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Deputy is top spender in sheriff’s campaign

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Cody Bowen has far outspent — and outearned — his competition in the bid to become the next sheriff of Union County, and has done so in a short amount of time.



Bowen



Rasmussen

Bowen, a Union County sheriff’s deputy who announced he was running in January and filed Feb. 10, has seen the Committee to Elect Cody Bowen for Union County Sheriff receive nearly \$23,000 in contributions in the two months since, according to the website ORESTAR, the Oregon Elections System for Tracking and Reporting, which is the secretary of state’s website of campaign finance activity.

In all, the committee has amassed \$20,806.97 in cash contributions and has received an additional \$2,096.49 in in-kind donations. It has spent \$15,916.06, with the in-kind donations bumping the expenditures to \$18,012.58. Bowen still has an available balance of \$4,839.41.

His campaign has received 17 donations of \$100 or less and has hauled in six cash contributions of \$1,000 or more. Rob Lane is the biggest contributor to the campaign with a donation of \$3,500, and Doug Bean also has given \$2,500. Michael Bowen, Rock-n-Sons and Madeline Bean each have contributed \$1,500, and RD Mac Inc., has given \$1,000.

Eastern Oregon Rental Service gave two separate in-kind contributions of \$803.76 for advertising. Signs and advertising have been the top expenses for Bowen’s campaign, with \$5,825 going to BuildASign.com, a

See, **Spending**/Page 5A

Adapting to survive

Creativity, technology help local businesses amid crisis



Staff photo by Dick Mason

Colleen McIntosh, the owner of Peak Lifestyle Studio, La Grande, is teaching fitness classes virtually during the COVID-19 crisis. Here she readies Tuesday in her studio minutes before leading one of her classes.

By Dick Mason
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Technology, creativity and a willingness to go many extra miles for customers are serving La Grande businesses well during the COVID-19 crisis.

People such as Colleen McIntosh prove the case. She is the owner of Peak Lifestyle Studio, a group fitness center in downtown La Grande, where she also is one of its teachers. Peak’s many fitness classes, prior to COVID-19, were

held in its studio on Adams Avenue. Today, Peak’s classes, which include yoga and stabilization training, are being taught but not in group settings.

Instead, the classes are available virtually. Students follow the lead of instructors guiding them from the Peak studio. Images and audio are transmitted via the Zoom. Teachers can see video images of the students in their classes while leading them.

“It is like a video conference call,” McIntosh said.

She credits the computer expertise of her husband, Gus, with playing an important role in making Peak able to deliver the virtual instruction.

Crossing state boundaries

McIntosh said students taking the virtual classes are more likely to exercise than if they were following the lead of a teacher who could not see them or know they were

See, **Business**/Page 5A

Wallowa County seeks community input to keep recycling available

By Katy Nesbitt
for EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — Wallowa County residents for almost 30 years have enjoyed the benefit and convenience of recycling. Due to ever increasing costs, the county is looking at ways to preserve the program with help from members of the community.

The county’s recycling department in January stopped receiving tin and glass because it had not found a market to sell those materials. Commissioner Todd Nash, who oversees the county’s solid waste program, said the move was necessary because the recycling program costs the county \$100,000 a year.

“I have a variety of concerns — the recycling program is a drain on the solid waste budget, the market for the material is dwindling, and it worries me we don’t know whether the materials we send out are being properly handled,” Nash said.

To continue providing a popular service, Nash invited members of the community to help him develop a plan for the county’s recycling program that not only deals with current problems — baled recyclables sitting for months

before they are shipped to processors, trash mixed in with sorted material and the cost-burden on the county — but also to encourage Wallowa County residents to take some ownership of the county’s solid waste management.

Due to threats to the program, including limiting access to the recycling center in Enterprise to two days a week this summer, a task force of recycling advocates came together this spring. The group is looking at ways to improve the county’s solid waste services.

Peter Ferré, member of recycling task force, said, “Continuing and expanding our recycling program will put less pressure on our landfill, which is at the tail end of its life cycle. Because 60% to 75% of waste in landfills can be recycled, and recycling puts less pressure on our environment.”

In the coming months, the group will map out a strategy to benefit the county government and its budget while looking to better manage a long-term, sustainable solid waste program. The task force invites members of the public to send ideas, questions and availability to help the task force to wallowacountyrecycling@gmail.com.

EO Media Group hosts online candidate forums

■2nd Congressional District forums set for May 1-2

EO Media Group

PENDLETON — Stuck on who to vote for in the crowded Oregon 2nd Congressional District race?

EO Media Group soon will provide residents in Eastern and Central Oregon an opportunity to hear from Republican and Democratic candidates. The media group is hosting online candidate forums using Facebook and www.lagrandeobserver.com.

The forums, which will be livestreamed and recorded without an audience due to COVID-19 concerns, are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 1, for the Democratic candidates and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, May 2, for the

HOW TO WATCH

WHAT: Oregon 2nd Congressional District candidate forums
WHEN: Democrat forum is 6:30 p.m., Friday, May 1; Republican forums are 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, May 2.
WHERE: Streaming live on The Observer’s Facebook page. You can rewatch the forums at www.lagrandeobserver.com on EOAlive.tv.
QUESTIONS: Submit questions in advance by email to CD2forum@eomedia-group.com or on Facebook Live during the event.

Republican candidates. “A crucial mission of local newspapers is to inform the public about matters that can affect their lives and their community,” said Kathryn B. Brown, vice president of

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WEATHER

 Full forecast on the back of B section



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Friday
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Partly sunny

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