



SPORTS

Rams, Pats set for Super Bowl

Inside
Annual dinner theater
entertainment, 6A

Weekend

FRIDAY-SUNDAY • February 1-3, 2019 • \$1.50 Good day to our valued subscriber Stuart Zaugg of Union



Courtesy photo

This child, ill with measles, exhibits a rash common with measles on the four days after its appearance.

Measles outbreak may reach Union County

By Amanda Weisbrod
The Observer

Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared a local public health emergency in mid-January due to an outbreak of measles in Clark County, Washington. As of Thursday, 41 confirmed cases of measles and 15 suspected cases have been reported in Clark County, along with one case of measles in Multnomah County and two exposure sites in Bend, according to a press release from the Center for Human Development in La Grande.

Amy Miles, infection preventionist at Grande Ronde Hospital, Carrie Brogetti, public health administrator at CHD, and Elizabeth Sieders, communicable disease nurse at CHD, agree the odds for measles to appear in Union County is likely,

due to the rate at which the disease spreads and the number of unvaccinated children in the area.

Measles, according to Oregon Health Authority, is highly contagious, as the virus can remain airborne for up to two hours after an infected person coughs or sneezes. Initial symptoms, which typically appear seven to 14 days after a person is infected, include high fever; cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes. Two or three days after symptoms begin, small white spots may form inside the mouth, while a rash usually first appears on the face and spreads across the skin three to five days into experiencing symptoms. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note that a few days after the rash appears, the fever goes

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Measles Fast Facts

- Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, 90 percent of the people close to that person who are not immune will also become infected.
- About one child out of every 1,000 who get measles will develop encephalitis (swelling of the brain) that can lead to convulsions and can leave the child deaf or with intellectual disability.
- The measles virus can live for up to two hours in an airspace where the infected person coughed or sneezed.
- Two doses of the MMR vaccine is 97 percent effective against the disease, while one dose is 93 percent effective.
- As many as one out of every 20 children with measles develops pneumonia, the most common cause of death from measles in young children.
- For every 1,000 children who get measles, one or two will die from it.

Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

EOU trustees discuss OPM, retention and new major

By Max Denning
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon University Board of Trustees met twice this week to discuss the next steps in the university's evaluation of an online program management company, the college's ongoing retention efforts and the creation of a new major.

During the board's work session on Wednesday, Holly Chason, director of institutional effectiveness, research and planning, and Nate Lowe, dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, presented to the board on the OPM committee's decision to explore a partnership with Learning House.

Lowe said Learning House was selected because of its track record with small universities similar to EOU and the company's willingness to work with EOU in areas it needs assistance in and not alter the university's current course offerings — for the time being.

"The folks I've talked to, mostly faculty in my college, what was important to them was what kind of role will this company have in the faculty-student relationship, in the curriculum development," Lowe said. "That's why the committee recommends at this point that Learning House won't do instructional design for us."

The Observer previously reported

the three major areas Learning House would help EOU with — if the OPM is hired by the university — are recruiting, retention and marketing to online students. One trustee asked Lowe and Chason if they thought there was more support for the OPM process than there was previously when the university moved forward with Pearson Online Learning Services. Lowe said he thought there was but added the information is still relatively new to the campus community.

"Because the committee was made up of faculty, staff and students... I think (those on campus) knew more about what was going on and when," Lowe noted.

Chason informed the trustees she would be bringing a contract to the board during its March committee meetings, which would then officially be approved by the board at its April board meeting.

Insko, who will be leading negotiations with Learning House, said at the work session that making sure EOU's online course offerings remain affordable will be a top priority.

At Thursday's regular board meeting, Lacy Karpilo, vice president for student affairs, reported to the board about the ongoing efforts to increase retention at

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Max Denning/The Observer

The Board of Trustees listen to a presentation on different budget scenarios from Lara Moore, vice president for finance & administration, and Tim Seydel vice president for university advancement.

Flat funding in governor's budget worries EOU trustees

■ The effects of flat funding for higher ed would be felt across campus

By Max Denning
The Observer

The Oregon State Legislature convened for its 2019 session less than two weeks ago, and steps it may or

may not take that will affect Eastern Oregon University's financial situation were on the top of the agenda for the EOU board of trustees at its meetings this week. While

President Tom Insko said he remains confident the university can keep the tuition increase under 5 percent, he conceded he was worried

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Former FBI agent talks leadership with EOU students

By Dick Mason
The Observer

Jon Jasch struggled during his first year as a counter-terrorism agent for the FBI about a decade ago in California.

Jasch was frustrated as he attempted to develop a network of sources for information about terrorism activities. This was no small matter since sources are the eyes and ears of FBI agents, and Jasch's director said he would not talk to him again until he had a network of informants.

"(Finding sources) was one of the hardest things

I had ever done in my life," said Jasch, a Florida resident who spoke at Eastern Oregon University Wednesday during a presentation about the fundamentals of leadership.

Jasch's FBI career turned around after he accompanied

“Leading is a choice. You can be the type of leader everyone wants in their life. If you lead, you will have a sweeter life and so will those around you.”

— John Jasch, former counter-terrorism FBI agent

experienced FBI agents as they consulted their sources. He said he was stunned to see how open veteran agents were with their trusted informants, individuals who were risking their lives to help them for relatively small amounts of money.

"They would talk to them about their families, even their hobbies," Jasch said. "They took off their masks."

The young FBI agent saw that because the veterans opened up with their sources by discussing themselves, the sources returned a measure of trust by sharing valuable information with them.

"It was about the power of vulnerability," Jasch said.

This power is critical for successful leadership, he said, but it is becoming harder to utilize in today's social media age when many are focused on cultivating only positive self-images via Facebook and other social media. "People do not want to take off their masks," Jasch said.

Leaders who succeed in getting people to take off their masks can get groups to succeed in remarkable ways. Jasch told a story about successful men's basketball coach Rick Pitino, who started his head coaching career at Providence Uni-

versity. At one of the first team meetings Pitino asked his team how well they know each other. Several of the players said they were close, but when Pitino questioned them about the families of their teammates, it turned out the players knew very little. This finding sparked an open discussion about families in which all the players shared information about their loved ones.

The discussion, Jasch said, helped the Providence team bond in a manner that contributed to its advance to the final four of the 1987 NCAA basketball tournament.

Jasch wants people to understand

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WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section



Tonight
34 LOW
Mostly cloudy



Friday
45/37
A little rain

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2 sections, 16 pages
La Grande, Oregon

Email story ideas
to news@lagrandeobserver.com.
More contact info
on Page 4A.



MONDAY

CHD MOBILE CRISIS TEAM HIRES NEW COORDINATOR

Online at lagrandeobserver.com

