

BUSINESS BEAT

New college opens in John Day

Cosmetology is just the start, owner says

By Cheryl Hoefler
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Those interested in a cosmetology career can now follow that dream right here in Grant County.

Eastern Oregon College of

Industrial Arts, LLC/College of Cosmetology opened recently in John Day, promising new opportunities for students as well as services for the community.

Owner Nina LeAnne Gast has spent many years in the field, both as a cosmetologist and as an instructor. Her mission is to offer a student-centered education in an innovative, comprehensive salon facility with hands-on training.

“This is a high fashion industry, and I wanted an educational facility that would reflect student’s desire to pursue a career in the field,” Gast said.

She is assisted by certified cosmetology instructor Darian Maynard.

The College of Cosmetology is only the start – Gast plans to add other vocational programs in the future.

The educational facility is the only one of its kind in this part of the state.

The school offers a range of courses in barbering, hair design, nail technology and esthetics. Courses are offered individually or in combination, on a full- or part-time basis.

New classes are offered as often as every six weeks, and most programs range from four to 18 months, Gast said.

Students who successfully finish a program will receive a certificate of completion, and can take the applicable state exam to become licensed.

The facility includes a full salon in the main area, facial and pedicure rooms and a nail area, each with several stations. In addition,



Contributed photo

Nina LeAnne Gast, right, owner of Eastern Oregon College of Industry and Arts, LLC/College of Cosmetology, and fellow instructor Darian Maynard are ready for both students and clients at the new educational facility in John Day.

students have a library area, break room and lockers.

“I would like our students to feel like they are a priority,” Gast said.

The college also offers the community a full menu of salon services – perms, hair cuts, massages, nails and more – at a reduced price, as part of the educational process. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are accepted.

The school is certified by the state of Oregon, but not currently accredited. Gast

said she will seek national accreditation once other vocational programs are added.

Gast has taught cosmetology college in other cities, including Medford and Albany. Her certifications include Career School Teacher Registration, and last year she earned a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies from Eastern Oregon University.

Having lived in Grant County before, she returned in 2008 and styled hair at a salon while “seeking direction,” she said. About 3 1/2

years ago, a friend planted the seed of an idea to open a cosmetology college, and she began working toward that.

The effort at times seemed difficult, long and frustrating, Gast said, but “every time I hit a wall and wondered what to do, someone steered me in a direction and had an answer.”

“I loved and missed teaching,” she said.

Gast said she had considerable support and advice from Grant County Economic Development Coordinator Sally Bartlett and Eloise Boren of ER Printing and Graphics. Kathy Cancilla also offered help, and GREAT Corp. assisted with a loan to get things going.

Gast welcomes anyone interested in taking classes to stop in, pick up an application packet, and take a tour.

Class hours are 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Hours for client services are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Friday.

For more information, call 541-575-0700, or visit “EO-CIA, LLC College of Cosmetology” on Facebook.

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MEETING NOTICE

UPPER MAINSTEM AND SOUTH FORK JOHN DAY RIVER AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN.

The 2nd meeting of Biennial Review of the Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan will be held Monday, March 2, 2015 at 4:00pm at the USDA Conference Room at 721 S. Canyon Blvd., in John Day.

Contact Jason Kehrberg or Pat Holliday at 541-575-0135 with any questions.

NOW SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Community Connection has funds available for utility payment assistance in Union, Wallowa, Baker and Grant counties. Please contact your local office of Community Connect for more information or to schedule your appointment. Funds are limited.

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Bank of EO closes Pasco deal

Blue Mountain Eagle

HEPPNER – BEO Bancorp and subsidiary Bank of Eastern Oregon last week finalized the purchase of Bank Reale, based in Pasco, Wash.

The deal was approved by Bank Reale shareholders and received all the required reg-

ulatory approvals. The transfer was effective last Friday.

This week, the Bank Reale in Pasco opened as Bank of Eastern Washington, a branch of Bank of Eastern Oregon.

Heppner-based Bank of Eastern Oregon was founded in 1945 as Gilliam County

Bank in Arlington. Since then it has expanded to 12 branches and five loan production offices located in 11 Eastern Oregon counties, including locations in Grant County.

“Pasco marks our 13th branch and our first location in Eastern Washington,” said Jeff Bailey, president and

CEO of Bank of Eastern Oregon. “Our goal is to expand upon and execute the original vision of Bank Reale’s founders: to provide unequalled customer service and serve the banking needs of the local Pasco community as well as the outlying rural areas of the Columbia Basin.”

PRISON

Continued from Page A1

A Grant County grand jury

indicted Sanders on 26 counts including attempted aggravated murder, menacing, coercion, criminal mischief and recklessly endangering another.

The hearing last week brought the dismissal of all but the two coercion counts

from the original indictment.

A new filing by Carpenter lodged the attempted assault charges.

Sanders was in court with his attorney, Robert Raschio, as the judge pronounced the sentence. The

terms include:

- For coercion, a class C felony – 25 months on each of the two counts, to be served concurrently, with credit for time served, and 36 months of post-prison supervision on each count. He was ordered to have no contact with the victims.
- Attempted assault, a class A felony – 20 months on the first count and 28 months on the second, to be served consecutively, with no credit for time served, and with 36 months of post-prison supervision.

Sanders, if he qualifies, may apply for treatment and or programs that could reduce the amount of actual time spent in prison, but he must serve a minimum of 36 months before being released on any alternatives to incarceration.

Sanders declined to make a statement at the hearing. Of six people named as victims in the original indictment, only Moyer spoke last week, attending the hearing by teleconference.

She told the judge she fears Sanders will come after her when he gets out of prison.

She said the events of that night have affected her for life, and she can’t even go shopping or be in crowds without fear.

“I’m scared to death when a gun fires,” she said. “My life has changed.”

She said she hopes Sanders gets help “and doesn’t do this to another female again when he gets out.”

The hearing also dealt with the status of three guns related to the incident – weapons that were hidden that night in October and remained missing until just a few weeks ago.

Carpenter said Sanders and his attorney accompanied authorities to the Seneca site where he had stashed the guns. One gun was located then, and Sheriff Glenn Palmer later found the others with help of a metal detector.

In court, the guns were described as a .357 Magnum, a Smith and Wesson 40 caliber, and a 300 Winchester rifle.

Sanders forfeited any right to any guns seized from the incident.

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EVERY OTHER TUESDAY

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