

BUSINESS

Continued from Page 1A

participating. “It holds them accountable and provides a sense of being together,” McIntosh said.

McIntosh said while her classes are in session she mutes the sound of the students participating to prevent distractions. However, students are able to talk with her and fellow students before and after each class.

McIntosh said when she starts a class it is not the same as having students in person. But as each class session progresses, she begins feeling closer to her students.

“There is energy in the room, but it is so much different than if people are there sweating with you,” McIntosh said.

Still, the process is one McIntosh embraces.

“It is just as delightful as if they are in the room with you,” she said.

Anyone with the proper computer equipment can take a virtual Peak class, which is allowing those from great distances to take classes. Those now taking Peak exercise classes include people in Colorado and California.

“We are getting new members because of this,” McIntosh said.

Delivering for the community

La Grande Stereo and Music has trimmed its hours during the COVID-19 crisis but boosted its level of outreach. The store is making free deliveries of all merchandise it sells and

picking up items for repairs, including instruments, for no charge.

The music store also is reaching out to the community, picking up and delivering groceries and medicine to anyone in La Grande who needs this assistance.

“We don’t want people to be hurting. We’ve been here for more than 40 years and we want to give back, to be a resource in a time of need,” owner Mike Mallory said.

Mallory is finding a number of customers do not want to linger at his store during the COVID-19 crisis. Many come in, make their purchase and leave without saying much.

“This is hard for me because I like to talk,” Mallory said.

La Grande Stereo and Music is able to operate on an unrestricted basis during the COVID-19 crisis because it installs starter interrupters for motor vehicles, providing what the government deems as an essential service. The interrupters prevent people from starting their vehicles if they detect alcohol consumption. Some drivers, because of past law infractions involving alcohol, are required to have starter interrupters.

Mallory is taking many steps to protect customers and his staff from the virus. For example, he allows no more than two customers in either half of his store at one time. Two people may be in either half only if everyone follows appropriate social distancing restrictions.

Loveland Funeral

Chapel, in the face of COVID-19, is encouraging families to take greater advantage of a service it has offered for about five years — free livestreaming of funeral services. This, of course, provides families with the opportunity to view a service without being there in person and put them at risk of contracting COVID-19.

Loveland has livestreamed services for four families during the past month. Normally, Loveland livestreams two funeral services a month.

“It lets people watching pay their respects in a very meaningful way while keeping the whole family safe,” said Kevin Loveland, owner of the business.

Brent Clapp Media Services, La Grande, handles the production work for streaming the funerals, which are available for viewing at lovelandevents.com.

Virtual meetings

To address COVID-19 concerns, Loveland Funeral Chapel has purchased two media platforms, Zoom and DocuSign, which together allow families to make arrangements for their future funerals remotely.

“They can do this from anywhere in the world,” Loveland said.

People using these platforms can see every document and photo at Loveland’s. They also can sign documents remotely.

Loveland said his office has been deluged with people wanting to prearrange their funerals since the COVID-19 pandemic

hit the United States. He believes initially people did it because of the fear of their own mortality.

“They were scared,” he said.

But now people are not as frightened, he continued, because they realize they can control their risk of exposure to COVID-19. Still, they are continuing to arrange funerals in large numbers because they are realizing it is a wise and prudent step.

The doors of Blue Mountain Outfitters, an outdoor store in La Grande’s downtown corridor, are not open for public entry during the COVID-19 crisis. But its customers can place orders for merchandise and receive free delivery anywhere in Union County. Orders are delivered each Tuesday and Thursday.

Customers have the option of placing orders by themselves or consulting with a Blue Mountain Outfitters staff member. Customers can explain via phone, email or other media platforms what they are interested in and then the staff member will create several order options to choose from.

Owner Jim Whitbeck said he has received positive responses from his customers for the service being provided during the crises. He said a positive spinoff of this new approach is it is helping his staff maintain strong connections with their customers.

“It has helped us strengthen relationships (with customers) as we have worked in new ways to find perfect solutions for them,” he said.

SPENDING

Continued from Page 1A

Texas-based company, and an additional \$2,426 to Meadow Outdoor Advertising. Blue Mountain Embroidery has received \$3,150 for shirts and hats. EO Media Group, the company that owns The Observer, has received \$1,050 for advertisements.

Boyd Rasmussen, who is seeking a fifth term as sheriff, has the most cash on hand of anybody in the race with a balance of \$10,233.42. Most of the contributions to the Committee to Re-Elect Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen came in 2019, when the sheriff pulled in \$10,900 to go with a rollover balance of \$6,868.04.

