.

Northwest Earth and Space Sciences Pipeline, a collaboration between NASA and the University of Washington, set down on Pendleton as a part of an outreach program.

Academics working with the pipeline took over several PHS classes, giving short lectures and conducting experiments under a single theme: What would it take for humans to colonize the moon?

It's not exactly an easy answer. A video shown during science teacher Glenn Johnston's class stated that it would take an estimated \$10 billion to establish a lunar settlement and another \$2 billion per year to maintain, figures that far exceed NASA's current budget.

See **NASA/8A**



Staff photos by E.J. Harris  
**TOP:** A group of freshmen look over a schematic demonstrating how to make an electrical circuit on Tuesday at Pendleton High School.  
**ABOVE:** Students watch as Geologist Quinn Oksotkaruk demonstrates an improvised water filter in a science class Tuesday at Pendleton High School.  
**BACKGROUND:** This image, contributed by NASA, was taken before separation of the lunar module and the command module during Apollo 11 Mission.



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