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# EAST OREGONIAN

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## Our New Neighbors

### NATIONAL FOREST BECKONS WATRUD

Forest supervisor is  
'where I want to be'

By **KATHY ANEY**  
*East Oregonian*

Eric Watrud has simple tastes.

When he's not working, he revels in being with family, spending time in nature or strumming tunes on his guitar. Bliss was relaxing on his deck and watching fireworks on the Fourth of July.

Recently, the new supervisor of the Umatilla National Forest sat in his living room in North Pendleton and grinned as 2-year-old Abigail removed a couple of decorations from the Christmas tree and brought them over for his inspection. He deftly directed her to a book about crickets that chirped when the little girl opened the cover.

Such is life at Chez Watrud.

Eric, his wife, Cecily, and their three children

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### MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The East Oregonian wishes your family a joyous holiday. No newspaper will be delivered on Christmas Day. Tuesday's comics and other features can be found with the color comics in today's edition.

## PENDLETON

# Vocal on shopping local



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**Carolyn Britt sands a drawer for a cabinet while preparing a storefront for her clothing store, El Roi Apparel, on Friday in downtown Pendleton. Britt is planning on opening her new store in February.**

### Survey shows demand for better variety downtown

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

**C**arolyn Britt is ready to deliver on what shoppers want from downtown Pendleton. And she's got the data to prove it.

In late 2017 and early 2018, the city and the Pendleton Downtown Association sent out 5,000 surveys through the mail, posted a survey online, and conducted focus groups to determine where people shopped, what they bought, and what they would like to see out of the downtown shopping experience.

After receiving 453 responses through the mail, 253 online, and



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**Nearly one-third of hardware purchases made by the survey shoppers were made in downtown at Zimmerman's Hardware, according to a 2018 survey conducted by the city of Pendleton and the Pendleton Downtown Association.**

the focus groups finished, the survey results revealed the type

of store shoppers most wanted to see in the downtown area was

a women's apparel store, to the tune of 64 percent.

That's a demand Britt, a former manager at Speakeasy Clothing Co., intends to fill.

Opening a new clothing business on South Main Street wasn't Britt's ambition until Speakeasy Clothing owner Katie Jones decided to get out of the apparel business.

Jones was looking to expand her companion Speakeasy Salon business into the clothing retailer's 215 S.W. 10th St. space, and with Britt uninterested in transitioning into spa and salon work, the pair agreed in October that Britt could purchase the clothing company's remaining inventory and strike it out on her own.

Since then, Britt has created a business plan, obtained a Jump

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## BMCC opens food pantry to feed hungry students

By **KATHY ANEY**  
*East Oregonian*

No one should have to make the choice between eating and attending college.

That's the idea behind The Den,

a new food pantry at the Pendleton campus of Blue Mountain Community College.

Last year, the college conducted research to pinpoint the level of food insecurity among its students at all branches. The study identified that

more than 45 percent of students surveyed skipped on or skipped meals in the past year because they couldn't afford food. Twenty percent of the students surveyed faced this situation on a monthly basis.

A larger Temple University study

found that 36 percent of 43,000 students surveyed at 66 colleges and universities don't get enough to eat. One in 10 community college students had gone without eating for at

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