

Small Business & Ag Happenings

Last chance to advertise in chamber map

LA GRANDE — The opportunity for businesses to advertise in the Union County Chamber of Commerce 2019-2020 Union County and Community Map will soon be over. The map is widely distributed and draws tourists and other consumers to local businesses. To be included on the map, email desertstorm@bmi.net or info@visitunioncounty.org as soon as possible. For more information, call Lini Handy at 760-567-9430 or the chamber at 541-963-8588.

FSA extends Market Facilitation Program deadline to May 17

WASHINGTON, D.C. — USDA extended the deadline to May 17 for agricultural producers to certify 2018 crop production for payments through the Market Facilitation Program, which helps producers who have been significantly affected by foreign tariffs, resulting in the loss of traditional exports. USDA's Farm Service Agency extended the deadline, previously May 1, because heavy rainfall and snowfall have delayed harvests in many parts of the country, preventing producers from certifying acres.

MFP provides payments to producers of corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, wheat, dairy, hogs, fresh sweet cherries and shelled almonds. FSA will issue payments based on the producer's certified total production of the MFP commodity multiplied by the MFP rate for that specific commodity. Payments will be issued only if eligible producers certify before the updated May 17 deadline. Producers can certify production at www.farmers.gov or by contacting their local FSA office:

- Baker County — 3990 Midway Drive, Baker City, 541-523-7121 ext. 106
- Union County — 1901 Adams Ave., Suite 5, La Grande, 541-963-4178
- Wallowa County — 401 NE First St., Suite E, Enterprise, 541-426-4521

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue launched the trade mitigation program to assist farmers suffering from damage because of unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. FSA implemented MFP in September 2018 as a relief strategy to protect agricultural producers while the USDA works on free, fair and reciprocal trade deals to open more markets to help American farmers compete globally. The MFP was established under the statutory authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and is administered by FSA.

Edward Jones welcomes financial advisor

LA GRANDE — Edward Jones Financial Adviser Shawn Mangum announced that a second financial advisor, Briana Tanaka, has joined his office in La Grande at 1117 Adams Ave.

"I'm very impressed with Briana, and I'm sure my clients will be, too," Mangum said. "Edward Jones prides itself on providing the best service possible to those investors who choose to do business with us. Briana will help provide the high level of service investors in Eastern Oregon have come to expect from us as well as extend our services to new investors."

Tanaka will work alongside Mangum for two years then will continue serving investors throughout the area from her own branch office.

Edward Jones, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in St. Louis, provides financial services in the U.S. and, through its affiliate, in Canada. Every aspect of the firm's business, from the investments its financial advisors offer to the location of its branch offices, caters to individual investors. For more information, visit www.edwardjones.com.

UC Chamber announces ribbon cuttings in May

UNION, LA GRANDE — The Union County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a number of ribbon cuttings this month. On May 10, the new Old West Federal Credit Union branch in Union will celebrate its opening with a ribbon cutting and open house from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 539 S. Main St. On May 17, a ribbon cutting event at Wine Down will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wine Down's new location is 115 Depot St., La Grande. On May 18, the community is invited to recognize the new ownership of R & C Family Store, 2700 Bearco Loop, La Grande, with a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m.



The Door Guy celebrates a quarter century in business

By Trish Yerges
For WesCom News Service

The Door Guy, 10102 S. E St., in Island City, is celebrating its 25th anniversary in business this May. To mark the occasion, a door sale will be held during the entire month of May. The public is invited to stop in, get acquainted with The Door Guy products, discuss any door solutions needed at home and check out the special discount offers on any door purchase.

"Bob (Fager) started this business when he installed his first door in May 1994," according to current owner Dan Johnson. "Back then Bob operated his business out of his home. He used a large horse trailer and other facilities to store doors. Then in 2000, he purchased the present commercial location in Island City."

On March 1, 2017, Fager retired and sold the business to Dan and Donna Johnson. Their daughter, Kaitlin Johnson, had been working for Fager for several years, and she was instrumental in convincing her father to buy The Door Guy and making it a family business.

Dan Johnson's background for the past 30 years has been in the software industry as a vice president of support services.

"So I've been dealing with customers for years and have training in customer service, both technical and ensuring quality of product and customer satisfaction," he said.

One of the business mottos that



Courtesy photo

The founder of The Door Guy, Bob Fager (left), and current owner, Dan Johnson, represent 25 years of door business between them. Fager ran the store from May 1994 to March 2017, and Johnson has owned it since.

