

Small-business & Ag HAPPENINGS

Opportunity to promote your business at Clerks Conference

UNION COUNTY — The Oregon Association of County Clerks Conference is coming to Union County Aug. 19-22, giving local businesses the opportunity to have extended hours or highlight their services or wares during the event. According to the Union County Chamber of Commerce, there will be more than 120 county clerks from across the U.S. coming to Union County for this annual conference and they will be looking for things to do.

Business that are interested in being promoted and included during this time should contact the Union County Chamber of Commerce at 541-963-8588 or Union County Clerk Robin Church at 541-963-1006.

Union County Chamber launches community calendar

LA GRANDE — The Union County Chamber of Commerce announced it now has a community events calendar on its website. Businesses or individuals who would like the chamber to include their events may mail the information to director@visitunioncounty.org.

Small Business Center offers classes in August

LA GRANDE — The EOU Small Business Development Center is offering three classes in August. All will be held at the Integrated Services Building, Room 147, 1607 Gekeler Lane, La Grande.

- QuickBooks, Aug. 1, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.: An introduction to the desktop version will be taught by a CPA from Guyer & Associates. Pre-registration is required by calling 541-962-1532 or emailing eousbdc@gmail.com. There will be a \$25 fee that can be paid that morning. Exact cash is needed (change isn't available) or a check made out to Guyer & Associates.

- Advanced Notary, Aug. 14, 9 a.m. to noon: A free class taught by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office. Pre-registration is required and at www.notsem.sos.state.or.us.

- Capability Statements and Marketing to Federal Agencies, Aug. 23, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.: Taught by the Government Contract Assistance Program, this class is free. Contact SBDC for registration information.

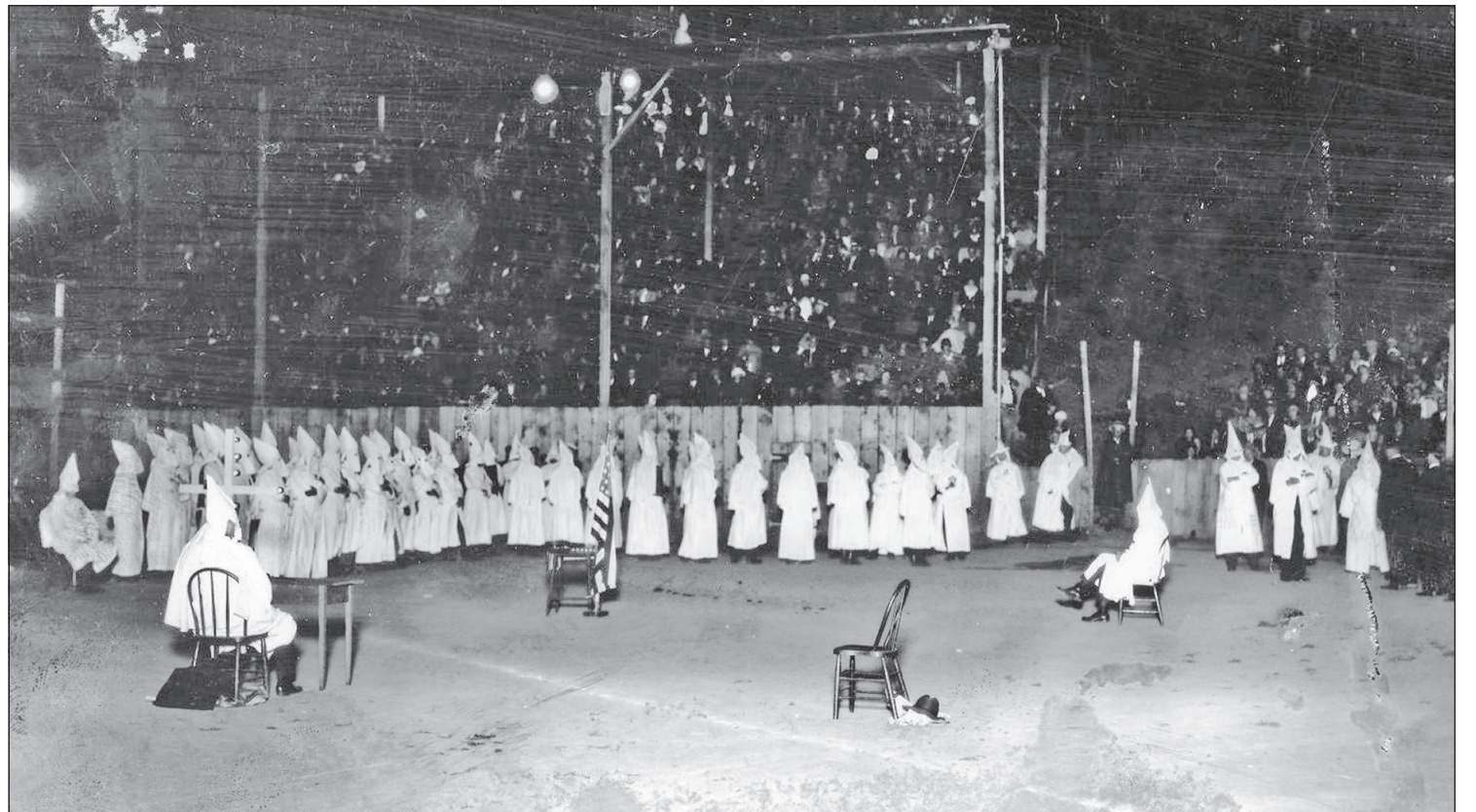
The Eastern Oregon University Small Business Development Center offers free, confidential business advising covering everything from business concept to launch, marketing, human resource issues, business plan development, access to capital, exit strategy and everything in between. To schedule an appointment, call 541-962-1532.

