

Business: Median annual commission for Scentsy consultants is \$697

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the average commission for someone who was active with the company for all 12 months at \$1,981 per year. The top consultant in the company earned \$967,423 in commissions in 2018, according to the report, but the median was \$697, meaning half of Scentsy's sellers earned less than that over the course of a year.

In multi-level marketing companies, sellers get commissions from sales by people they recruited to sell. But Whetsler said Scentsy is set up in a way that you can make money without recruiting people — she only has one person “downstream” from her.

“It is kind of like a pyramid, but I don't push people to take the plunge with me,” she said. “I want them to pursue things they love. Scentsy is what I love and it helps bring income in for splurges.”

Each multi-level marketing company has its own rules for joining. Scentsy, for example, requires consultants to purchase a \$99 starter kit to start. LuLaRoe, known for its colorful leggings, currently requires consultants to make an initial investment of \$499 worth of products, according to its website.

LuLaRoe has been the target of multiple class action lawsuits claiming it is a pyramid scheme that misled and pressured people into purchasing thousands of dollars of clothing that they were unable to sell or return, then



Contributed photo by Olivia Olsen
Olivia Olsen, of Hermiston, makes homemade greeting cards, such as this one, and sells them at yard sales.

convinced them to recruit more people into an already oversaturated market.

In response to one such lawsuit in 2017, LuLaRoe released a statement saying the accusations were “baseless, factually inaccurate and misinformed” and that the company's success had made it a “target of orchestrated competitive attacks and predatory litigation.”

Despite some people losing money from participation in multi-level marketing companies, others feel it's a good way to supplement their income.

Tamara Bow, a registered nurse from Umatilla, said in an email to the *East Ore-*

gonian that she can't disclose how much she makes a month from selling Younique makeup, but said she feels the time she puts into it is “definitely” preferable to picking up extra shifts at work.

“It can sometimes be a challenge when someone signs up and expects to retire from their full-time job and earn all the free trips, without putting any work into it,” she wrote. “This is like any other entrepreneurship, you have to put time into it, in order to be paid like a full-time job.”

She cautioned people looking into participation in a multi-level marketing company to do their research first and ask about specific

companies' policies about start-up costs, recurring fees, cancellation fees, automatic shipping of new inventory, returns and website costs. One reason she was drawn to Younique specifically, she said, was their lack of fees. She has also enjoyed using the product and bonuses, such as the cruise to the Bahamas she took last week courtesy of the company.

Not everyone who starts a home-based business does so through a multi-level marketing company. Some prefer to work for themselves, which may make them miss out on bonuses but also gives them more control over their expenditures and revenue.

Olivia Olsen, of Hermiston, started a small side business making greeting cards from home about two years ago. She said she always enjoyed making the intricate cards, but she started selling them after a friend gave one of her homemade cards to a coworker, and people started requesting she make cards for them.

“It's just spread by word of mouth,” she said.

Olsen said it takes 30 to 40 minutes to make one card, and she charges \$5 to \$8 per card, depending on the cost of the materials used to make it. She mostly sells to friends and family, but she also puts out a basket of cards at friends' yard sales and donates batches of cards to auctions that Hermiston school groups put on to raise money.

She can't make a living off of the business, she said, but it turns a stress-relieving hobby into a little extra cash she puts away for “emergencies.”

“It's nice people appreciate them when I make them,” she said.

Ana Cecilia Rodriguez, of Hermiston, also started a home-based business creating home decor, such as succulent arrangements and signs. As a stay-at-home mother of six children, she said she started Cecilia's Arts and Crafts because she wanted to help contribute toward what her husband was earning.

She said she makes the crafts while her children are at school and sells them for as

much as \$35 at places like the farmer's market.

Others in town offer services, such as piano lessons or tutoring, in their homes instead of products.

Hermiston City Planner Clint Spencer said he frequently gets questions about whether a home-based business in a residential zone would run afoul of city zoning laws. The city's code of ordinances permits home-based businesses in a residential zone if the building is primarily used as a residence, less than one-fourth of the ground floor is taken up by the commercial activity and the building maintains the “outward appearance” of a residence.

