

BIKES

Continued from Page B1

“That is gratifying,” said Sean Lerner, the owner Eastern Wheelworks, who said he has been so busy that he did not have time to prepare an anniversary celebration.

Lerner opened Eastern Wheelworks because he had dreamed of running his own shop and he wanted to fill a void. He said his shop is one of the only in the region that specializes in mountain bike suspension systems and customized wheels.

Good suspension

Lerner said a good suspension system on a mountain bike makes riding more comfortable but, more important, helps bikers maintain traction.

“It keeps the wheels on the ground,” Lerner said.

He explained that the suspension system of a bike lets its wheels move up and down to absorb small bumps while keeping the tires in contact with the ground for better control. It also helps riders absorb large shocks when landing jumps.



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Sean Lerner preps a bike rim at his shop, Eastern Wheelworks, in downtown La Grande on Saturday, March 26, 2022. The bike shop recently marked one year in business.

Suspensions slowly wear down over time, meaning riders may not realize how rough their bikes are rolling until they get an upgrade. Then they may find the difference striking.

“I had someone ask me after his suspension had received an upgrade, ‘Is

this the way it is always supposed to be like?’”

Lerner said he and bike manufacturers encourage people to get their suspensions serviced every 200 hours of riding. Otherwise cyclists run the risk of damaging the suspension system.

“It is as important as getting the oil in your car changed regularly,” said Lerner, noting that often a suspension is the most expensive part of a mountain bike.

An avid mountain bike

rider who cycles between 100 and 200 miles a week, Lerner enjoys the challenge of repairing and upgrading suspension systems.

“It is like taking a puzzle apart and then

putting it back together again,” he said.

The work Lerner does once a suspension system is taken apart includes replacing oil and seals.

Custom wheels

The wheels Lerner makes are designed to meet the needs of riders based upon the type of riding they do. Wheels made for mountain bike riders tend to be heavier and have additional spokes while those for road racers are lighter and have fewer spokes.

When building a wheel, Lerner said it is important to balance the tension.

“I want to keep the tension from spokes as equal as possible,” he said.

The shop owner said he likes the mental challenge of creating wheels.

“It is part art and part science,” said Lerner, who has been working as a repairman in bike shops for many years.

Lerner said one of the most satisfying parts of his work is putting people in a position to enjoy mountain bike riding as much as he does.

REFUNDS

Continued from Page B1

When will I get a refund?

The IRS urges people to check the Where’s My Refund? website to track progress of a refund. Among the potential areas where IRS advises people to be aware of possible causes for delay:

- **Child tax credit.** Parents who received

monthly credits last year, starting in July, can claim the other six months of credit on their returns. The IRS sent out letters to qualifying parents, Letter 6419. If the information on the return needs to be corrected, the refund is likely to be delayed.

- **Stimulus payments.** Some people qualified for 2021 economic stimulus payments but did not receive them. They

can claim the payment on their tax return, and should have an IRS letter sent in January or February detailing how much they received. Delays in refunds are possible if the information the taxpayer provides is incorrect.

- **Routine errors.** If IRS finds a mathematical error, or a crucial piece of information is missing, it can hold up the return.

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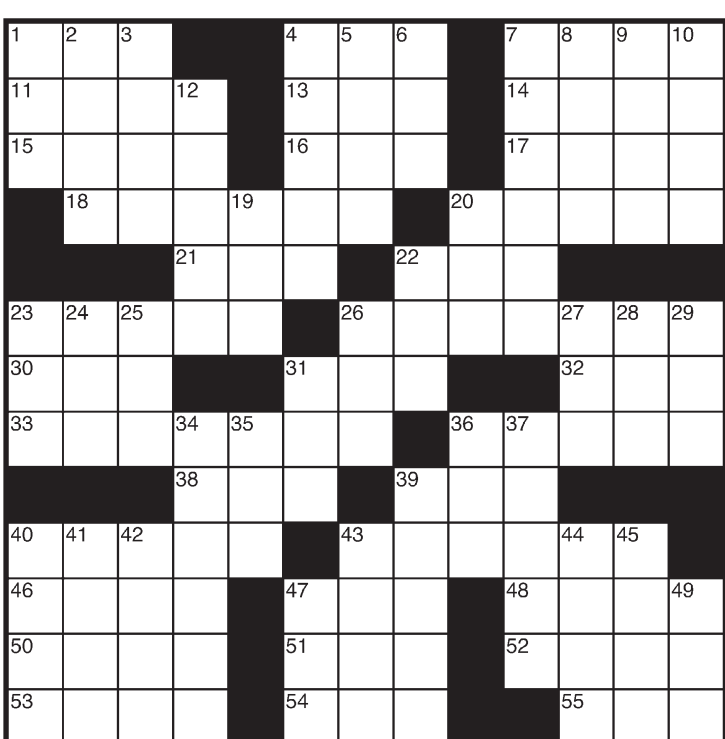
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- In what way
 - PFC boss
 - Flat-bottomed boat
 - Stadium shape
 - Still exist
 - Vagrant
 - Ms. Turner of song and dance
 - Package
 - Black bird
 - Go ashore
 - Decides, as a jury
 - Pamplona shout
 - Grooved on
 - Unmoving
 - Shop tools
 - Bossie's chew
 - Gobbler, maybe
 - Short sleep
 - Keep in thrall
 - Journal notation
 - That, to Juanita
- DOWN**
- Uncomfortably warm
 - Livy contemporary
 - Diminish
 - Buffalo puckster
 - Intuit, in sci-fi slang

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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- Gore- —
- Shoulder gestures
- Not warm
- Band instrument
- Stir-fry pans
- Work
- PC key
- Carpet
- Gloomy
- Motel amenity
- Wimple wearer
- Koch and Wynn
- Namath or Montana
- Crawling insect
- 1914 headline
- Go undercover
- Water-power org.
- Dwindle
- Pale blond
- Building wing
- Verb precedes
- Sudsy
- Like most sportscasts
- Give off heat
- Lhasa —
- Flo's coworker
- Amplifier input
- Barely makes do
- Idle chatter
- Flock member

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114 Self-Help Group Meetings

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