

MAYOR

Continued from Page 1A
make progress on ongoing projects.

"I think the biggest issue at hand was the City of Joseph has a lot of projects going on and, from what I understand, we wanted to keep business moving forward and to do it smoothly," Sajonia said.

She mentioned the street paving project the council hopes to have finished by this summer and the long-term sewer and water projects, such as building a

new sewer pond.

Along with Pearl Strum, Sajonia is the longest tenured member of the council. Her extended time on the council and outspoken nature might have contributed to why her fellow council member tapped her as Sands' replacement, she said.

"It's no secret that I have been rather vocal in my opinions and what I feel and know what the citizens are expecting," she said. "I really feel it's important to voice what their concerns are and I guess I'm not

afraid to do so."

In terms of her leadership, Sajonia said she is more of a "delegator and communicator."

"A lot of committees will be formed and a lot of teamwork will go into this," she said. "It's not going to be put on one person. That's how I run my business, too. It's a team effort and you do it working in conjunction with each other and the city staff."

In addition to the unexpected mayoral change, voters in Joseph also overturned the ban

on the sale of recreational marijuana. Sajonia said the ban will not be officially repealed until one month after the election results are certified next Tuesday. After that, the OLCC still isn't accepting applications for new dispensaries and most likely won't be for the next 10 to 14 months.

"We're dealing with it the best way we know how," she said. "By using the proper channels and not trying to recreate the wheel, we'll make a huge difference in how smoothly this goes."



Observer file photo

The La Grande School District is reporting 20 to 30 fewer students enrolled this year than it had last year.

EOU

Continued from Page 1A
we receive."

Karpilo, who started working at EOU in February 2017, said the university's strategic process has led to increases in students in a number of areas.

"Strategic Enrollment Management works to align EOU's strategic planning framework with its collective mission, vision and values in a coordinated effort to increase enrollment and improve student success," Karpilo said. "These campus-wide efforts have already begun to bear fruit in areas of non-resi-

dent enrollment, retention of students, new transfer students and students from diverse populations."

EOU did not provide The Observer with the breakdown of these populations before press time.

This year's freshman class at EOU is its most ethnically and culturally diverse class since the university began tracking such information.

Twenty-five percent of the 2018-19 students at EOU considers themselves culturally and ethnically diverse, Karpilo reported to the board. That's up from 23 percent in 2017-18, and 20 percent in 2016-17.

In addition to the growth of students on campus, David Vande Pol, executive director of regional outreach and innovation, reported to the board on EOU's work on expanding its online offerings. EOU has a goal of growing to 5,000 FTE online by 2029, which would call for a 20 percent growth in online FTE each year until then. This year the college's online enrollment grew by 2 percent.

Vande Pol brought up the college's efforts to have transfer agreements with community colleges in the state, such as Mt. Hood Community College. He also mentioned the hiring of

Cody Singer as the college's first online adviser. Vande Pol said he hopes increased online enrollment will allow him to hire more advisors.

At least one trustee, however, wasn't impressed. Bill Johnson, owner of Sage Farms in Ontario, said he didn't think EOU has a clear strategy to increase online enrollment.

In one of the only action items of the first meeting of the 2018-19 academic year, the board approved a 3 percent raise for President Tom Insko, who is in his third academic year as EOU president. This raised Insko's annual salary to \$250,351.

ENROLLMENT

Continued from Page 1A
proposed education budget for the 2019-21 biennium. Brown is expected to release her proposed budget in early December.

Panike said this should provide school districts with an idea of the minimum amount they will receive from the state in 2019-21.

"We should know what our floor will be," Panike said.

He explained the Legislature historically provides more money to education than what is in the governor's proposed budget. Panike noted, though, that this does not mean the Legislature would not

adopt a budget that is less than what the governor proposed.

Panike said state officials he has met with believe the state's 2019-21 education budget will have to be between \$8.8 billion and \$9.1 billion to allow school districts to maintain their present service levels. A budget in this range would be up substantially from the 2017-19 education budget of \$8.2 billion.

An increase of at least \$600 million would be needed to allow school districts to cover cost-of-living increases for salaries and wages, increases in what school districts must pay into the Public Employees Retirement System and more.

LHS sports fans will soon be able to enjoy game experience in greater comfort

By Dick Mason
The Observer

Spectators attending basketball games at La Grande High School this winter may be spending a few extra minutes enjoying their refreshments during intermissions, as the upcoming addition of a hospitality room promises to be a slam dunk with fans.

"It will be a wonderful place for people to sit and eat," said LHS Principal Brett Baxter.

The hospitality room, which will have an area for purchasing concessions, will be filled with new tables, chairs and cabinets.

