

EOU president touts available opportunities

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Tom Insko, new president of Eastern Oregon University, shared his vision for the institution at the Nov. 19 Grant County Chamber of Commerce open meeting.

A group of about 25 met over lunch at the Outpost Restaurant, with Chamber president Jerry Franklin conducting the meeting.

EOU in La Grande has had a good deal of turnover in presidents and interim presidents in recent years, and Insko said he plans to be "the last one you will see for a long, long time — I'm here."

Insko has a background in the timber industry, and managed Boise Cascade in Idaho for the past 20 years, includ-

ing several manufacturing facilities and up to 1,300 employees.

When the latest opening for president became available, he said he and his wife chose to make the switch.

"I decided to take a risk as a non-traditional candidate," he said. "It's truly an honor for me."

Insko started the job July 1 and said his decision centered on his love of EOU and Eastern Oregon, and the opportunity to help students pursue the pathway to their dreams.

A graduate of EOU, Insko grew up on a farm near Elgin and graduated from Elgin High School in 1989.

He earned bachelor's degrees in mathematics and business-economics at EOU and later received his master's degree in business administra-



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Eastern Oregon University president Tom Insko speaks at the Grant County Chamber of Commerce meeting Nov. 19 at the Outpost Restaurant. Insko took the helm as EOU president on July 1 and said he plans to stay in the position for a "long, long time."

tion from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

Insko shared a few facts about EOU.

Eastern has 3,500 students with 37 percent on campus, 49 percent online and 14 percent at regional centers.

The campus population includes 74 percent Oregon

residents, and half of those are from Eastern Oregon.

Insko said the university has a long-term vision to break down the urban-rural divide, adding he would like the school to help students find opportunities with existing industry and jobs, including state agencies and the departments of forestry and

transportation.

Regarding other career opportunities, Insko said, the need for educators, including bilingual teachers, is already high and will grow in the coming years.

This year the university brought back the career center.

He opened up the conver-

sation to the audience, asking for their views on the university.

The input ranged from "It's a perfect setting and a good fit for kids who grow up here" to another who said his son "wants to experience something away — exploring the world."

Replying to the latter comment, Insko said, "I don't think people understand what Eastern offers. EOU did me well, and it's such a good value at the end of the day. I don't want Eastern to be the best-kept secret."

He said if he had gone to a bigger university, he might not have become the leader he is today.

"What I experienced as a student there were faculty members and administrators who took a personal interest in my success and development," he said. "They supported me and challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and develop skills that I never thought I had. They believed in me and what I could be and, with their support, I felt safe in doing that, so when I graduated I was a confident leader."

Rebuffed OFW appointees confirmed by Senate

By Hillary Borrud
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon

Senate have voted to confirm two members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission whom Gov. Kate Brown

reappointed in April.

The move was a reversal from earlier this year, when the Senate Committee on Rules delayed action on the two reappointments over concerns that commissioners had failed to adequately oversee the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife budget. The sport fishing industry and cattle ranchers had also called for the governor to appoint commissioners who represented their perspectives. Commissioners are appointed to represent Oregon's congressional districts.

The Senate voted 22-8 on Nov. 18 to confirm the two re-appointees, Holly Akenson of Enterprise, and Michael Finley of Medford. Akenson is a wildlife biologist, manages a tree farm with her husband and is an archery and rifle big game hunter, according to the Department of Fish and Wildlife's website. Finley is president of a grant-making foundation, and previously served as superintendent of Yellowstone, Yosemite and Everglades national parks.

He is also a hunter and angler.

Ahead of the vote, Senate Republicans said they had been under the impression Brown would reconsider the reappointments.

The Senate voted in May to confirm two other controversial appointees to the commission, Astoria resident Bruce Buckmaster, who has ties to the commercial gillnet fishing industry and former state lawmaker Jason Atkinson of Jacksonville.

"You cannot continue to load the board with philosophical people that represent the big cities. It does not work."

State Sen. Fred Girod, R-Stayton

"You cannot continue to load the board with philosophical people that represent the big cities," said state Sen. Fred Girod, R-Stayton. "It does not work. ... The legislature deserves a lot of the credibility for this agency going down the toilet, and the governor deserves a lot of credibility for this agency going down the toilet. I urge a 'no' vote."

Girod's language displeased Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem.

"Sen. Ted Ferrioli, try not using the word toilet, please," Courtney said, as the Senate minority leader from John Day prepared to speak.

Ferrioli said the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget trouble is an indication the commission has not fulfilled its fiduciary responsibility.

"But there's another issue here, and that is the credibility of the governor and the credibility of the appointments secretary," Ferrioli said. "Members who voted unanimously (in committee) for the last round of appointments to ODFW did so on the assurance there would be consideration of a sport fishing member and a landowner. That did not happen. That to me is a breach of confidence and a sort of a disconnect between credibility of the governor and the expectation that her asks will be respected."

Sen. Lee Beyer, D-Springfield, said Akenson and Finley do represent hunters and anglers.

"I think the two people you have in front of you today to vote on are incredibly qualified," Beyer said. "One of them indeed is a property owner and an agricultural person. Perhaps small scale, perhaps not the one people wanted, but she does meet that qualification."

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Bid Opening: Dec. 2, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

LOT #	DESCRIPTION	MIN. BID
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3	1992 Viking Truck Snowplow, 11.5 wide	\$75
4	1994 Frink Truck Snowplow, 11.5 wide	\$75
5	2 Tool Boxes, 1 wood 6'x2', 1 metal 2'x2'	\$20
6	4 Pickup Tool Boxes (all metal), 5' long x 1' wide/deep	\$25
7	8 Wood Bridge Decking, 19' x various lengths	\$175
8	8 pcs Treated Timbers of various lengths	\$20
9	1994 Ford 250 pickup (141,374 mi.)	\$800
10	2 pcs 30"x50" Culvert (used), (1) 19' long, (1) 8' long	\$50

Items may be viewed at the Road Department, 27941 Lower Yard Road, John Day OR between the hours of 7:00 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. For further information, call (541) 575-0138.

Sealed bids with Lot No. identified on the envelope must be received by the Grant County Court office, 201 S. Humboldt, No. 280, Canyon City OR no later than 9:00 am, December 2, 2015.

Grant County Road Department will contact the successful bidder for each item. If you have questions regarding the results, call the Road Department at 541.575.0138.

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