

ABSENTEEISM

Continued from Page 1A
absent even if all of the absences are excused for reasons such as medical appointments and extra-curricular school activity trips.
“There is a tendency to think if it is excused, it is okay to miss a day,” Mulvihill said, “(but) school is important (and) every day is valuable.”
Lair noted there are

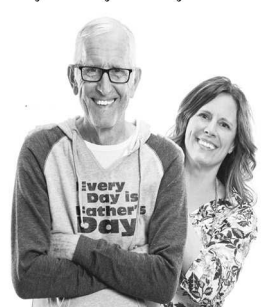
instances when students in Northeast Oregon are more likely to miss school than those in urban areas. For instance, a student who needs to see a medical specialist will likely miss school to travel to see such a physician since there are far fewer specialists here.
Regardless of where one lives, it is critical to establish good attendance habits early, Mulvihill said. He said studies show that children who have good

attendance in kindergarten tend to have better attendance through high school. The reverse is also true: children who are chronically absent in kindergarten tend to be absent more frequently through high school.
The Oregon Department of Education stepped up its focus on chronic absenteeism after the Legislature passed House Bill 4002 in 2015. The bill directed the ODE to develop a statewide

education plan to address chronic absenteeism. It also encouraged the hiring of educators to coordinate regional efforts to address chronic absenteeism, a role Braden now has.
The initiative encourages school districts to take steps such as helping students build relationships with adults and classmates; improving students’ access to resources including health care, food and clothing; and teaching students how to

better plan ahead so that circumstances like transportation issues will be less likely to prevent them from getting to school.
Mulvihill noted that building good attendance habits will improve students’ futures, and in turn will contribute to local and national prosperity.
“You should go to school every day just like you should go to work every day,” he said. “It is an economic development issue.”

“I spend more quality time with my dad, than before. He’s safe. Everyone is so warm. They know my dad. They know me.”



Call to find out how you can save \$6000 this year.

GRANDE Ronde
Retirement & Assisted Living
1809 Gekeler Ln. • La Grande
541-963-4700

MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1A
provide much-needed additional space.
The future museum building served as Elgin’s city hall for at least a decade. Plans call for one of the building’s five rooms to serve as a place to record interviews with people who have stories to share about local history, Hopkins said. This room will also house books, and students in Elgin High School’s woodworking classes will construct bookcases.
The museum previously was located on the second floor of the Elgin Opera House for at least a decade, but it had to be moved about 10 years ago because of space issues and has not had a home since.
Unfortunately, some of the

Museum Society’s display items have been lost since the museum was at the Opera House. Hopkins said attempts will be made to find as many of these items as possible.
“This will be a great opportunity to put everything back together,” he said.
Long-term plans call for the museum to be part of a historical site that would include an old jail and an old church or school. Elgin’s old jail building, believed to be at least 100 years old, is a wooden shack about 70 feet west the former city hall. The historic building is currently on a slope, and the Museum Society hopes to get it moved about 20 or 30 feet closer to the museum’s new home, where it would be on flat ground, Hopkins said.
An attempt is now being made to find an old church

or school that could be moved next to the museum. Hopkins said that such a structure would be a perfect complement to the jail and the historical displays.
“It would be (like) a mini town,” he said.
Hopkins foresees a time in which people traveling on the Eagle Cap Excursion Train, which operates out of Elgin and runs into Wallowa County, would visit the site and be greeted by individuals in period dress. Hopkins, a Methodist minister, said he might conduct church services there for visitors should a church building be brought in.
The Museum Society will begin moving items into its new home after the winter, and Hopkins hopes the museum can be opened this summer.
One of the first steps to be

taken is moving two glass display cases into the old city hall. The display cases, which were donated to the Museum Society, will be moved in with the help of

Elgin High School students, Hopkins said.
The museum will focus on Elgin but also display historic items from surrounding communities.

