



DENIM

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continued every year since.

These events transformed an everyday item of clothing into a symbol of protest against destructive attitudes and myths surrounding sexual assault, such as the idea that certain clothing is sometimes considered as an excuse or reason to commit violence against another person. Krista Evans, a crisis response advocate at Shelter From the Storm, said no matter what someone is wearing, it's never an "open invitation" for sexual advances.

"Denim Day helps people realize just because a person is wearing a style of clothing it doesn't give (someone else) the right to (their) body," she said. "People should be able to walk down the street without suggestive comments or (others) saying they're

asking for it."

This backstory involving the Italian Supreme Court and the professional women of the Italian Parliament is one reason the Union County District Attorney's Office is participating in the event, according to Rianna Bridge, one of three victim advocates at the DA's office.

"The importance of the district attorney's office getting the word out is based on where this day comes from," she said. "I think for our office (to participate in Denim Day) and show support for victims is very important."

This week, Tyana Musrasrik, a privileged campus advocate placed by Shelter From the Storm at EOU, is teaming up with the university's student government to hang pairs of decorated jeans on campus in honor of Denim Day.

On April 3, La Grande

Mayor Steve Clements signed a proclamation at the city council meeting to acknowledge April as sexual assault awareness month.

"Shelter From the Storm's service in the community is immensely valuable to people in need," the mayor said at the meeting. "Without this organization, (victims) would not be served as well as they are now."

Anyone who wants to pick up Denim Day pins or teal ribbons to show support for survivors during the remainder of sexual assault awareness month can stop by the Shelter From the Storm office at 10901 Island Ave. in Island City.

For those in need of resources dealing with domestic violence or sexual assault, call Shelter From the Storm at 541-963-7226, or walk in from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, or 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Fridays.

Resources are also available through the Sexual Assault Response Team, which is a collaboration between Shelter From the Storm, the Union County District Attorney's Office, Grand Ronde Hospital, Eastern Oregon University and law enforcement. Through SART, survivors may seek medical care, advocacy programs, pursue charges, or a combination of the three, according to Bridge.

"For our county, (SART) is a good resource for victims who may or may not want to pursue charges," she said. "We want victims to know what resources are available to give the power back to them so they can make decisions for themselves." ■

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ASTEO

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that really close personal relationship with an awesome professor like Anna Cavinato," he said.

"The ASTEO scholarship really did give me that confidence necessary to apply for the internship that I have this upcoming summer, which is at PNNL — Pacific Northwest National Laboratory," he said.

Hauer's internship is through the Department of Energy. "I'll be working with quantum computing and chemistry, a mixture of my two majors," he said.

Korie Klein, a freshman studying chemistry, also said the benefits of the program are beyond financial.

She said the support the program offered helped her make connections with professors in STEM that made her feel more confident.

"It really helps you just be able to navigate college more easily and get on track and stay on track," she said.

The financial aspect is certainly not something to overlook, however. "Because of the ASTEO scholarship I'm able to go to college. I wouldn't be able to afford college without it — without having to have loans," said Daniel Holloway, a junior studying computer science. "I work two jobs as it is. Having a loan on top of that would really hinder me," he said.

"The thing that has really impacted me the most is that I can take as many credits as I want and not have

to worry about paying for it. It really gives me a lot more breathing room," said Harrison Smith, a freshman majoring in biology.

Cavinato said the reason the program exists is to encourage students to study STEM and get a job in their community, increasing the STEM workforce. The program was also created to diversify the STEM workforce, giving opportunities to students who might not be able to pursue a degree for financial reasons.

The scholarship is available for freshmen and is renewable for all four years. It is also available for transfer students for two years. ■

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Dick Mason/The Observer

Early morning structure fire causes no injuries

No one was hurt in a fire this morning at 305 3rd St. The fire did extensive damage to the north half of the duplex and less serious damage to the south portion according to the La Grande Fire Department. The fire was reported at about 2:20 a.m. The La Grande Fire Department and the La Grande Rural Fire Department responded to the blaze. The cause of the fire has not been determined. The fire is being investigated by the State Fire Marshal's office and the La Grande Fire Department.

IMBLER

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2018 that included a mock active shooter drill put on by law enforcement officers and the InterMountain Education Service District. The program's organizers emphasized how important it is for school district staff to be able to communicate when an intruder is on campus.

Lakey-Campbell said she believes the Imbler School District is the only one in Northeast Oregon to have an emergency alert app. The superintendent said the app is not complicated.

"It is user friendly," she said.

The odds of someone accidentally sending out an alert when there is no emergency are reduced by a built-in safeguard. It asks users if they are sure they want to send a message before it is released, Lakey-Campbell said. Once some-

one hits "yes" the alert goes out instantly.

Lakey-Campbell said one of the most valuable features of the app is it indicates the location of the report of an intruder, fire or medical emergency. In the case of an intruder, indicating where the emergency is could be a particularly big help. She explained this will help teachers know how to best protect their students.

"They would know whether to evacuate or not," Lakey-Campbell said, as an example.

Imbler High School Principal Mike Mills agrees, noting that before the app was in place there was a greater likelihood that there would be confusion in an emergency involving an intruder.

"Nobody would have known whether to run or hide because they would not know where the threat was," he said.

The principal noted the app will make it easier to

determine whether the school district should go into a lockdown or lockout mode in the event of an intruder. Schools go into lockdown when an intruder is in their building. Teachers gather students into classrooms and lock their doors when a lockdown is in effect.

A lockout is called for when a dangerous person is outside while on or near campus. All exterior doors are locked when a school is on lockout and nobody is permitted to go outside.

The Imbler School District recently tested the app and it went well, Mills said. He said the test indicated that the app had been successfully downloaded by all teachers and staff. Mills has been impressed with how enthusiastic teachers and staff have been about the app.

"There has been a 100 percent buy-in," Mills said. ■

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DENIM DAY
WEDNESDAY
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April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

SAAM 2019

Shelter From the Storm

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