Labor union supports reducing self-checkout at groceries

PORTLAND — The American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations has filed a ballot initiative with the goal of regulating the reduction of jobs in grocery stores by limiting the amount of self-checkout stations in Oregon's grocery stores.

According to Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain, "The goal of our initiative is to protect grocery workers and our communities. Self-checkout machines are part of a strategic corporate attempt to reduce costs and eliminate jobs. These machines turn customers into unpaid workers and allow stores to reduce the number of full-time employees. This significantly impacts workers of color negatively, who are disproportionately overrepresented as cashiers in retail businesses. Meanwhile, the push towards expanded automation at grocery stores places older customers and people with disabilities at a disadvantage when they are expected to use machines to purchase groceries."

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents hundreds of affiliated local unions across the state, and fights for the rights of all working people in Oregon. The statewide federation of unions will gather the necessary signatures to ensure the Grocery Store Service and Community Protection Act is placed onto the 2020 ballot, giving voters the option to weigh in on an issue that impacts the millions of Oregonians who purchase groceries.



This Ku Klux Klan meeting took place in front of the stadium at Columbia Field, below J.J. Astor School. The stadium was constructed in 1922.

EO Media Group

Group threatens Astoria newspaper

WHEN THE KKK CAME TO OREGON

Editor's note: Effective July 1, The Observer in La Grande and the Baker City Herald became part of the EO Media Group. As a way of introducing our readers to this family-owned newspaper company, the following story is excerpted from the book, Grit and Ink, by William F. Willingham (http://books.eomediagroup.com/grit-ink/). The book traces the ownership family's "adventures in newspapering" from 1908 to 2018. This is part four of a seven-part weekly series.

By the 1920s, the East Oregonian's owners looked for opportunities beyond Pendleton. They had the financial resources to buy two other daily newspapers — in Astoria, Oregon and Twin Falls, Idaho. Under the strong leadership of E.B. Aldrich at the EO and Merle Chessman at the Astoria Budget, those papers thrived financially; the venture with the Twin Falls Times did not turn out as well.

The next big cause promoted by the EO under Aldrich's editorship was the Pendleton Round-Up. The show the organizers had in mind would showcase horsemanship, cowboy skills, and Native American pageantry and life ways. Participants would be actual working cowboys and Native Americans from reservations throughout the Pacific Northwest. It would have an authenticity that the typical Wild West shows of the era could not muster.

