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Good day to our valued subscriber Janet Mardis of La Grande

## Diminishing the stigma

■ Privileged Campus Advocate provides EOU with confidential, on-campus resource for sexual and dating violence

By Audrey Love

The Observer

One in four women and one in 16 men report being sexually assaulted while in college, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. The statistics surrounding sexual violence on university campuses are a grim reminder of the realities many students encounter — and most don't report their assault or receive victim services following their experience.

Eastern Oregon University is taking steps to diminish barriers to reporting sexual and dating violence through the addition of a Privileged Campus Advocate, an on-campus Shelter From the Storm employee available to students, faculty and staff as a confidential resource for those impacted by abuse.

"A lot of times (victims)

might be fearful of reporting or accidentally triggering an investigation, and that's what I'm here for," said Tyana Musrasrik, the university's Privileged Campus Advocate, a newly formed position made possible through the Victims of Crime Act grant awarded to EOU. "They can come speak with me (and) get emotional support."

Colleen Dunne-Cascio, Title IX coordinator and director of student relations at EOU, worked to secure grant funding from the Oregon Department of Justice Victims of Crime Act through collaboration with local advocacy agency Shelter From the Storm, a local organization that supports individuals impacted by domestic abuse, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. The 30-month competi-

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## Second Amendment activists gather support for preservation ordinance

■ Measure 32-96 on the ballot in November

By Max Denning

The Observer

Supporters of the Union County Ballot Measure 32-96, also known as the Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance, are confident the measure will pass. The measure seeks to expand the definition of firearms and prohibit the enforcement of laws that regulate their manufacture, sale and possession.

The Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance is on the ballot in Union County and nine other counties in Oregon. Preservation ordinances have already been made law in Wheeler, Wallowa, Curry and Coos counties. Wallowa County was the first to pass the ordinance in 2013. The

ordinance was originally written by Leo Castillo, a Union County resident, and since then has been condensed.

Now helping an effort to pass preservation ordinances statewide is Rob Taylor, a Coos County resident and activist who runs the website [www.cooscountywatchdog.com](http://www.cooscountywatchdog.com). Taylor was the chief petitioner for a ballot initiative in 2015 in Coos County, which passed with more than 60 percent of the vote.

Taylor said his Second Amendment preservation efforts began when the Oregon Legislature introduced Senate Bill 941 in 2015, known as the "Oregon Firearms Safety Act," which adds the re-

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## STANDING THE TEST OF TIME

Will Bowman photo

Matt Orthmann, of Orthmann Ironworks, has been working to resurrect the iconic clock that was situated on Adams Avenue for decades. Below is a photo of the original clock with the eye on top of it, advertising for Dr. George Birnie's optometry business.

■ City of La Grande works to resurrect an iconic clock from the 1920s

By Cherise Kaechele

The Observer

Soon community members in La Grande will be able to see an iconic clock come back in its original — though slightly improved — glory.

This 100-year-old clock used to sit on Adams Avenue. In the 1970s, it was struck by a vehicle and the clock face split in two. The base of the clock stood in its stead until 2015 when it was removed completely. This month, after years of planning its restoration, it will make its return and be installed in front of City Hall.

The clock was originally owned by a La Grande optometrist, according to City of La Grande Economic Development Director Christine Jarski, who inherited the restoration project when she stepped into her role.

"Dr. (George) Birnie moved (the clock) from Canada to La Grande. It

was an advertisement for his optometry and jewelry store," she said.

The "advertisement" was an eyeball on the top of the clock. More than a decade after its installation in the 1920s, Dr. Birnie moved his business and the clock. At that point, she said, the clock lost its eye and a light replaced it.

That's the model the new clock will have, she said.

"Finding (the clock) was like putting a puzzle together," Jarski said.

Local business owner and welder Matt Orthmann, who owns Orthmann Ironworks, had part of the clock in his shop. He was given part of the clock face that had been in disrepair since the face had been stored outside on a farm for decades.

"It became more of a paperweight," Orthmann said of the face. "It was such a beautiful piece of history,

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## Increased enrollment in Wallowa County school districts

By Dick Mason

The Observer

Not one of Wallowa County's four school districts has fewer students this year than last year.

Enrollment is up from 2017-18 in the Enterprise, Joseph and Wallowa school districts and unchanged in

the Troy School District.

Leading the enrollment charge is the Joseph School District, which has 257 students, up 26 from last year.

Joseph School District Superintendent Lance Homan credits much of the 10 percent increase to a large kindergarten class of

24 students, which replaced a small graduating senior class of about 12 students.

Homan said this year's enrollment increase was spread evenly throughout the district's grades.

The total includes seven students at the district's Imnaha School, which is

for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Homan said this is the highest enrollment Imnaha School has had since he became superintendent in 2015.

Imnaha students are among 181 students the

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### WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section



Friday  
42 LOW

A few showers



Saturday  
51/35

Showers around



Sunday  
59/33

Partly sunny

### CONTACT US

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Issue 117  
2 sections, 18 pages  
La Grande, Oregon

Email story ideas  
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