Johnson holds to is what he calls "T-K-T-K" — timely, knowledgeable, thorough and kind. "That's a philosophy I have as I work with people (of all ages). It's just how to deal with people," he said.

Today, the business is operated by

the Johnson family, including daughter, Kaitlin Johnson, vice president and office manager; son-in-law, Kyle Brush, operations manager of the garage door division; and sons, Daniel Johnson Jr., operations manager of the entry door

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Courtesy photo

Roni Shaw of Bowman Trucking accepts her award.

WesCom News Service staff

PORTLAND — Oregon Trucking Associations (OTA) announced winners for this year's Safety Awards during the 2019 Spring Safety Conference on April 18, held at the Salem Convention Center. At the ceremony, Roni Shaw with Bowman Trucking of La Grande was recognized as the Safety Professional of the Year (small fleet). Nominees are catego-

rized by fleet type and size, and criteria ranges from effective implementation of safety programs in their workplace, safety record relative to miles traveled, participation in industry events promoting safety, and overall good representation of the industry. Additional information about the Oregon Trucking Association and safety efforts as an industry can be found at www.ortrucking.org.

Millennial Money: 'Tidy up' so each dollar sparks joy

By Sean Pyles
NerdWallet

Marie Kondo has inspired countless people to wipe out clutter. Her Kon-Mari organizing method, popularized by her book and Netflix series, lays out how to get more joy from your life and possessions.

This approach can extend to your money, too. Applying her mindset can reduce the financial clutter in your life and help you make a better plan for each dollar. Here's how to "Marie Kondo" your finances.

COMMIT — AND IMAGINE A BETTER FUTURE

Before you dive in, commit yourself to the task and visualize what you'll gain.

Do you want to spend less on eating out? Are you saving up for a car or a house? Have a clear picture of your goal — a zero balance on your credit card, or that new car or home — to stay focused throughout the process.

"If you can create a mental image of what your life with your money will look like on the other side, it's a lot easier to create a path

to get there," says Kimberly Zimmerman Rand, a Boston financial coach.

UNDERSTAND YOUR CATEGORIES

Kondo's method of tidying focuses on sorting through categories, like clothing, books and paperwork, and miscellaneous items.

Pull a few months of bank and credit card statements and take the same approach to your three main spending categories: needs, wants and savings.

Needs: The non-negotiables, like housing and debt payments, fall into this

category. These monthly expenses may not bring you joy, but they keep a roof over your head and your credit score afloat.

If this category consumes an outsized portion of your income, see where you can trim. Trading in your car for a less expensive one, for example, could mean an extra \$100 in your bank account every month. That gives you the ability to tuck a little more into savings.

Debt payments may be an unavoidable part of your budget, but you can

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Safety summit offers training to protect workers

WesCom News Service staff

SALEM — Workplace safety education and training opportunities will be available during the 25th annual Northwest Safety & Health Summit, to be held May 14-16 at the Red Lion Hotel on the River at Jantzen Beach in Portland.

Topics featured will include identifying the hurdles to building a culture of workplace safety and how to overcome them, learning the best ways to engage and involve your employees in on-the-job health and safety, and becoming versed in the causes and impacts of

fatigue at work — and how to prevent it.

The event is produced by the Region X Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association. The nonprofit group pursues safety, health and environmental excellence through cooperative efforts among labor, management and government. The event is designed for all industries and worksites, even if they are not part of the Voluntary Protection Program, which encourages companies to protect workers by going well beyond minimum safety requirements.

The event offers everyone from operations personnel and project managers to safety managers and safety committee members opportunities to receive top-notch workplace safety training and to develop relationships with others in their line of work. It includes a full-day workshop on May 14 on how to complete a successful Voluntary Protection Program application and how to achieve safety excellence at worksites.

The event's keynote speaker, Brad Livingston, will present "Just a Second Ago" on May 15. Living-

ston overcame a 5% chance of surviving injuries he incurred from back-to-back explosions while on the job. The explosions were preventable. The factors that contributed to them were universal: shortcuts, complacency, pride, bad attitudes and improper perspectives.

On May 16, during the event's general session, Livingston's daughter, Kayla Rath, will speak to attendees about the ripple effect of her dad nearly losing his life while on the job. Rath was 9 when she was pulled from school and told she might

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