

BRIEFLY

New Main Street store offers lavender products

PENDLETON — Everything's coming up lavender at 333 S. Main Street in Pendleton.

Dawn Alderman has operated the space as a wedding rental shop called John Loves June for three years, but she moved her previous inventory out and opened it Sept. 8 as Lavender Mercantile Co.

"We'll introduce lavender treats and goodies to our customers," she said.

Besides the flower itself, Alderman is selling lavender lemonade, lavender cupcakes and plans to expand her selection to jams and biscuits.

The flowers are locally sourced — Alderman owns her own Pendleton lavender farm — and she also features products from other local artisans like lotions, greeting cards and jewelry.

Lavender Mercantile is in the midst of an "extended soft open," but despite the lack of advertising or promotional work, Alderman said she's already received repeat customers.

Alderman said the business will continue to evolve and expand and offer new services like tintype photography.

Crazy Mike's Video to close in Hermiston

HERMISTON — Crazy Mike's Video in Hermiston is closing.

Owner Sam Jackson made the announcement on Facebook this week that the video store will rent out its last video on Sunday, before putting all of the store's merchandise up for sale on Monday.

Sales will start out at \$5 per DVD or five for \$20, with barely used premiers and Blu-rays priced at \$19.99 and television shows at varying prices. Jackson said the sale will provide people with the opportunity to buy "quite a few treasures that are out of print."

She wrote on Facebook that the announcement was made with sadness, but "the combination of technology and the wage increase has made it impossible for us to sustain."

Jackson had previously stated in interviews with the *East Oregonian* in 2013 and 2016 that if minimum wage continued to climb in Oregon she would likely have to "kiss the business goodbye."

Crazy Mike's Video is located at 115 E. Highland Ave. in Hermiston, with hours from noon to 9 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday and noon to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Nonprofit board training coming to Pendleton

PENDLETON — Board members and staff of nonprofit organizations across Eastern Oregon can register now for a training event Saturday, Oct. 14 in Pendleton, hosted by the Center for Nonprofit Stewardship.

The training will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, featuring talks on the roles and responsibilities of board members, understanding financial information, risk management and successful program evaluations. Presenters will include Rosalie Westenskow, attorney with the Center for Nonprofit Law; Leslie Witt, certified professional accountant with Witt Consulting; and JoAnne Bunnage with SharedVision, LLC.

For more than 14 years, the Center for Nonprofit Stewardship has been helping nonprofit groups solve legal, financial, fundraising and leadership issues by educating board members and staff. Registration for the training is \$95, which includes lunch and materials.

To register, visit www.nonprofitsteward.org or contact Heidi Henry at 541-230-1036.



In this image from video, Jake Nelson, AAA's director for traffic safety advocacy and research, drives one of the test vehicles used in the study in Washington, Wednesday.

Tech-crammed cars adding distractions

By JOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The infotainment technology that automakers are cramming into the dashboard of new vehicles is making drivers take their eyes off the road and hands off the wheel for dangerously long periods of time, an AAA study says.

The study released Thursday is the latest by University of Utah professor David Strayer, who has been examining the impact of infotainment systems on safety for AAA's Foundation for Traffic Safety since 2013. Past studies also identified problems, but Strayer said the "explosion of technology" has made things worse.

Automakers now include more options to allow drivers to use social media, email and text. The technology is also becoming more complicated to use. Cars used to have a few buttons and knobs. Some vehicles now have as many as 50 buttons on the steering wheel and dashboard that are multi-functional. There are touch screens, voice commands, writing pads, heads-up displays on windshields and mirrors and 3-D computer-generated images.

"It's adding more and more layers

Traffic, pedestrian deaths spike in 2016

WASHINGTON (AP) — Traffic fatalities rose 5.6 percent last year, with even bigger spikes in pedestrian and motorcyclist deaths, the government said Friday.

There were 37,461 people killed on U.S. roads in 2016 as Americans continue to drive more, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said. The fatality rate was 1.18 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled,

a 2.6 percent increase from the previous year.

Traffic deaths have been increasing since late 2014, as gas prices have fallen and people started driving more. In 2016, the total number of miles driven in the U.S. rose 2.2 percent.

Pedestrian deaths hit their highest level since 1990, with 5,987 people killed. That figure represents a 9 percent increase since the previous year.

of complexity and information at drivers' fingertips without often considering whether it's a good idea to put it at their fingertips," Strayer said. That complexity increases the overall amount of time drivers spend trying to use the systems.

The auto industry says the new systems are better alternatives for drivers than mobile phones and navigation devices that were not designed to be used while driving.

The vehicle-integrated systems "are designed to be used in the driving environment and require driver attention that is comparable to tuning the radio or adjusting climate controls, which have always

been considered baseline acceptable behaviors while driving," said Wade Newton, a spokesman for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers.

