



MILLER’S

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said. “We have such great people here. It’s just been a dream to have (the new facility).”
With the expansion the business also now has warehouses in the back for storing lumber. Previously, wood was stored outside, which could quickly damage and ruin the wood due to weather. Now, there will be less waste by storing the lumber in a controlled environment.
The new facility features organized sections for prod-

uct as well as design ideas. It has 13 kitchen vignettes showcasing different concepts for storage and looks. The store will go from having 4,000 square feet of space to 38,000 square feet, including the warehouse space. Patterson said though it is a big store for a small town like La Grande, it will be helpful to have everything a person may need in one location.
Miller’s Home Center also offers custom designs for cabinets and kitchens, and the new store features 13 displays of all of the options a person has, with dedicated and expert staff on hand to help.

“We want to create people’s thoughts,” Patterson said.
Because the new store is located at the border of La Grande and Island City, Colkitt said one of the biggest hurdles was figuring out which city would be in charge of the utilities. It was continued communication and cooperation between the store and the cities that Colkitt said helped them get over the complication.
“We’ve grown over the years, and we always reinvest back into our business,” Colkitt said.
The store honors its

origins with photos of an old truck for the store and its original location. Originally opened more than a century ago by the Miller family, Miller’s Home Center has expanded beyond its roots.
A soft open will occur Tuesday, with the possibility for a grand opening in the spring. The home center will have new hours with its new location. It will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. The old location will remain open for employees as a workshop and storage space.

Courtesy photo

STRIKE

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settlement has been reached,” Seydel said. “These (classified staff) employees are valuable to Eastern. It would have been challenging to start the year without them.”
Seydel said he was impressed with the work people on both sides of the negotiations did during the bargaining.
“They are to be commended for their commitment to the process,” Seydel said.
Jo Hickerson, president of EOU’s SEIU 503 chapter, also has positive feelings about the settlement.

“I think it is a good and fair settlement. We are very, very happy that we came to an agreement before we had to strike,” Hickerson said.
Had there been a strike today, it would have been the first by the classified staff at Oregon’s public universities since 1995.
SEIU members will vote on ratification of the 2019-21 contract in October.
The presidents of Oregon’s seven public universities released a statement Saturday that reads:
“As we welcome students back in the new academic year, we are pleased that we have a tentative agreement in place with our SEIU-represented classified

workers, who play an important role in the education of more than 120,000 Oregon public university students. Our university classified employees are respected colleagues who are vital to the operation of our universities and the diverse student services each campus provides.
“We are deeply appreciative of the dedication these employees demonstrate every day in their jobs on our university campuses. Their work makes an enormous difference in the education and lives of our students, as well as the research and community services that Oregon universities provide throughout the state.”

CLIMATE

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oceans more likely to experience flooding in the future.
Mildrexler said if climate change continues and its impact reaches a disastrous level, rural areas like Northeast Oregon will be greatly affected. He explained that this is because rural areas rely so much upon natural resources that would be hurt by drought and other climate change impacts.
“They rely on ecosystems,” he said, adding that this is a reason for rural America to lead the effort to tackle climate change.
Mildrexler said the key to taking on climate change is to do everything possible to reduce carbon dioxide

emissions, which trap heat. Most man-made carbon dioxide emissions are created by the use of gasoline and coal as energy sources.
“We have got to keep coal in the ground and limit consumption of oil,” he said.
Mildrexler said this can be done in part by taking prudent steps to boost energy efficiency, such as upgrading hydroelectric dams. Replacing dam turbines with more efficient ones can boost production substantially.
Urban planning with energy efficiency in mind is another step that should be taken, he said. Cities should be designed so that people do not have to drive five miles to get something like a gallon of milk but instead would have closer stores to choose from

and energy-efficient forms of transportation like electric bicycles to reach them.
The scientist, who lives in Wallowa County, said much of his presentation was a reflection of what he has learned from working under Steve Running, an emeritus professor of ecology at the University of Montana. Running shared a Nobel Prize in 2007 for his work on climate change. Running often stresses that it is important, Mildrexler said, to understand the difference between weather and climate.
“When you look out the window, that’s weather. It is constantly changing,” Mildrexler said. “Climate is the long-term condition of the weather over years and decades.”
This means that people

should look upon events like occasional snowstorms in late spring as anomalies instead of an indication of the status of our climate.
Mildrexler said scientists began picking up on a climate change trend decades ago, but it was not until recent years that it has escalated significantly. One of the most distributing trends he has seen is how quickly the total portion of the Earth judged to have extreme heat is increasing.
“It blows my mind,” he said.
Mildrexler’s talk was sponsored by the Union County Progressives, Wallowology Natural History Discovery Center, Greater Hells Canyon Council and Union County Democrats.

VAPE

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two weeks this month saw a 31% drop in sales of vape cartridges that hold the oil that vaporizes when heated. “People are concerned, and we’re concerned.”
Health officials in California, home to the world’s largest legal marijuana marketplace, this week issued an advisory urging people to stop all vaping. Massachusetts, which like California allows so-called recreational use of marijuana by people 21 and older, went further than any other state, issuing a four-month ban on vape sales.
In the booming legal U.S. cannabis market, vaping products had been exploding in popularity. In roughly two years, they grew from a small fraction of overall sales to about one-third, with \$9.6 billion in sales between 2017 and 2019, according to New Frontier Data, an economic analysis firm that tracks the industry. About one-fifth of U.S. cannabis consumers report using them.

New Frontier found a 15% decline in the market share for vape sales nationwide during the first week of September and saw no rebound in data collected through Sept. 18. At the state level, New Mexico, Massachusetts, Nevada and Montana all saw drops of one-third or more, while California fell by 6%.
Oregon, among the earliest of the 11 states that legalized recreational marijuana, has seen a 62 % drop in market share for vapes, said John Kagia, the firm’s chief knowledge officer. The big decline occurred after the state’s first death was announced and officials said the victim had used vapes purchased at legal retailers.
Yet as vape sales sink, some retailers report sales of other cannabis products going up. Bridge City Collective, for example, saw its usually lackluster edible sales increase about 40% the same week vaping sales plummeted. Consumers also are showing more interest in the dried flower used in joints.



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Brock Eckstein
Elgin City Administrator

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Greg M. Baxter

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To support the Rasmussen Re-Election Campaign contact Rita McMahan at ritamc@eoni.com.
Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen, Rita McMahan Treasurer 1801 Highland, La Grande