

Small-business HAPPENINGS

National grocery shopping and delivery service expands to La Grande

LA GRANDE — WeGoShop, a national grocery shopping and delivery company, is expanding its services to include La Grande and surrounding areas. Associate Owner Jolene Wagoner will oversee the local store-to-door operations. The service provides personalized grocery shopping and delivery to your home or office from any of your favorite local stores.

“When you place your grocery shopping and delivery order with us we make sure that every item on your list is hand picked and of the best quality that your favorite local store has to offer without any unnecessary delays,” Wagoner said.

Orders, which can also be made with a smartphone app, may be opened for delivery days in advance and the client may choose particular brands. There is no club to join, no mark-ups and no registration fee. For more information and to place orders locally, contact Wagoner at jolene@wego-shop.com or call 1-877-934-6746 ext. 92.

RimRock Inn announces new hours

ENTERPRISE — Beginning this week, the RimRock Inn, 83471 Highway 3, Enterprise, will be open for lunch only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dinner will be served seven days a week until Labor Day by reservations only. For more information, go to www.rimrockinnor.com.

‘Grand reopening’ of U.S. Cellular celebrated next Tuesday

LA GRANDE — U.S. Cellular, 11621 Island Ave., La Grande, is hosting a grand reopening at 5:30 p.m. July 31. The business will host Business After Hours to celebrate its recent remodel with music, food and networking.

Bank of Eastern Oregon reports Second-quarter earnings

HEPPNER — Based in Heppner, BEO Bancorp and its subsidiary, Bank of Eastern Oregon, announced second-quarter 2018 consolidated net income of \$872,000 or \$0.73 per share, compared to \$742,000 or \$0.62 per share for second quarter 2017. Total assets were up 1.1 percent, net loans were up 2.1 percent, and deposits were up 1 percent year over year. Shareholders’ equity increased by \$1.98 million, or 6.3 percent from June 2017.

“Both deposits and loans have shown modest growth year over year,” Chief Operations Officer Gary Prophet said. “Our staff has been busy updating ATM offerings at select locations. We have installed deposit-taking ATMs as strategic upgrades to facilitate after hours and weekend deposits in Irrigon, Island City, Burns, John Day and Fossil. This is in addition to existing deposit taking ATMs in Athena, Dayville, Monument, Spray, Wasco, Lakeview and Ontario. The new machines have been well received by our customers.”

According to President and CEO Jeff Bailey, “Being an agricultural based bank, we are affected by the cyclical nature of the ag economy. Along with our producers, we are awaiting the outcome of the new farm bill, as well as any impact that tariffs and other geopolitical factors have on the ag economy.”

Oregon’s teen unemployment rate drops significantly

SALEM — Oregon’s unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in 2017, the lowest in the state since comparable records began in 1976. The unemployment rate for Oregon teens ages 16 to 19 was 9.5 percent in 2017, which was also the lowest unemployment rate since 1978 when comparable records began. This was a large drop from 2016 when the unemployment rate for teens was 20 percent.

The unemployment rate for Oregon young adults ages 20 to 24 was 7.6 percent in 2017, which was also the lowest unemployment rate recorded for this age category. The last time the unemployment rate for young adults was 7.6 percent in 2005. In 2016, the unemployment rate for young adults was 9.6 percent.

Having a part-time or summer job used to be the normal situation for many teenagers. The labor force participation of teens averaged around 59 percent from 1978 to 2000. The rate started falling dramatically in 2001 both in Oregon and the nation. During the recession and its aftermath, the rate continued to slip. For more information or help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state’s WorkSource Oregon centers or go to www.worksourceoregon.org.



Trish Yerges/ForWesCom News Service

Licensed esthetician Chelsea Weber, owner of Blue Mountain Mermaid in Elgin, offers a variety of healthy skin treatments, including facials, exfoliation, back (skin) treatments, hand and foot massages, lash and brow tinting and ear candling.

Skincare salon opens in Elgin

■ Blue Mountain Mermaid will offer healthy face and body treatments

By Trish Yerges
ForWesCom News Service

Sole proprietor and licensed esthetician Chelsea Weber is open for business at Blue Mountain Mermaid. She offers a variety of healthy face and body treatments, including facials, waxing and acne clarifying.

Weber remodeled her skincare center extensively, removing and replacing old carpeting with new wooden flooring. She repainted inside and out and brought in shelving and products that she purchased locally and from Wild Carrot Herbals in Enterprise. She also applied her company logo to the window, creating a business sign that is easy to read from the street.

Her business name hints to her Hawaiian home on the big island, where she was born and raised. She trained dolphins there for a decade, so her business name incorporates her new home with her oceanic experiences.

Weber has been working as an esthetician for 10 years. She completed her aesthetics schooling in Northern California and received specialized skin-care training from skilled mentors at the medical spa she worked for. Three years ago, she earned her master esthetician license at The Washington Laser Institute in Seattle. She is licensed in Oregon as well and enjoys educating people about skin care.

“Your largest organ is your skin, and I encourage people to start taking care of it,” Weber said.

She does this by means of facials and exfoliation for the

face and back to remove dead, dry skin that may be blocking pores and contributing to acne conditions.