But Jake Nelson, AAA's director for traffic safety advocacy and research, said drivers took their eyes off the road and hands off the wheel while using infotainment systems in each of the 30 cars and light trucks, all 2017 models, that were tested in the study. The drivers used voice commands, touch screens and other interactive technologies to make calls, send texts, tune the radio or program navigation all while driving.

Hurricanes cause rare monthly job loss; rebound likely

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — A pullback in U.S. hiring last month resulting from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma will likely prove short-lived, with a resilient job market pointing to gains in the coming months.

The unemployment rate fell to a fresh 16-year low of 4.2 percent, from 4.4 percent, the Labor Department said Friday in its September jobs report. The proportion of Americans with jobs rose to a nearly nine-year high. And even long-dormant wage growth showed signs of picking up.

The economy lost 33,000 jobs last month — the first monthly loss in nearly seven years — as the hurricanes closed thousands of businesses in Texas, Florida and other parts of the Southeast. Yet hiring is widely expected to rebound in coming months as companies reopen and bring back workers and construction firms ramp up repair and renovation work.

Previous natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005, also inflicted short-term job losses that were followed by intensified hiring.



In this Thursday, Aug. 24 photo, Phil Wiggett, right, a recruiter with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, looks at a resume during a job fair in San Jose, Calif.

"The labor market remains in good shape," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial. "The job losses were due to disruptions from hurricanes, not underlying weakness in the economy."

Outside of hurricane-hit areas, many Americans found work. The number of people describing themselves as unemployed fell to 6.8 million, the fewest since March 2007, before the Great Recession began.

That sign of health makes it appear all but certain that the Federal Reserve will raise its benchmark short-term interest rate in December. According to data from the

CME Group, investors now foresee an 88 percent chance of a Fed rate hike then.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen has said she expects pay raises to accelerate as unemployment declines. That, in turn, might lift inflation closer to the Fed's annual 2 percent target level if companies raised prices to pay for higher salaries.

Last month's drop was driven by huge losses in restaurants and bars, which

accounted for 105,000 fewer jobs, a sign of the damage to Florida's tourism industry. Overall, roughly 1.5 million people were unable to work last month because of the weather, the government said, the most in 20 years.

Hourly workers who couldn't work because of the storms last month and missed a paycheck would have been counted as not working in the government's survey of businesses, thereby lowering September's job total. That's true even if those employees returned to work after the storm passed or will return.

The unemployment rate fell because it is calculated with a separate survey of households. That survey counted people as employed even if they were temporarily out of work because of the storms. In fact, the proportion of adults who have jobs rose to 60.4 percent, the highest since January 2009.

That's a sign that the low unemployment rate is pulling more Americans off the sidelines and back into the job market. During the recession

and the sluggish recovery that followed, many people gave up searching for work.

Dan Harmon, chief operating officer of Smoothie King, a 900-store chain based near New Orleans, said the storms temporarily closed 66 stores in the Houston area and disrupted the company's end-of-summer hiring. One store was so damaged it still hasn't reopened.

In August and September, the company typically hires new employees to replace college workers who return to school. But that process was delayed in Florida and Texas.

"We weren't able to do our normal hiring spree that we usually do going into the fall," Harmon said.

The storms also disrupted the company's expansion plans. It opened 65 stores nationwide in the July-September quarter. It would have opened four more, but they were damaged while under construction. Each Smoothie King employs about 15 hourly workers and two to three managers.

NEW BIZ ROUNDUP

Cup holder innovator revives business

East Oregonian

When her children were younger, Cherylene Wallace felt like she didn't have enough hands to juggle her kids and their cups and bottles.

Wallace and a friend bounced some ideas off of each other until they came up with The Cup Corset, a reversible cup holder with a strap that allows the user to keep their hands free while on the go.

Since moving from Richland, Washington, to Pendleton four years ago, the business went mostly dormant before she decided to revive it this year.

Wallace created a new website, obtained a business license from the city in September and will now appear at various bazaars and outdoor marketplaces throughout Pendleton.

In addition to her original creation, Wallace also sells corsets for mason jars and ice cream pints.

Wallace said some of the places she'll sell her wares this year are bazaars at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, the Pendleton Early Learning Center and Altrusa.

The Cup Corset is one of seven business licenses the city of Pendleton issued in September. Below are the rest of the business names, their physical or mailing address and their owner or contact person.

- Robert Alan Property Management Inc., 127 S.W. Emigrant Ave. #1, Pendleton, Robert Alan
- Face Lingerie Duo, 1201 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton, Leah Rogers

- Auralcare Hearing Centers of America LLC, 248 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton
- Heather Ficken, 84771 Dorrans Road, Helix

- Point Monitor Corp., 5863 Lakeview Blvd., Lake Oswego
- Paldin Professionals, 909 NW Bailey Ave, Suite 7, Pendleton, Nathan Goud

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