He has added \$1,660 in contributions in 2020 and a \$172.26 in-kind donation, for a total of \$12,732.26 in new donations. The sheriff’s committee has spent \$9,259.12 on the re-election campaign, and the in-kind donation increased that to more than \$9,400.

Most of Rasmussen’s contributions — 35, in fact — have been \$250 or less. ORESTAR lists only four contributions of \$500 or more and all are labeled as “Miscellaneous Cash Contributions \$100 and under.”

Of his advertising and signage, Rasmussen has spent \$3,022.26 through Iowa-based Victorystore.com, \$1,668 through Elkhorn Media Group and \$1,624.76 at The Observer.

Candidate Bill Miller has amassed \$16,975 in campaign contributions and has an additional \$100

non-exempt loan, pushing his total over \$17,000. Of that, his campaign raised \$10,300 this year.

Miller, a former sergeant in the sheriff’s office, has spent \$7,955.87, with all but \$206.15 of that coming in since the first of the year. He also, though, has \$4,117.56 in outstanding personal expenditures, leaving him with \$4,901.57 in cash on hand.

His campaign has been largely self-funded, most recently with a \$6,000 cash contribution earlier this month. He also has

the most small contributions, receiving 26 of \$100 or less and 20 more between \$100-\$300. He has received four contributions of \$500 or more, including two boosts of \$1,200 from James Voelz and \$2,000 from Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Eastern Oregon. The fourth was unnamed.

Miller has spent \$4,740.54 through Texas business entity Signs on the Cheap, the largest portion of his expenditures. He also has spent \$2,694.49 on U.S. Postal Service expenses, \$900 with The Observer and \$681.43 with UPrinting.

Candidate Shane Rollins of Cove has a reported balance carried over from 2019 of \$601.90, according to ORESTAR, but he has not spent any of it, nor has he received any contributions according to the website. He shows an ending cash balance of that same total, \$601.90.

These numbers are current as of Tuesday, April 14. The primary election is May 19.



Rollins



Miller

FORUMS

Continued from Page 1A

EO Media Group. “EO Media Group is glad to be able to provide this online forum to give voters the opportunity to get to know more about the CD2 candidates before the May 19 primary election.”

There are 16 candidates — five Democrats and 11 Republicans — running for the seat U.S. Rep. Greg Walden has held since 1998. Walden, the top Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Oregon’s only Republican in Congress, announced in 2019 he will retire in January 2021.

With 11 Republicans entered in the primary, Brown said it was necessary to hold two forums on May 2.

“It was important to us to make sure there was enough time for voters to hear from all of the candidates without sitting through an overly long forum,” she said.

The forums are being streamed by La Grande-based Eastern Oregon Alive TV, a local internet TV station.

The forums will be available for viewing on The Observer’s website or on EOAlive.tv following the events.

“Voters will have the chance to rewatch or watch for the first time if they missed the livestream,” Brown said.

The forums will be moderated by Chris Rush, the regional publisher of the EO Media Group’s east side publications, including The Observer.

Voters can submit questions to CD2forum@eomediagroup.com in advance of the forums or on Facebook Live during the event.

Oregon’s 2nd Congressional District is the largest of Oregon’s five districts.

The seventh largest district in the nation, it covers all of Eastern Oregon and the Medford area.

Ballots will be sent out April 29, and the primary election is May 19. The top vote getter in each party advances to the general election later this year.

EOU adjusts fees due to pandemic

Observer staff

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University’s Board of Trustees approved changes to lower mandatory student fees for spring term, the university announced Monday afternoon in a press release.

The move was part of the institution’s response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Finance and Administration Committee recommended reducing the building, health service and other fees 25% and lowering the incidental fee by \$10 this term. Trustees voted unanimously in favor of the revision.

All course fees were reviewed prior to the start of term, according to the news release, and many were reduced or waived in light of the temporary

remote-access environment. Richard Chaves, chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, said the change aligns with the institution’s mission and values.

“It is the right thing to do for our students,” he said.

Any change in fees requires board approval, and the university notified students of the potential change during the first week of term. According to the news release, the university projects its total loss of revenue from the reductions of fees to exceed \$180,000.

Mandatory student fees are only assessed to students registered for on-campus courses that are now being delivered remotely. Students enrolled under the part-time stu-

dent fee policy are subject to these fees at a rate appropriate to the specific number of credit hours each term. Fees are usually assessed at the same rate each term.