“There are lots of home occupations in town where people might do accounting out of their homes, or run a small, appointment only hair cutting business out of their homes,” Spencer wrote in an email. “As far as online sales, that's one that is perfectly acceptable. It's a retail use, but it's done on an order by order basis. That's a big difference from having display shelves and customers entering a store.”

According to section 11.02 of the City of Pendleton's code of ordinances, a home-based business is considered a “home occupation” requiring a permit from the city if it employs people who are not residents of the home, has a sign advertising the business on the building or expects more than two customers visiting the home per day.

Cap and trade: ‘It’s going to affect every man, woman and child in Oregon’

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to find on the third and fourth floors of the Senate side of the Capitol building late Monday morning, before the floor session was called.

For state Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, that was the last straw.

“I feel very strongly about this,” he said in an interview Monday. “It's too contentious, it's too lifechanging, it's too monumental. It's going to affect every man, woman and child in Oregon. This is it.”

Hansell recalled how Republicans were able to get a Democrat, Sen. Betsy Johnson of Scappoose, to join them on the otherwise party-line vote, but Courtney's last-minute decision to add himself to the committee defeated the Republican amendments and pushed the bill through to the floor.

Hansell said Courtney's move was the first time he's seen that happen since he joined the Legislature in 2013, although he admitted that the move wasn't illegal or against Senate rules.

Other issues Hansell cited for walking out included the committee voting down an alternative carbon sequestration proposal from state Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner, and the bill's sponsors adding a fiscal impact statement only minutes before Ways and Means was set to meet.

The walkout threatens to derail the main legislation that Democrats had hoped to pass during a 35-day session: a bill to limit greenhouse gas emissions that threaten the planet.

The latest so-called cap-and-trade bill calls for the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to at least 45% below 1990 emissions levels by 2035 and to at least 80% below by 2050. The bill would force big greenhouse gas emitters to obtain credits for each metric ton of carbon dioxide they emit. Opponents say fossil fuel companies will wind up offloading increased costs to customers.

Republican lawmakers said a matter of this magnitude should be brought before voters. Republican state Sen.

Fred Girod said before the committee's vote that if the measure were referred to voters “we would stick around.”

“Just give them the right to vote,” Girod said.

Democratic Gov. Kate Brown accused the Republican lawmakers of “being against the Democratic process.” The minority Republicans staged two walkouts

on the Senate floor that not enough senators were present to convene Monday's session, several people in an upper gallery clapped. Courtney said he would order police to expel them if they persisted.

A visibly angry Brown denounced the boycott as undemocratic.

“If they don't like a bill, then they need to show up and

“LEGISLATORS SHUTTING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT BY WALKING OFF THE JOB IS A CRISIS FOR OUR DEMOCRACY.”

— Tina Kotek, Oregon House speaker, D-Portland

last year, leading Senate President Peter Courtney to request Brown to order the state police to bring the missing lawmakers back. This time, though, Courtney said he won't involve the state police.

A few large trucks supporting the Republicans drove around the Oregon Capitol, blowing their horns. After Courtney announced

change it or show up and vote no. They should make their voices heard rather than shut down state government,” she said at a news conference.

Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, also condemned the walkout.

“Legislators shutting down the government by walking off the job is a crisis for our democracy,” she said. “This is not a game. Voters

elected us to do our job. The members who refuse to show up and do their jobs are saying to a large majority of Oregonians — your vote doesn't matter.”

Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, has been excused for the next couple of days due to a family medical issue.

Workers in the office of Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, said Findley was “not here” and that “he's not coming back.”

In a statement shortly before the floor session, Findley said that “if my colleagues will not allow for a fair process in the building, then I will represent my constituents from outside the building.”

Staff for Sen. Denyc Boles, R-Salem, referred questions to communications.

Kate Gillem, Senate Republican spokeswoman, said that all have walked out except for a “senator from Bend.”

