

# THE OBSERVER

SERVING UNION AND WALLOWA COUNTIES SINCE 1896

April 12, 2022

TUESDAY EDITION

\$1.50

## EDUCATION ON THE



### GO STEM Hub brings opportunities to students in Eastern Oregon



## City lays out strategy

### Economic development plan targets local growth, COVID recovery

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande City Council recently approved the city's 2022-24 economic development strategy, which lists goals and projects for the city's economy over the next two fiscal years.

Faced with attracting new businesses as well as helping local owners recover from COVID-19 impacts, the plan targets future efforts to increase small-scale manufacturing, promote local entrepreneurship and a skilled workforce, utilize vacant spaces in La Grande and increase foot traffic around retail businesses in the downtown area.

"We want to ensure that we know where our focus will be and make sure we have a plan of action out there for how we're going to think about allocating budget, time and effort," La Grande Economic Development Director Timothy Bishop said.

The economic development strategy outlines objectives and goals for the next two fiscal years, allowing a timeline for necessary funding measures. The La Grande Urban Renewal Agency and the city council met on Monday, March 14, for a joint work session to review the proposed strategy, and the city council approved the plan on April 6.

Bishop noted that the strategic planning comes at an intersection of long-term plans and current focuses — the city is hoping to promote new business growth and recruitment, while continuing to help existing local businesses as they recover from the effects

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By **DAVIS CARBAUGH** • The Observer

## LA GRANDE — A locally based organization is spreading education opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics across Eastern Oregon.

The Greater Oregon STEM Hub, a state-funded education center housed at Zabel Hall at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, recently dispersed more than 2,000 STEM kits to fourth graders in the region. The initiative is one of the wide variety of ways the organization is providing learning opportunities for students and teachers in rural areas.

"We want our program to be equitable for all students in our region," GO STEM Hub Executive Director David Melville said. "We were trying to think of what we could do in the middle of a pandemic to support STEM education. We needed

something that was versatile."

The staff of three at the GO STEM Hub, with help from the EOU football team and coaching staff, on Saturday, March 5, packaged and prepared 2,300 kits to be delivered across GO STEM Hub's seven-county service range — many of the kits have already been delivered to schools, with the remaining kits set to arrive in time for Oregon STEM Week in May.

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**Greater Oregon STEM Hub staff and volunteers from the Eastern Oregon University football team pack supplies into STEM kits at the university's shipping and receiving building on Saturday, March 5, 2022. The organization distributed 2,300 STEM kits with projects and supplies to fourth graders across seven counties in Eastern Oregon.**

### UPCOMING GO STEM PLANS

The Greater Oregon STEM Hub, based at EOU, will be participating in the Earth Day event at Max Square from 4-5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 22. The organization is also gearing up for Oregon STEM Week, which begins on May 14.



**Volunteers from the Eastern Oregon University football team pack supplies into STEM kits for Eastern Oregon fourth graders on Saturday, March 5, 2022.**

David Melville/  
Contributed Photos



*"We were trying to think of what we could do in the middle of a pandemic to support STEM education. We needed something that was versatile."*

— **David Melville**, GO STEM Hub executive director



Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living/Contributed Photo  
**Issak Garcia, Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living's HIV prevention specialist, stocks shelves with home test kits for HIV.**

## 'We all have an HIV status'

### A collaboration between End HIV Oregon and EOCIL seeks to improve HIV awareness in Eastern Oregon

By **ALEX WITTWER**  
EO Media Group

PENDLETON — A campaign to raise awareness about HIV testing is underway in Eastern Oregon.

Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living, based in Ontario, has part-

nered with End HIV Oregon for a new advertising campaign between April and July that will focus on Pendleton, Hermiston, La Grande, Ontario and their surrounding towns.

"We've seen an uptick in HIV-positive cases in rural Eastern Oregon, and sexually transmitted disease cases, and so we thought it was just perfect timing," said Kirt Toombs, CEO and founder of EOCIL. "We've been working on this campaign since 2012, and we thought this was a good time to raise awareness."

According to the press release,

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### WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

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### CONTACT US

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Issue 44  
2 sections, 14 pages  
La Grande, Oregon

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