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THE OBSERVER

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Good day to our valued subscriber Tom Trotter of La Grande

New professors bring a range of experiences, excitement to university

By Max Denning

The Observer

With the third week of classes beginning for Eastern Oregon University, the cohort of new professors at the university are attempting to find their footing.

Jessica Hamm, assistant professor in the Division of Physical Activity and Health, and Tim Harrison, senior lecturer in the computer science program, are two new professors at EOU this year. They have taken very different paths to the university, but both are eager to integrate themselves into campus life and take advantage of what La Grande has to offer.

Jessica Hamm

Jessica Hamm, originally from Buffalo, New York, was first introduced to the state of Oregon when she attended Oregon State University. She said she went on trips to the Wallowa Mountains and Anthony Lake while at OSU and enjoyed her experience.

"It was so beautiful," Hamm said.

Hamm is the newest full-time assistant professor in the Division of Physical Activity and Health in EOU's College of Science, Technology, Math and Health Sciences. This semester she is teaching motor development, personal skills for healthy living and health/fitness for life. She said her specialty is in adapted physical activity for individuals with disabilities.

After Hamm received a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Manhattan College and a master's degree from San Francisco State University in kinesiology, she moved to Oregon

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ODOT issues permits for winter chain-up area

Observer staff

Permits are now available to those who want to earn money by helping chain up commercial vehicles during the winter months.

In Union County this year, the Oregon Department of Transportation Dis-

trict 13 office in La Grande will issue three permits for the I-84 Ladd Canyon area in Union County, according to ODOT.

Tom Strandberg, public information officer for ODOT, said the permit process is nothing new. Those who have a permit can ne-

gotiate with truck drivers to help chain up their trucks for a price. The amount of permits is to limit the number of people on the side of the interstate to alleviate the danger that's posed during the winter months.

The Pendleton district received five permits

and Ontario received one permit.

"We've been doing permits for a couple of decades now," Strandberg said. "The districts came up with the numbers. It's what we feel is needed for that area."

Interested parties need

to contact the appropriate ODOT district office by Oct. 31. Random drawings will be held Nov. 1 at each ODOT office to determine who will be offered the permits, according to an ODOT press release.

Only persons who have
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FOR THE LOVE OF PETS(ENSE)

By Audrey Love

The Observer

Petsense celebrated its grand opening Oct. 6 with just as many animals as it did humans.

The chain pet supply store marked its official welcome to the La Grande community with a "Day of Doggy (and Kitty) Love" in partnership with Blue Mountain Humane Association and other local businesses posted in and around the La Grande Town Center location on Island Avenue.

Based on Saturday's

well-received event and the amount of business since the location's soft opening on Oct. 2, the store's manager, Mandi Parker, projects continued success.

"Everybody has been so welcoming and receptive to us being here. We've had nothing but positive responses," Parker said. "We've been a lot busier than I projected we would be because we didn't advertise (the soft opening), but it's been nonstop customers."

Petsense plans to partner with local animal shelters

such as La Grande's Blue Mountain Humane Association, and potentially with PAWS (Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter) and Best Friends of Baker, to offer cat adoption through their in-store "Save a Pet" program and to promote monthly adoption events, as well as two major company-wide adoption events throughout the year.

For Saturday's event, Blue Mountain Humane Association brought a number of their adoption-ready shelter dogs, wrangled by student

volunteers from EOU athletics. BMHA also set up a "doggy calendar photo shoot" to help fundraise for building improvements to its animal rescue facility.

"I want everyone to see the dogs we have and spread the word," said Jaimee Morrison, Blue Mountain Humane Association volunteer and event coordinator for the "Day of Doggy (and Kitty) Love." "I want people to want to come down to the shelter, even if it's just to hang out with the dogs for an hour. That's

what those dogs need — for people to come give them love, even if they can't take them home."

Currently, BMHA has 11 dogs available for adoption as well as a number of cats. Adoption fees are \$195 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$170 for non spayed/neutered dogs, and includes two vaccinations and deworming. Cat adoption fees are \$85 for spayed/neutered cats and \$35 for non spayed/neutered. The facility also houses lost animals and animals

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Retired Union educator saluted with tree dedication

By Dick Mason

The Observer

Union High School social studies teacher Tom Hayes was preparing to teach his first-period class the morning of March 20, 1998, when the phone in his classroom rang.

A reporter was on the line, wanting Hayes' reaction to the news that Mike Wood, then the principal of Union Elementary School and a former UHS English teacher, had been named Union

School District's next superintendent.

Hayes gave an instant, heartfelt response.

"This is the best of all possible news as far as the people around here are concerned," Hayes had said, explaining that Wood was greatly respected for his knowledge and people skills.

Fast forward two decades to Saturday, Oct. 6. Hayes, now retired, and many other faculty

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Urban-Rural Institute bridges the east/west divide

■ EOU and PSU students tour Eastern Oregon in mobile classroom

By Katy Nesbitt

For The Observer

To better understand how the other half of the state lives, students from Oregon's most rural campus and its most urban came together last summer for a six-day mobile classroom where they learned about everything from homelessness to rattlesnakes.

On a late summer evening, 11 students

from Eastern Oregon University and Portland State University, along with their professors and a few locals, pulled tables together at the Imnaha Tavern and ordered beers, hamburgers, gizzards and French fries. Dinner followed a two-hour discussion with a panel of representatives from local health, education and government at the two-room

Imnaha School.

Laurel Singer, executive director of the National Policy Consensus Center at Portland State, said the idea for the rural-urban ambassador program came about when Tom Insko, Eastern Oregon University president, was launching Eastern's Rural Engagement and Vitality Center, which partners with rural communities to

transform challenges into opportunities through applied research, public policy analysis, community education and outreach programs.

Singer said Portland State was already working closely with Insko when a conversation began about working together to develop career paths for students that would lead to solving

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WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section



Tonight
44 LOW
A few showers



Tuesday
52/39
Showers

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