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Gen Z looks for work

Eastern Oregon Career Summit brings students and employers together

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The formula for career day is tried and true — a school invites a diverse group of professionals to speak to students and inspire their future career aspirations.

Potential employers spend a lot of time telling students what they need from them to get hired, but less is spent on what younger job seekers are looking for in a workplace.

Umatilla County, Eastern Oregon Business Source, and the Pendleton and Hermiston chambers of commerce attempted to change that by organizing the Eastern Oregon Career Summit.

While students at Pendleton High School went through a traditional career day Wednesday morning, Eastern Oregon Business Source President Susan Bower led a class of personnel from human resources departments and workforce assistance programs at the Pendleton Convention Center about the best way to hire the next generation of workers.

Contrary to popular opinion, Bower said millennials and their younger cohorts weren't especially lazy, narcissistic, or entitled compared to previous generations.

"Just because we have a certain birthday doesn't mean we fit into a certain category," she said.

Bower added that while many employers desire soft skills like communication and professionalism, many young jobseekers are unaware and need to be trained up on them.

Bower said millennials were now the largest generational group in the workforce, and the next generation, "Generation Z," would soon join them.

Later that afternoon, a crush of Generation Zers from eight school districts across Umatilla County filled the convention hall to hear pitches from potential employers.

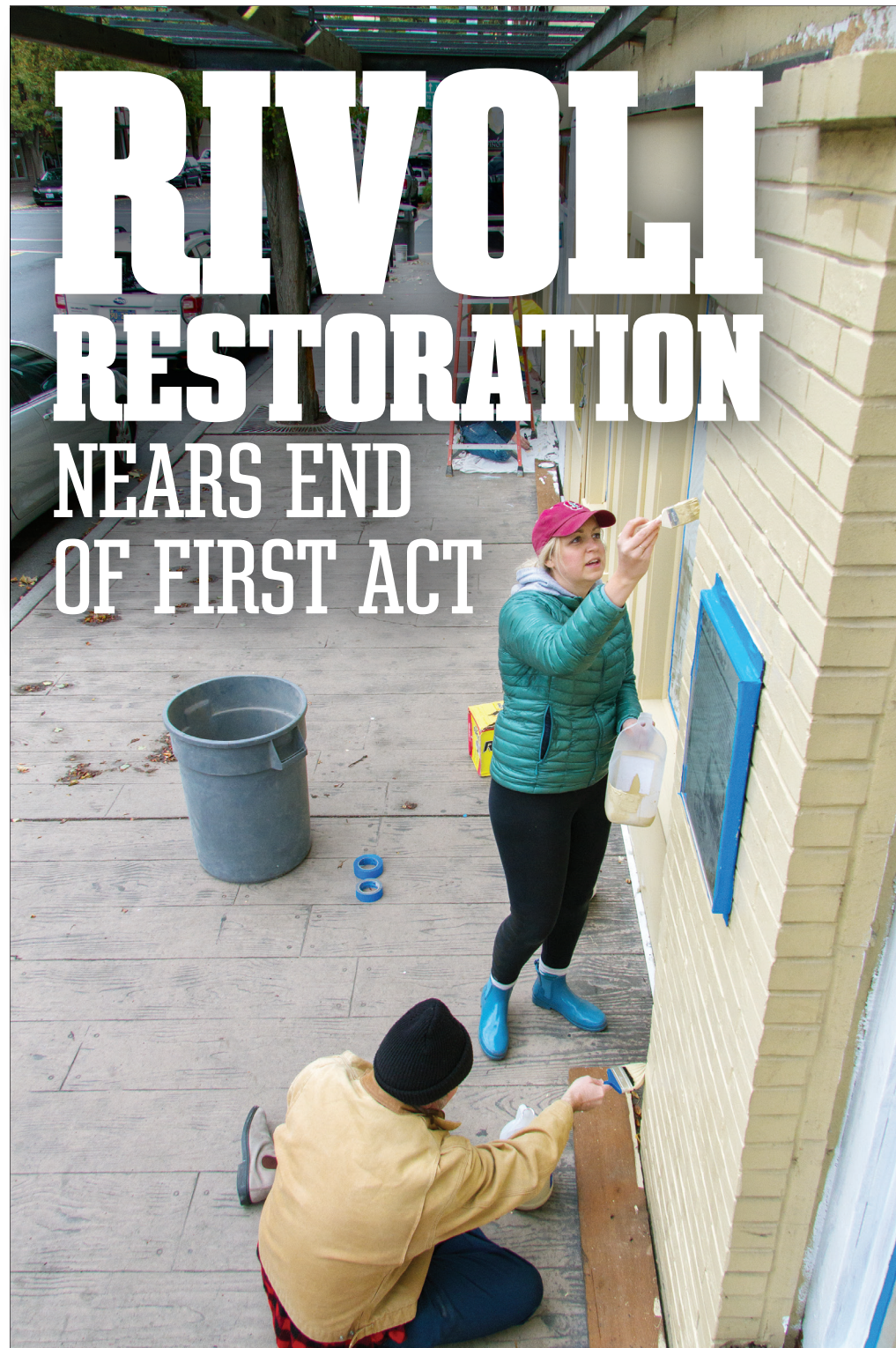
A group of students huddled around the Washington State Department of Corrections booth to hear a pitch from employees from the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla.

Sgt. Howard Thornhill ran through all the careers students could pursue at the penitentiary beyond correctional officer, while also highlighting the department of corrections benefit package and overtime pay.

Pilot Rock High School seniors Austin Drake and Ty Dick listened intently to Thornhill's pitch, but they already had their minds set on a different career track.

The pair said they both intended to attend WyoTech in Laramie, Wyoming, to study diesel mechanics, and they were mostly using the job fair to get an idea of what other options were out there.

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Sally Franklin and Nick Nash paint the facade of the Rivoli during a workday on Saturday at the historic theater.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
The foyer to the historic Rivoli features the theater's name in tile. The tile will be incorporated into the new foyer.

Sealing of roof likely saved theater from water damage during fire

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The first and most unglamorous phase of the Rivoli Theater renovation is nearing an end. During the demolition process, workers removed almost 150,000 pounds of debris, including a balcony and the 3,250-pound beam that held it in place.

What's left is a cavernous space that will house Rivoli 2.0 — an homage to the historic theater's original design with modern upgrades, such as an elevator, steel framing and sprinkler system. The venue will function as a multi-purpose entertainment center for the community.

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney
A large beam that once spanned the width of the Rivoli sits in pieces on the historic theater's dirt floor during Saturday's open house and workday.

BMCC diesel technology students repair SWAT rig

Umatilla County Sheriff's Office approached school about repairing vehicle

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Students at Blue Mountain Community College's diesel technologies program have one burly police rig ready to roll.

Umatilla County Sher-

iff's Deputy Stephen Westfall contacted BMCC's diesel technologies instructor Jeremy Pike in the spring to see if his students would be interested in servicing the law enforcement agency's armored vehicle. Pike said Westfall is familiar with the program because he brings his own vehicles to the college for work, and the students were keen to dig in.

Sheriff's Sgt. Josh Roberts said the 1983 GMC beast cost nothing for the

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Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Members of the Blue Mountain Community College diesel technology program pose for a portrait with a 1983 GMC armored vehicle that they repaired for the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office.



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