Ironically, the Round-Up organizers were portraying a way of life no longer typical of Umatilla County in 1910. Bronco-busting tournaments and Native American war dances described a time in the 1870s and 1880s when cattle and cowboys dominated the rangeland of Umatilla County and the Bannock War of 1878 caused turmoil on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Such scenes and events gradually were replaced by wheat farming and sheep raising in northeastern Oregon. On the eve of the 1911 Round-Up, Aldrich admitted as much in an editorial when he wrote, "The show is

"No true newspaper wants to make any promise of editorial action in advance of an event because it is impossible to foresee what may develop and to make a pledge of that sort would mean to sacrifice a paper's independence."

— E.B. Aldrich, East Oregonian editor

not intended to depict the life in this country at this time, for the Round-Up is not typical of Pendleton and of eastern Oregon these days."

In the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan bedeviled Oregon's political and social life. The largely homogenous population of Oregon fell prey to the racist and nativist propaganda of the KKK — which purported to be defending traditional Protestant, white patriotic values from what they considered were the un-American beliefs of immigrants, Blacks, Jews, and Catholics. As the KKK developed a sizable following throughout the state, the editors of the Daily Astorian and the East Oregonian felt compelled to challenge the KKK's discriminatory beliefs and actions in their communities.

Both La Grande and Baker City also became hotbeds of Klan activity, with La Grande's Klavern boasting over 300 members. On several occasions in 1923 and 1924, hundreds of white-robed and masked Klansmen paraded through downtown La Grande and Baker City and lit fiery crosses on the edge of town.

The meeting records of the La Grande Klavern, published in Inside the Klavern (1999), reveal the depth of the Klan's antipathy towards Catholics, Jews, Blacks, and Asians and recount the pushback the Klan received when it attempted to enforce its beliefs on the larger community. The La Grande Klan, for example, met resistance

when trying to get the school board to hire only Protestant teachers and employees and when they sought the firing of a local banker who was Catholic. Walter Pierce of La Grande was elected governor of Oregon in 1922 with Klan help.

Amidst this highly charged environment, Chessman made his position clear. While he could accept some of the candidates that had Klan support and the general patriotic values of the organization, he editorially denounced the Klan's political agenda and its blatant falsehoods.

In response to Chessman's editorials, the Klan sought to undermine Chessman by calling for boycotts and bans on the Budget and by demanding that Aldrich remove Chessman or sell the paper.

In response, Aldrich made it clear that he supported the editorial independence of Chessman. He wrote: "No true newspaper wants to make any promise of editorial action in advance of an event because it is impossible to foresee what may develop and to make a pledge of that sort would mean to sacrifice a paper's independence. That would not be good journalism and it should not be expected of us. . . . We wish to remain free to praise or criticize as conditions may demand and we would not give up that right even for the president of the United States."

The Klan was also active in Pendleton, as the East Oregonian reported. "Under the light shed by a fiery cross in the arena at Round-Up park a class of more than 100 candidates were initiated in to the Pendleton branch of the Ku Klux Klan last night in the first public ceremonial ever held here. The grand stand was packed with people who attended to see the ceremony. Preceding the ceremony, klansmen to the number of approximately 275 in costume, paraded from the hall on Main street to the Round-Up grounds. . . . Fiery crosses on the both the north and south hills burned during the evening for several hours."

STATE'S SHARE OF SETTLEMENT IN 2017 DATA BREACH

Oregon gets \$2.8 million from Equifax

By Claire Withycombe
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon will receive \$2.8 million as part of a settlement with the credit monitor Equifax after an enormous 2017 data breach affected nearly 1.8 million Oregonians.

The settlement, announced Monday, was between Equifax and 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The agreement also settles

ongoing investigations by the Federal Trade Commission and the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

About \$175 million of that is going to the states and territories, while up to \$425 million will go to redress consumers' losses and for credit monitoring.

Equifax is also paying a \$100 million fine to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The breach affected about 147

million people, compromising their Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses, credit card numbers and for some, their driver's license numbers.

"These self-described 'stewards' of our data turned out to be incredibly careless with Oregonians' personal information and let down consumers — who had no choice about providing access to their data in the first place — in a big, big way," Rosenblum

said in a statement Monday.

Equifax is offering extended credit monitoring for those affected by the breach for 10 years, according to the state Justice Department.

Equifax denies "any wrongdoing whatsoever," according to the settlement agreement, filed Monday in a U.S. District Court in Georgia.

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