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## Insko stepping down as president at EOU

La Grande native leaving position at end of September after 7 years

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University President Tom Insko announced Monday, Aug. 1, that he is leaving his post at the end

of September. Insko has been named president and chief executive officer at Collins, a wood products company based in Wilsonville.



Insko

“This was a difficult decision because serving as president, with this outstanding community of educators, students and profes-

sionals, has been among the most challenging but fulfilling experiences of my career,” Insko said in a release announcing his departure. “I am so proud of what we have accomplished together over the last seven years, and while I will be serving Oregon in a different way, my goal is to continue to support and advance opportunities for the people in Eastern Oregon — and that includes the

students and community at EOU.” Insko was appointed Eastern’s 12th president in 2015 after more than 20 years as an executive at Boise Cascade. An EOU graduate and lifelong resident of La Grande, Insko brought his business experience along with a passion for expanding opportunities through education to his role as president.

Under Insko’s leadership EOU increased student access to higher education and protected affordability by keeping tuition flat during the pandemic in 2021-22. EOU has had some of the smallest increases in costs of all public universities in Oregon during his tenure while increasing its diversity and growing student retention rates.

Under Insko’s leadership EOU

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## Governor hopefuls debate for the first time

By COREY BUCHANAN  
Oregon Capital Bureau

WELCHES — During the first general election debate in a race for who will become the next governor of Oregon, the three candidates empathized with many Oregonians dissatisfied with where the state is headed.

Each of the three women, however, offered differing solutions to the state’s myriad issues in a 90-minute forum that underscored the chasms among their political philosophies and leadership styles.

Republican nominee Christine Drazan, Democratic nominee Tina Kotek and independent Betsy Johnson — who are running neck-and-neck in recent polls — shared the stage in an event hosted by Pamplin Media Group and sponsored by the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association at the Mt. Hood Oregon Resort in Welches Friday, July 29. The debate was moderated by PMG President Mark Garber and included questions from local journalists, as well as the opportunity for the candidates to confront each other with their own inquiries.

Drazan, a Canby resident and former Oregon House of Representatives minority leader who won the Republican nomination, made clear that she views her

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## PRACTICE WITH THE PROS

Elgin Opera House artistic director spends time in New York as part of fellowship

By TRISH YERGES  
For The Observer

ELGIN — Terry Hale is bringing home some of Broadway’s best tools after receiving special training at the 11th annual Freddie G Fellowship in New York City.

Hale, the artistic director of the Elgin Opera House, was one of six theater educators chosen nationwide for the Freddie G Fellowship, sponsored by Music Theatre International, and the only one from a small, rural community. The highly-coveted honor recognized Hale’s work with young performing artists through the Opera House Youth Actors, the Hale-Turner Theater, the Blue Mountain Community College theater, Pendleton High School, summer youth theater

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Contributed Photos  
ABOVE: Terry Hale, a Freddie G Fellowship honoree, participated in Broadway production workshops for four days in July at the invitation of founder Freddie Gershon, co-chairman of Music Theatre International of New York. Hale was one of only six theater teachers selected nationally for the 2020-22 Class and this prestigious training opportunity.

AT TOP: Hale and Krissy Brown, left — both members of the Freddie G Fellowship Class of 2020-22 — are being coached by Broadway professional Jeff Calhoun at the iTheatrics studio at The 52nd Street Project building during their all-expense-paid training trip to New York in July.

## Groups work to reassess safety in Oregon schools

InterMountain Education Service District plans for August school safety summit

By SHANNON GOLDEN  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — In the wake of May’s deadly shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, American school districts, government officials and law enforcement are searching for solutions to school safety issues.

The InterMountain Education Service Dis-

trict, in partnership with local law enforcement and regional school districts, aims to address safety in Oregon schools during a School Security Summit on Monday, Aug. 8.

“Uvalde rocked us, just like Sandy Hook did,” said Mark Mulvihill, IMESD superintendent. “As we go back to in-person instruction, we want the public to be assured that we’re

working hard to deal with active shooter situations.”

IMESD serves almost two dozen school districts in four counties — Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Baker — and aims to have representation from each one. According to Mulvihill, almost 150 people will be in attendance at the summit, from police officers and sheriff deputies to educators, superintendents and school mental health providers.

The agency’s last school safety summit took place in 2016. Mulvihill acknowl-

edged the tremendous turnover of law enforcement and district staff that may have occurred in the six years since as a motivation for this year’s event.

He also noted the pandemic’s impact on school safety issues.

“We’ve been so focused on COVID safety protocols that our active shooter training has been on the back burner,” he said.

For Mulvihill, the implementation of this common

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### MORE INFORMATION

The summit will be closed to the public, but Mark Mulvihill, IMESD superintendent, encouraged community members to look to their local law enforcement and media outlets for more information about the outcome of the event.

For more information about the summit, please email IMESD Superintendent Mulvihill at mark.mulvihill@imesd.k12.or.us. To learn about standardized protocol terminology, visit www.iloveguys.org. To learn how to report school safety threats, visit www.safeoregon.com.

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

	<b>Tonight</b> 58 LOW Mainly clear		<b>Wednesday</b> 96/60 Partly sunny
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### CONTACT US

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Email story ideas to news@lagrandeobserver.com. More contact info on Page A4.



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