Gillem said they would stay away for the rest of the session. She said they could maybe be drawn back if the bill could be referred

to voters.

She didn't say where they went.

“I don't know,” she said. “They've been super tight-lipped. Even with staff.”

Although he's staying outside Salem, Hansell said he remains in-state, although that could change if Brown and Courtney order Oregon State Police to bring back the absent senators.

He also anticipated that more legislators could leave Salem in the future.

“The House is in lockstep with us and there's the possibility that they will walk out as well,” he said.

In the wake of the mass walkout, Blue Mountain Community College canceled its Tuesday videoconference on the short session with Hansell and state Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove, and was unable to confirm whether the weekly event would resume on March 3.

EO reporters Antonio Sierra and Jessica Pollard and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Helping: ‘It just felt like something I needed to do’

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Lang went to Nate Jackson and Luke Britt, both pastors with the church, and told them about the tragic state of the park. The following Thursday, Lang, Britt and Rod Darlington, another member of the church, went together to see the park themselves.

“They were just heartbroken,” Jackson said.

Though they wanted to quickly organize a work party for that Saturday, the weather wasn't ideal and they instead scheduled one for the following weekend.

“What I was hoping for is that we could just come here and try to be a blessing to these people,” Jackson said.

The church has about 300 members, Jackson said, and they were hoping for at least 10-12 people to show up and help them for the day.

That proved to be an underestimate.

Thirty to 40 church members came decked out in work gloves and muck boots, and equipped with their own rakes and shovels. The dumpster pro-



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Nathan Burcham, 14, shovels dirt into a puddle on Saturday as part of the church's effort to clean up flood damage at Hall's Trailer Park.

vided by the CTUIR was filled within 30 minutes, but luckily a handful of members brought their own trucks to fill and haul to the dump. Pendleton also said any debris that was left and marked would be picked up and disposed of on Monday.

The group started on the east side of the park where Meacham's house sits, and he said his yard was cleaned and wood restacked within 20 minutes.

Though it wasn't supposed to be a burn day, the city allowed the group to

start a burn pile of wood and tree debris that grew larger and larger as the day wore on.

Steine worked alongside the church members throughout the day, cleaning up the mess around his own home and the rest of the park.

“I needed to clean my place anyway, and they're my neighbors too,” he said.

A smile spread across Jackson's face as he took a break and watched as, wheelbarrow by wheelbarrow, his congregation

worked hand in hand with the community.

“This,” Jackson said as he watched the stream of volunteers trek back and forth with load after load of wreckage. “This is the church right here. This is what we should be doing all the time. It just feels right.”

A few hours and many truckloads later, the congregation took a break to barbecue and chat with the community over lunch. Before the group served up its meal, Britt led them through a prayer giving thanks to God for supplying them with the strength to give back to the community.

Prior to grabbing their own lunch, Lang stepped aside and told Hall the church would have volunteers out later this week to drop and spread gravel along the park's battered roads and figure out what else the community needs.

Hall hung her head and shook it in disbelief for several moments before finally raising her gaze to Lange.

“I'm going to owe thanks to the good Lord for sending all of you for the rest of my life,” she said.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Hermiston city manager Byron Smith discusses fire damage and accessibility concerns with members of the public and city officials during a tour of the Hermiston City Hall Monday night.

City hall: \$9M price tag

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Six of the eight councilors were in attendance Monday. Councilor John Kirwan, who motioned to approve building a new city hall, stipulated that the project should not exceed \$9 million dollars and that the new enterprise zone agreement and the possible tenant be confirmed before moving forward.

Prior to the city council meeting Monday, Smith initiated a public walk-through tour of

the smoke-damaged city hall building. Conversations around accessibility within and around the building also sat center stage.

“I brought a wheelchair if anyone wants to try making those corners,” he said.

People were invited to try the stair lift up the small staircase to the city council chambers. City councilor Roy Barron commented he could only make it halfway up the short staircase to the chambers.