PIANO

Continued from Page 1A
play it, and it’s extremely clear.”
Durrell also noted the action of the piano — the responsiveness of the keys — was particularly impressive.
He said the purchase of the piano will be a significant element of his experience at EOU.
“There are several of us

who are just focusing on piano as our music, and it feels like we are getting a lot of personal attention and being especially cared for,” Durrell said. “It’s great to feel like you’re being fed all these new resources and materials. Playing on a new piano makes a world of difference.”
The piano will publicly debut at The Observer’s 27th annual Holiday Music

Festival on Dec. 1 and 2 at Eastern Oregon University’s McKenzie Theatre. The Saturday show takes place at 7:30 p.m., and the Sunday matinee begins at 3 p.m.
Wordelman, who planned the show, said the festival will begin with a performance on the piano and will end with a piano duet. The piano will also be used by a number of groups performing for the concert.

BLACK FRIDAY SALE

NOV 23 - DEC 31
BEST DEALS OF THE SEASON!

- 10% OFF + 4 FREE SESSIONS
24 PACK OF PERSONAL TRAINING
- 10% OFF + 3 FREE SESSIONS
18 PACK OF PERSONAL TRAINING
- 10% OFF + 2 FREE SESSIONS
12 PACK OF PERSONAL TRAINING

\$5 OFF MEMBERSHIPS!

T (541) 663-0462
E shewitt@mvfitnessandhealth.com
www.mvfitnessandhealth.com
f @mvfitnessandhealth

MOUNTAIN VALLEY FITNESS & HEALTH

Union County SART

Sexual Assault Response Team

Do you know what to do if you or someone you know is sexually assaulted?

- If you are **not in a safe place or require immediate medical attention call 911.**
- If you are in a **safe location** (no longer in the presence of the assailant) **and have no injuries that require emergency medical care** call Shelter From the Storm’s Crisis hotline at **541-963-9261.**
- Shelter From the Storm can provide you with a **privileged** and **confidential** advocate to explain medical and reporting options. If the assault happened within 5 days and you would like to have a sexual assault forensic exam done to collect evidence this can be done in our office by a sexual assault forensic nurse.
- Transportation is available.

All services provided by Shelter From the Storm are Free and Confidential. You have choices. We’re here to help



70th Annual Farmer Merchant Banquet

“Under the Harvest Moon”

Thank You to Our Sponsors

<p>Ticket Sponsor - Full Moon \$1000</p> <p>BARRETO</p> <p>Thunder RV</p> <p>OLD WEST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION</p> <p>Tires LES SCHWAB</p>	<p>Ticket Sponsor - Half Moon \$500</p> <p>Boise Cascade Romans’ Precision Irrigation Lewis, Poe, Moeller, Gunderson & Roberts LLC Oregon Trail Livestock Supply Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace Commercial Tire Eastern Oregon University ISU- The Stratton Agency Eastern OR Meditation Center La Grande Light Truck</p>
<p>Banquet Sponsors</p> <p>Union County Soil & Water Conservation District D&B Supply Community Merchants Legacy Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram Blue Summit Realty Group GusBusters Arise & Shine Photography Tri-County Equipment Community Bank Elkhorn Media</p>	<p>Ticket Sponsor - Crescent Moon \$250</p> <p>Eagle Carriage & Machine Blue Mountain Seeds Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op John J. Howard & Associates Grande Ronde Hospital Foundation OSU Extension Service- Union County MJ Goss Wheatland Insurance</p>
<p>Silent Auction Sponsors</p> <p>Legacy Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram Rosewood Cottage Ace Hardware Carpet One Blue Mountain Auto Parts Century 21 Joseph Branch Railriders</p>	<p>Ticket Sponsor - New Moon \$100</p> <p>Folly Farm Union County Soil & Water Conservation District Koza Family Dental Care RE/MAX Real Estate Bar MD Blue Mountain Translator District Paul Anderes, UC County Commissioner</p>