

EPUD *from A1*

77 percent of customers who have seen a rate decrease from tiered rates. On the other hand, we need to address the valid concerns of customers hard hit by the third-tier rate," said Kevin Parrish, EPUD board presi-

dent. In a statement released on Thursday, the utility said it planned "intensive outreach" to customers who are impacted by the third-tier price tag. Under the tiered-rate system, customers who use between one and 600 kilowatt hours are charged .069 cents per kilowatt

hour. Those who use between 601 kWh and 1,800 kWh are charged .0796 cents, equivalent to EPUD's flat rate in 2017. Those who use more than 1,800 kWh pay .1089 cents. Earlier this year, EPUD public relations coordinator Patty Jo Angelini noted that the tiered-rate system was part of a

larger effort to encourage energy conservation and that EPUD had several programs in place to help customers contend with higher bills during the winter months. She also noted that the tiered-rate system was not the sole cause of jumps in bills during the winter months stating that

bills always show an increase during the winter as customers being using their heating systems — some of which she said were inefficient. "We want to know what we can do as a utility to help our customers use less energy," Parrish said in the statement. "Especially in the winter, and avoid

higher bills." According to EPUD, the decision to continue the tiered-rate system followed discussion between the board, staff and a citizen advisory committee that met twice prior to providing a recommendation to the board of directors.

ADVISORY *from A1*

draw in-home water directly from the affected area use an alternative water source due to the inability of private treatment systems to remove algae toxins.

Public treatment water systems, according to OHA, can reduce the toxin through proper filtration and disinfection.

The Cottage Grove City manager's office referred questions to the Row River water treat-

ment facility's superintendent Ray Pardee.

"Drinking water is safe," Pardee said. "We are testing the water that we bring to the water treatment plant from the Row River that comes from Dorena Reservoir and the tests we have done so far have not detected any of the toxins the bloom could produce."

Recreational visitors were advised to be alert and to avoid areas with visible scum that appears foamy, thick or that

is pea-green, blue-green or brownish-red in color.

"People should avoid swimming and high-speed water activities such as water skiing or power boating, in areas where blooms are identified.

Although toxins are not absorbed through the skin, people who have skin sensitivities may experience a puffy red rash at the affected area," the press release read.

Officials also advised that individuals not drink water di-

rectly from Dorena Reservoir or eat fresh fish caught in its waters.

During the June 11 city council meeting, Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers told the board that the city would be testing water coming from Dorena at the intake of the Row River treatment facility every week, citing the no-drinking orders issued in Salem over the last month after officials discovered cyanotoxin in the public drinking water.

Meyers informed the board that the toxin had been found in Dorena Reservoir in the past and that the city was exploring options should the algae be detected in the city's drinking water due to the possibility that the current treatment process used at the city's facility could cause additional toxins to be released from the algae if it is present.

"I think what he's (Meyer) referring to is the harmful bloom cells," Pardee said. "That if they


contain toxins and it enters the intake and comes to the treatment plant, we do use a process called oxidation and it could repurpose the intact algae cells and if those cells contained toxins, it would release the toxins in the water and it would concentrate the toxin in the water. A lot of ifs."

Pardee said if the toxins were detected, the treatment facility would halt the oxidation process and make adjustments to the treatment process.


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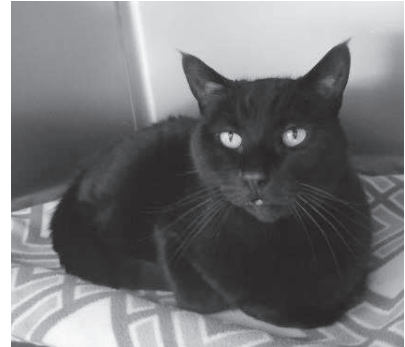
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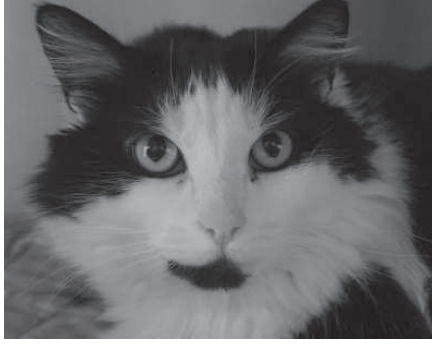
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