

Connecting educational dots

OSU Open Campus brings growth opportunities

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle



Didgette McCracken

education, those wanting to earn their high school diploma can contact the John Day extension office for assistance.

“Everybody has a different scenario,” Northway said. “Maybe they are 60 years old and want to receive their diploma or a kid that’s 18 who didn’t finish school last year, who realizes it was a mistake.”

With class credit recovery, if a student has a full school schedule but needs to make up a math class in order to advance to the next grade or graduate, McCracken said they can help the student after school, even after regular business hours.

If a high school student is interested in nursing or other specific fields, they can explore adding a college-credit



Contributed photo

A group of Grant County 4-H youth decorate cookies during a recent signup night for the program. The room is available for educational and community meetings through the OSU Extension office.

course to their schedule.

McCracken said they can develop multiple options to help students be successful.

Several years ago, some of the rooms of the current

extension office, located at 116 NW Bridge Street in John Day, housed an alternative education center.

Northway, at that time, was one of the teachers with

21 students, and 10 more on a waiting list — but it closed down seven years ago.

“When that went away from our community, not only did it leave a gap for the high school students who didn’t fit the system, it also created this gap for people wishing to complete their diploma,” Northway said.

“We want to provide support to existing school programs and, for those who need it, provide an alternative, if desired,” McCracken added. “Together, we can work out some options for the student.”

The new extension office, which opened Oct. 2, has 3,100 square feet of space, including rooms to study, use computers and take tests. Video conferencing equipment is also available in the computer room. One room is big enough to hold a class and includes an attached kitchen.

McCracken said the OSU Open Campus in John Day is one of the few in Eastern Oregon. Crook County and Umatilla County also have an Open Campus.

She said her job is to offer mentoring assistance, job shadowing opportunities and help with resumes.

She said her job is not only about helping students receive a diploma or complete a degree, but how to connect them to the workforce.

Northway said there is a need to “rethink education.”

“I want people to think of us as an education resource — no matter how big or small,” she said. “It doesn’t matter what your education need is, check in with us and see how we can help.”

For more information, call McCracken or Northway at 541-575-1911 or visit extension.oregonstate.edu/grant. The office hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

Have an Event?
We have the perfect setup!

Parties **Reunions**

Receptions

Kitchen and dining room facilities available
Call the John Day Golf Course clubhouse at 541-575-0170

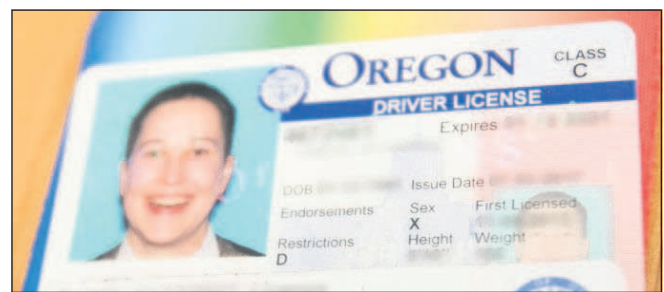
700-plus Oregonians choose third gender on ID cards

By Paris Achen
Capital Bureau

More than 700 Oregonians have selected a third gender — neither male nor female — on their state-issued identification cards and driver licenses since the option became available July 3.

The state transportation commission approved the change in June, making Oregon the first state to allow people to identify as “nonbinary,” or Gender “X” on their driver licenses and identification cards.

Southeast Portland res-



Portland Tribune/Jamie Valdez

Southwest Portland resident J Gibbons' driver license with “X” identifying the gender.

ident J Gibbons, 26, went to the local DMV office to change the gender on their license from female to nonbinary, on the debut day of the option, July 3.

“For Oregon to be the first and to finally have an identity document that reflects all aspects of my identity, I felt I was finally being seen by the state I live in, which is something that had never happened before,” Gibbons said.

Having to carry the label of female was a constant source of pain and invalidation, Gibbons said. For instance, when Gibbons went to the doctor’s office or went to buy something with a credit card, staff would call Gibbons “ma’am,” or make other assumptions about Gibbons’ identity. Gibbons, who goes by the first name of “J” (no period), was assigned the female gender at birth but shops for clothes in the men’s section and keeps a short haircut. Coming out to the world as neither male or female involved counseling and doggedness, Gibbons said.

“I’m not a man or a woman; I’m somewhere in between,” Gibbons said. “To be able to have the correct gender marker was an incredible source of validation.”

Last month, the California Assembly followed Oregon’s lead but enhanced the offerings to include birth certificates and other official state

documents.

As of the last count Wednesday, Nov. 1, 720 Oregonians have selected the Gender X designation, said David House, a spokesman for the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles. That’s a fraction of a 1 percent of about 3.2 million people with some kind of Oregon-issued driver license.

Transgender and intersex Oregonians may self-certify the gender designation with “no questions asked,” the same way applicants may self-report height and weight, House said.

The number of people who have taken advantage of the option is a “powerful statement” and represents a larger trend of people, including celebrities, embracing nonbinary identities, Gibbons said.

Facebook has for several years offered dozens of different gender identities. In 2015, the number was estimated to stand at more than 70 different ones and was customizable in certain countries, including the United States. The dating app Tinder offers a selection of nearly 40 gender identities.

“This world constantly and subtly sends the message that there are only two genders,” Gibbons said. “For Oregon to move to the forefront (of that trend) was incredibly powerful for me.”

VETERANS DAY **With respect, honor and gratitude, we THANK YOU.**

Keith J. Thomas, MD, FACS Board-Certified General Surgeon
Blue Mountain Hospital District 541-575-1311

Know when to call it quits. We can help.

Help is **FREE**, **CONFIDENTIAL**, and it **WORKS**.
call **877-MY-LIMIT** (24 hour help line) OR chat with us oline at **www.1877mylimit.org**

Community Counseling Solutions

528 E Main St. • John Day
541-575-1466
Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Serving Morrow, Wheeler, Gilliam and Grant Counties

HOME OF THE BRAVE

To our veterans,
today, and every day, we are grateful for your service.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Blue Mountain Chiropractic
155 NW 1st Ave | John Day
541-575-1063