



The DeVolder Family Science Center, which opened in 2013, was one of the facilities inspected by DEQ.

DEQ fines Western Oregon University for hazardous waste storage, disposal

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University faced \$12,000 in fines after failing to pass an inspection by the Department of Environmental Quality in December 2014.

Hazardous waste inspector Susan Shewczyk said WOU had been considered a conditionally exempt generator, which means the campus generates less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste in a month.

"When I got there and I was looking at paperwork, they had manifests indicating they were a large quantity generator in 2013, which means there's at least double the amount of regulation that is required," she said. "That in and of itself, they would have had to dispose of all their waste on site in 90 days."

For 2014, Western would have been considered a small quantity generator, still not the conditional exempt generator they were registered as, Shewczyk said.

"There are a set of regulations that are totally different," she noted. "They were not qualifying with small quantity generator management requirements."

Shewczyk said she found issues with storage and labeling of hazardous waste while inspecting the campus, as well.

Director of campus public safety Rebecca Chiles said some of the issues were a matter of miscommunication about WOU's generator status at the time.

"That's something that we're trying to get cleared up," she said. "The main focus is we fixed every single thing that they found. We fixed it right away. Most of the issues were caused be-

cause of some confusion about what our generator status is."

Shewczyk said the DEQ requires monthly counts on how much hazardous waste is generated.

"If at any time they are over 220 pounds, they are required to have all the documentation and labeling that is necessary for a small quantity generator," she said.

Chiles said this was the first onsite inspection WOU has had in about eight years. Shewczyk said facilities listed as conditionally exempt generators aren't often inspected. Each year, a list is generated on who will get inspected. Last year, Western was on the list, Shewczyk said.

"I happened to arrive on site and it was quite apparent that they were a small quantity generator," she said. "I went through it. They were managing waste as a

conditionally exempt generator."

Shewczyk said the 2013 stint as a large quantity generator of hazardous waste was probably a one-time event.

"This was from a cleanup from the chemistry building," she said. "It just kicked them immediately into LQG. It kind of surprised them."

However, a university should know these things, Shewczyk noted.

"Because they're a university, I expect a lot from them," she said. "It's very noticeable, and they have students there."

Chiles said the university is looking to appeal the findings based on the miscommunication about WOU's status.

"We were doing the right thing by reporting all of that," she said. "We've always been in constant contact to make sure we're doing the right thing."

ACADEMIC HONORS

Local students excel at Western

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University released its honor roll and president's list for the spring 2015 term on Aug. 5.

Students who earn a 4.0 grade-point average in a term are placed on the president's list, and those who earn a 3.5-3.99 GPA are listed in the honor roll. Local students are listed.

President's list: (4.0 or higher)

Dallas: Anne Sophia Barrientos, Krysta Renee Miller, Brittany Newman, Julie Ann Postma, Parker Neal Smith and Brandon Michael Updike.

Independence: Zarah Lynn Buitron, Jessica Kennedy Justice, Elizabeth Madera-Solis, Lori Jean Peterson and Raina Kae Smith.

Monmouth: Dillon Michael Blinn, Jeff Aaron Collet and James Martin Masnov.

Willamina: Stephanie Marie Delker.

Honor roll: (3.5-3.99)

Dallas: Bethany Blancher, Grant Michael Bollman, Tyler Theodore Brumfield, Serena D. Chiellini, Emily DuMond, Britneigh Gaetz, Melissa Garcia, Jill K. Gentry, Colby B. Kinkade, Elizabeth Ann Kowash, Kyle Jeffrey Kuust, Anna Christine Markee, Joanne M. Mayberry, Maria Mei-Li McCarthy, Jessica Reimer, Megan Raschel Reynolds, Jordan Allen Schrock, Nickie Ann Sickles, Hannah A. Smith, Shawn Michael Thornhill, Tyler Damon Wolfe, Emily N. Wright and Joel T. Yost.

Falls City: Jonathan Michael Kain.

Independence: Kevin Salvador Alejandrez, Anne Butler, Jeffrey Wayne Clinton, Veronica Estrada, Celene Garcia-Murillo, Isaac Cory Golden, Anusha Brittany Hoda, Ethan Nathaniel Keen, Ambre Jean McKee, Tiffany Powers, Margaret Ann Smith and Joshua Immanuel Thornton.

Monmouth: Thomas Leif Anderson, Kathleen Marie Biggs, Nicola Marie Farrington, Elaina Joy Glasscock, Erin M. Hoffman, Colton Seth Johnson, Megan Elizabeth Johnson, Michael Matthew Jones, Molly Christine Keizer, Erin Mathews, Hugh A. McElhone, D'Kota Wayne Milburn, Joshua Darrell Patterson, Jesse Benjamin Pratt, Mykel Jeffrey Presler, Tori Ann Stutzman, Jesse Samuel Sutter, Arrienne M. Wadsworth and Emily Ruth Watson.

Willamina: Ashley Rose Eddings.

Monmouth man earns top marks

FRONT ROYAL, Va. — Lucas Costa, of Monmouth, has been named to the Randolph-Mason Academy's president's list for the fourth quarter of the 2014-15 school year.

To be named to the list, a student must earn a grade-point average of 4.0 or higher.

Costa is the son of Cinthia Costa Jones, of Monmouth, and Alexandre Costa, of Curitiba, Brazil.

PCRW awards three scholarships

POLK COUNTY — Polk County Republican Women presented three scholarships to the winners of its essay contest analyzing the movie "Iron Jawed Maidens," about the fight to pass the 19th Amendment.

Hannah Skyberg of Willamina received \$1,250; Lyric Spivey of Grand Ronde received \$1,000; and Alexandria Nave of Dallas received \$750. The program was established in 2012 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

The contest is open to any female senior graduating from a Polk County school who has plans to pursue post-high school education.

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