“Sometimes the back is a very neglected area,” she said. “A lot of people get breakouts on their back, so I do a facial on their back. I scrub it, do an exfoliation, look to see if there’s anything to extract and (also) do a wonderful massage.”

She also waxes hair anywhere on the body, using a hard wax or strip wax, which is easier on sensitive areas of the body. Other treatments include acne clarifying treatments, which are of particular interest to teenagers and others with persistent acne conditions.

“I have worked with a lot of kids with acne,” Weber said. “It can do a lot for their self-esteem at that impressionable age.”

At Blue Mountain Mermaid, the client enjoys a 60- to 90-minute facial treatment session on a massage table in a clean, quiet salon room with a restful, aromatherapy atmosphere. The client will undergo an initial skin analysis under special lighting during which Weber can observe the condition of the skin and discuss recommendations with the client for healthy skin care at home.

“I usually have a special of some sort going on,” she said. “I give \$15 off on your first facial or whatever treatment you’re doing. Then I keep the people at that price if they come consistently, meaning every four to six weeks.”

Currently, she is offering \$25 off the price of a “Royal Treatment,” which includes a face

and back facial in a two-hour session.

Weber’s facials include steam cleansing techniques and hydrating steam towels that open the pores, soften the skin and allow skin treatment products to saturate the skin more effectively.

“Everybody works really hard, and I feel like we don’t do enough self-care,” she said. “It’s so important if we want to give back to the world that we be well ourselves.”

Another service Weber offers is ear candling, which helps clear blockages in the sinuses. She spends about 45 minutes with the client, including facial massaging to get the sinuses to drain.

Weber uses a special dye for her lash and brow tinting services. Depending on the person and the client’s lifestyle, this tinting can last two to four weeks before another treatment is needed.

“It’s hard to say until we do the first (treatment) and see where it goes for that person,” Weber said.

Lash and brow tinting doesn’t provide volume to the lashes, she added, but it does give color for those who have little or no pigmentation to their hair in those areas.

For clients with damaged skin, Weber offers customized chemical peels that can minimize and even reverse the damage.

Weber said she always gives her clients home care tips to help them continue their self-care in between appointments.

She works by appointment,

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Tariff aid to be given to farmers

By Ken Thomas
The Associated Press

The U.S. readied a plan Tuesday to send billions in emergency aid to farmers who have been hurt by President Donald Trump’s trade disputes with China and other American trading partners.

The Agriculture Department was expected to announce the proposal that would include direct assistance and other temporary relief for farmers, according to two people briefed on the plan, who were not authorized to speak on the record.

The plan comes as Trump speaks at the Veterans of Foreign Wars national convention in Kansas City in the heart of the nation’s farm country.

Trump declared earlier Tuesday that “Tariffs are the greatest!” and threatened to impose additional penalties on U.S. trading partners as he prepared for negotiations with European officials at the White House.

Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., said the funding may need to be approved by Congress and the aid would be temporary.

“The administration is trying to negotiate better trade deals,” he said. “In the near term is there some relief we can look at? Well, we’ll see.”

But the plan magnified objections among many Republicans that the tariffs amount to taxes on American consumers. House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin said lawmakers are making the case to Trump that tariffs are “not the way to go.”

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., said the plan would spend billions on “gold crutches.”

“America’s farmers don’t want to be paid to lose — they want to win by feeding the world,” he said. “This administration’s tariffs and bailouts aren’t going to make America great again, they’re just going to make it 1929 again.”

The Trump administration has slapped tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese goods in a dispute over Beijing’s high-tech industrial policies. China has retaliated with duties on soybeans and pork, affecting Midwest farmers in a region of the country that supported the president in his 2016 campaign.

Trump has threatened to place penalty taxes on up to \$500 billion in products imported from China, a move that would dramatically ratchet up the stakes in the trade dispute involving the globe’s biggest economies.

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Your credit score means everything and nothing

Your credit score will nose its way into nearly every major milestone in your life.

At every turn — buying your first car, leaving your parents’ cellphone plan, moving to a new apartment — you’ll need good credit. Without scores of 690 or higher on an 850-point scale, you’ll generally pay more than you need to.

But people with bad credit are not bad people. Even the companies that dole out credit scores



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know this.

“The credit score is not a reflection of who you are as a person or how accomplished you are,” said Jeff Richardson, a spokesperson for VantageScore, one of the two main credit scoring models. “It is not passing any judgment.”

You might, however, be judging

yourself for the choices that sunk your score, or the fact that you’ve been too overwhelmed to think about it. The best way to get your credit score back on track is to loosen its hold on your self-worth.

DON’T BE AFRAID TO LOOK

You’ll need to know where you stand before you can put it into perspective. If you’ve been too ashamed to look at your credit score, do it today, repeating this mantra if necessary: “You don’t

need perfect credit to be a successful human being.” Tons of apps and websites provide free scores.

Young people starting to build credit or repair a damaged score should first aim for a score of 620 to 640, Richardson says. Most young people are in this range anyway. Those born between 1982 and 1995 had an average credit score of 638 in 2017, according to Experian, a credit

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