"It will be like a cafe," said Joseph Waite, the La Grande School District's bond and facilities manager.

The creation of the hospitality room and new concession area will cost \$50,000. The money will come from the school district's five-year maintenance plan fund. The project, which involves renovating a classroom, should be finished in January, Waite said.

The front of the hospitality room will be a 10-foot-wide and five-foot-high window-like opening with a roll-up window, where people will be able to purchase concessions.

The new room will be a major asset at multi-team tournaments, when it will be open only to coaches. It will be a big step up from previous years when the back of LHS's stage was converted temporarily into a hospitality area for coaches, Waite said.

"It will provide a more comfortable place," he said.

Fans will have access to the hospitality room during non-tournament sporting events.

The new concession stand within the hospitality room will replace the present one, which is much closer to the gym entrance. The conces-

sion area will be significantly larger than the current one, making it possible for a greater selection of food to be prepared and sold.

"There will be a wider variety of concessions," Waite said.

Moving the concession stand farther from the gym will relieve congestion that sometimes blocks the nearby restrooms and the entrance to the gym.

The present concession stand will be converted into a ticket booth, replacing the tables now set up in the concourse outside the gym during athletic events for ticket sales. This will also reduce crowding in the gym



Dick Mason/The Observer

A classroom at La Grande High School is being converted into a hospitality room.

GRH

Continued from Page 1A
people are more likely to be taking drugs or drinking. There's also less staff in the hospital during that time.

The bulk of violent incidents in hospitals fall under four categories, according to the study.

"Clinical related" factors are the most common contributor to violence, which includes patients with mental illness, dementia, delirium, developmental impairment or behavior issues due to intoxication and drug and alcohol abuse.

Second, social and economic risk factors that contribute to violence include financial stress and domestic violence that extends into the workplace. The availability of drugs or money at hospitals also makes staff likely robbery targets.

Third are environmental-related risk factors such as noise, crowded waiting areas and public access.

The fourth category includes staff shortages, lack of training and inconsistent procedures for identifying and responding to undesirable behavior.

The study stated only 30 percent of nurses and 26 percent of physicians report the incidents. Bullying and other forms of verbal abuse are the most frequently underreported.

LaRochelle said the



Observer file photo

Nurses interact with violent patients during the weekend, nights and holidays more.

nurses felt being treated this way was just part of the

job and wouldn't report the abuse.

"They would be spit on or attacked, and it was (considered to be) normal," she said of nurses at GRH. "(Sometimes) we would lose nurses to the industry because (of the treatment). It's pretty scary to them."

In addition to having a more effective security force, putting cameras and video monitors in public waiting areas was also massively successful. LaRochelle said if people can see the way they're acting on the monitor, it often causes them to modify their behavior.

LaRochelle also said another way to curb violent incidents is for the hospital to establish a system to

“It's a dangerous occupation. (They) go to work to help people — not to get beat up.

— Director of facilities Elaine LaRochelle

warn staff of patients, or their families, who have been violent in the past. The system goes beyond flagging the patient's medical file since many of the hospital staff does not have access to it, and has been successful since it was implemented.

LaRochelle said the recommendations that came out of the study have shown "measurable results" and have gained national recognition. Violence in hospitals is happening everywhere,

and she said she is getting calls every week concerning her part in the study. Hospitals want to know how to keep their staff safe.

Nurses are caregivers by nature, she said, "(but) it's a dangerous occupation. (They) go to work to help people — not to get beat up."

The Observer will be doing a series of stories focusing on violence against nurses and the challenges hospital staff are seeing.



DOING WELL WHILE DOING GOOD

Great news! Charitable gift annuity payment rates have increased for the first time in many years.

A charitable gift annuity with the OHSU Foundation or the Doernbecher Children's Hospital Foundation is a wonderful way to make a gift while receiving income for life.

To learn more, contact the OHSU Foundation at 503-228-1730 or email OHSUInfo@ohsu.edu.

Gift Annuity Rate Comparison			
Age	Old Rate	New Rate	Increase
70	5.1%	5.6%	0.5%
75	5.8%	6.2%	0.4%
80	6.8%	7.3%	0.5%
85	7.8%	8.3%	0.5%
90+	9.0%	9.5%	0.5%

For illustrative purposes only. Please contact us for current benefits and rates for other ages.



Nicole Cathey

Reed & Associates for excellent service **LOCALLY!**



An Independent Insurance Agency

Medicare, Auto, Home insurance and Annuities



Kevin Reed

10106 N. 'C' • Island City

541-975-1364

Toll Free 1-866-282-1925

www.reed-insurance.net