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Good day to our valued subscriber Jeri Guida of La Grande

Community bids farewell to local podiatrist relocating to New Zealand

By Trish Yerges
For The Observer

Dr. Stacey Clarke, a local podiatrist, will soon be practicing in New Zealand.



She will bid the La Grande community farewell at a public reception between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Oct. 25 at the Presbyterian Friendship

Center, 1308 Washington Ave, in La Grande.

“I had been wanting to do patient care, and I wanted to look outside the traditional U.S. model because of insurance,” Clarke said. “Online I found all kinds of recruiters and options.”

She uploaded her resume to a recruiter in New Zealand, and three weeks later she had a job offer. Not having been in the job mar-

ket for 28 years, she didn't know what to expect, so she was pleasantly surprised.

“I had a WhatsApp interview with the CEO of the company and the co-workers, and the rest of the process has been trying to get my work visa,” she said.

Once Clarke has her 30-month work visa in hand, she has 60 days to get across the water and set foot in the country. Besides

the visa, there are a few other requirements.

“I had to take a 20-page online open book test on their (Maori) laws and treaties, and I have to get a physical with a New Zealand-approved physician,” she said. “I will be going to Provo, Utah, for that in November, and I expect to be leaving for New Zealand at the end of December.”

Clarke's new employer, Orthotic Active, is a publicly traded company in Auckland on the north island of New Zealand. She said the company wants to grow and become the go-to center across New Zealand's north and south islands.

Clarke is excited to be part of the Orthotic Active team of professional orthotists who manage

patient care, including assessments, diagnoses and treatment plans. The facility in Auckland is a one-stop care center with some of the best technologies available.

“They do 3-D scanning and 3-D printing of their orthotics, which will be done right there on site,” Clarke said. “I will be interfacing with the 3-D
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Cove School District to add food service building

By Dick Mason
The Observer

A \$1.5 million food service building is in the Cove School District's future.

The Cove School Board is in the early stages of preparing to have the school district construct a food service building on the east side of campus between its elementary school and agricultural science building.

The school board has directed its school district to negotiate a contract for architectural work and planning services for the new building. Cove School District Superintendent Earl Pettit said the board may vote to award the contract in November.

The construction of the building will be paid for with money the school district has set aside for capital projects for a number of years. Pettit said the school district has been able to build up the funding needed for this construction work by operating efficiently. He stressed that the school district will not take on any debt to construct the building.

“We are pretty proud of that,” he said.

The food service building will replace the school district's present cafeteria and kitchen at Cove Elementary School. Pettit said the current cafeteria is not big enough for the school district.

“(The cafeteria) has a capacity of 40 students, which is far too small for a school district of 300 students,” Pettit said.

He explained sometimes there is only enough room for one class at a time to eat lunch there. The school district's lunch-serving period thus must run from about 11 a.m. to 12:40 p.m., which Pettit said is too long because it impacts instructional time.

The move to build a new food service building represents a change of course for the school district. The school board voted in June to approve a Capital Plan projects list that included

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PASS THE POP CORN



By Audrey Love,
The Observer

Eastern Oregon Film Festival celebrates film, music and community in its ninth year in the valley



A line of moviegoers snakes from the box office window, trailing down the sidewalk underneath alternating blue and yellow “Granada” marquee flashes. Plastic badges dangle from lanyards around many of their necks, as

they trickle into the retro theater Thursday to find seats for “Clara's Ghost,” the opening night showing of #EOFF2018 — the ninth annual Eastern Oregon Film Festival.

The party started earlier in the evening, however, at

hq — a “mixed-use space” in downtown La Grande owned and operated by festival co-founder Chris Jennings. Festival-goers sipped from plastic champagne flutes, chatting shoulder-to-shoulder in the venue and spilling out into

a chain link-fenced outdoor patio with “EOFF”-branded metal barrel drums doubling as bonfires.

Jennings popped on stage to address the crowd, issuing welcomes and thank yous and finally, a toast — the room all arms

and alcohol-filled plastic cups — to the festival's three days of films, fellowship and after parties.

Running daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., the festival screened 12 feature films, prefaced by one to three

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Audrey Love photos/The Observer

The Eastern Oregon Film Festival, held Oct. 18-20 in downtown La Grande, screened 12 feature films and a host of short films throughout the three day event. Co-founder Chris Jennings (bottom right, left) talked with actor Bruce Campbell (bottom right) about his illustrious 40 year film career during a special brunch event held the Saturday morning of the festival.

Local group urges no vote on Measure 105, citing adverse

By Max Denning
The Observer

Ballot Measure 105, which would overturn the state's sanctuary law for undocumented immigrants, has received broad support from law enforcement in rural Oregon. In August, 16 sheriffs from rural counties signed a letter urging voters to vote yes on Measure 105. Union County Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen was among the 16 who signed the letter.

In opposition, La Grande's Racial Justice Eastern Oregon, a community group established in 2015, has been leading the campaign

to support a no vote on Measure 105. Naomi Tuinstra, a founding member of RJEEO who is also on the group's leadership team, said Measure 105 would lead to more racial profiling by law enforcement.

“The point that people have been making that racial profiling does not factor into how they apprehend criminals is just false,” Tuinstra said. “(Claiming) that law enforcement is not racially profiling people is saying they are immune to implicit bias, which is impossible for the human brain. We know racial profiling happens, and that's why 30 years ago Oregon put this law

in place, to (reduce) racial profiling.”

Oregon's sanctuary state law was established in 1987 when it passed the Oregon House and Senate with bipartisan support — only three representatives and one senator voted against the bill. The bill forbids law enforcement from using state resources or personnel to detect or apprehend persons whose only violation of the law is that of federal immigration law.

In an Aug. 30 letter to The Observer, Rasmussen stated that legal counsel had notified him that calling Immigration and Customs Enforcement when a person in the

county jail is suspected of being undocumented would break the sanctuary state statute. Rasmussen said this law makes it more difficult to work as law enforcement.

“I am puzzled by the viewpoint that any agent of government would be required by law to shield any criminal from apprehension,” Rasmussen wrote in the letter. “My obligation is to protect good people from the depredations of criminals in Union County regardless of their country of origin, hence our support of Measure 105.”

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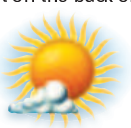
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Full forecast on the back of B section



Tonight
43 Low
Partly cloudy



Tuesday
69/41
Sunshine and mild

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