The board also approved amendments to EOU’s master plan, which guides capital project proposals. The amendment realigns institutional priorities and updates progress on specific projects.

Alongside the master plan updates, trustees approved capital proposals for 2021-23 that will go to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for review. EOU’s proposals focus on renovations to Inlow Hall and Loso Hall that directly impact teaching and learning spaces.

NUMBERS

Continued from Page 1A

sanitizer that contains 60% alcohol.

Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily.

•Notify your workplace as soon as possible if your regular work schedule changes. Ask to work from home or take leave if you or someone in your household gets sick with COVID-19 symptoms.

•Stay in touch with others by phone or email.

If you have a chronic med-

ical condition and live alone, ask family, friends and health care providers to check on you.

Stay in touch with family and friends, especially those at increased risk of developing severe illness, such as older adults and people with severe chronic medical conditions.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?

Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for COVID-19.

Fever, cough and shortness

**Tax Problems: RESOLVED**

**There are many ways we can tackle IRS or State tax relief together:**

- ✓Tax Levies & Liens Release
- ✓Wage Garnishment Release
- ✓Stop Penalties and Interest
- ✓Tax Debt Negotiation & Settlement
- ✓Resolve Back Taxes
- ✓Payroll Tax Negotiation
- ✓Tax Preparation & Bookkeeping Services

**Call us now for your FREE tax consultation & evaluation:**

**844-945-2056**

Antheim offers a money-back guarantee designed to help you avoid wasting money on ineffective tax services. We will gather as much information from you as necessary and work with tax authorities to give you the best chance of reducing your tax debt. If for any reason that does not work out, and the government notifies us they refuse to reduce your overall tax liability or monthly payments by any amount, we will gladly refund you the fees you paid for our services in trying to reduce that debt. Money Back Guarantee does not apply to Bookkeeping and Tax Preparation Services.

Antheim Tax Services

100% Satisfaction Guarantee

Best Company Recommended by The Credit Review

**Thank You Chamber Members**

**JK<sub>2</sub> Books**

**GlasSmith**

**Union County Chamber of Commerce**

**FARMERS INSURANCE**

**Greg Blackman Insurance Agency**

www.VisitUnionCounty.org

of breath may appear two to 14 days after exposure.

IF I FEEL I HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS, WHAT DO I DO?

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your health care provider for medical advice.

**Need extra room?**

**Alliance Self Storage**

**Give us a call!**

**541-786-8984**

**Alliance Self Storage**

2105 E L Ave., La Grande • allianceselfstorage123@gmail.com

**One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel**

Introducing the INOGEN ONE – It’s oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It’s small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

**Reclaim Your Freedom And Independence NOW!**

**inogen**

Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit

**1-855-839-0752**

© 2020 Inogen, Inc. All rights reserved. MKT-P0108

**Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator**

**SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY!**

**877-557-1912**

**FREE** 7-Year Extended Warranty\* A \$695 Value!

Offer valid March 16, 2020 - June 30, 2020

**Special Financing Available** Subject to Credit Approval

**GENERAC**

\*Terms & Conditions Apply

**US SILICA®**

**Seasonal Heavy Equipment Operator**

The Seasonal Heavy Equipment Operator position is located at the Drewsey, Oregon mine site. This position will start in May and end in late fall; as weather permits. The schedule is 4on/4off with 12-hour shifts. Camp trailers are available to stay in during the scheduled shift.

**The responsibilities include but are not limited to:**

- Operate various types of heavy equipment to excavate and move ore, dirt, rock, and other raw materials.
- Operate equipment fluidly and effectively to create and move stockpiles as required.
- Responsible for the safe operation of equipment and follow all traffic rules.
- Meet productivity standards in a timely manner and adapt to changes in the work environment.
- Inspect equipment and supplies such as tires, lights, brakes, gas, oil and water, etc.
- Follow all federal and state safety regulations and company safety policies/procedures.
- Keep the equipment clean and presentable.
- Perform equipment maintenance as required.

**Other requirements:**

- High school diploma, GED, or equivalent experience.
- The ability to work independently with a strong attention to detail.
- Possess an excellent operation and safety record .
- Good attendance history.
- Ability to work a flexible work schedule.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both written and oral.

**Apply on-line at [www.ussilica.com](http://www.ussilica.com).**

US Silica/EP Minerals supports a drug-free culture. Successful candidates must pass a post offer background check and drug screen. Equal Opportunity Employer.