

Health District proceeds with remodels



Morrow County Health District is in the process of remodeling the former Mountain Valley Land Company building. -Contributed photo

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board, at their Jan. 29 regular meeting in Ione, awarded a \$780,100 construction project to Wellens Farwell Construction, based out of Enterprise, to proceed with the long-planned remodel of the Irrigon Medical Clinic.

The previous month, the board approved remodeling of a building in Boardman that had been purchased earlier by the district. The remodel of the Boardman building, formerly the Mountain Valley Land Company real estate building at 101 Kinkade Road, is intended to accommodate renters in addition to housing the Home Health Office, which is operated by the district. The district plans to rent space in that building to Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy, Murray's Drug, and the previous owners of the building, Mountain

Valley Land Company. The building was previously owned by Lee Docken, principal broker.

Murray's Drug had earlier indicated that they intended to buy that building to establish a pharmacy there, but Columbia River Community Health, a federally subsidized clinic in Boardman, subsequently established their own pharmacy in the former Good Shepherd pharmacy which is located inside the Boardman grocery market, Harvest Town Foods, at 104 Kinkade Rd., before the Murrays' plan could come to fruition.

Some walls in the building have been demolished and new walls constructed with the physical therapy area and pharmacy taking precedent. MCHD CEO Bob Houser told the board that the Home Health area "will be completed once everything else is up and going." He also told the board that Murray's Drug

and Eastern Oregon Physical Therapy/Boardman, LLC, have signed five-year leases with the district and a two-year lease has been prepared for Mountain Valley Land Company and has been given to them for signatures.

Houser also reported that changes to the proposed layout of the new Pioneer Memorial Clinic have been submitted to Scott Combs, Architect, for inclusion into his drawings. He said that once the layout has been revised, they will be reviewed with the providers and staff and then presented to the board for review.

Also at the meeting, the board heard positive news concerning their profit and loss statement. Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney told the board that the district had a \$178,342 gain for December and a

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Eastern Oregon University hires Heppner students



Pictured (L-R): Patrick Collins, Abi Drotzmann, Elizabeth Basa, C.J. Kindle and Director Greg Smith. -Contributed photo

The Eastern Oregon University Small Business Development Center (EOU SBDC) has added four university students, including Patrick Collins and C.J. Kindle from Heppner, to its staff as student interns.

Patrick Collins, a sophomore, will be graduating in 2020 with a BA in Agricultural Science. Collins, a member of the university football team, also enjoys to fish and snowmobile in his free time. "It's an honor to have the ability to make a difference in my rural eastern Oregon, which is home to me," said Collins.

C.J. Kindle, also a

sophomore, plans to graduate in 2020 with a BA in Business. Kindle, a member of the university football team, likes to hunt and snowboard with his friends at Anthony Lakes. "Being part of a strong team and working with Greg Smith is a huge honor for me. This professional experience will be something I'll remember, and I hope to use these lessons I learn here in the future," said Kindle.

The other two students chosen were Elizabeth Basa, a sophomore from Saipan, CNMI and Abi Crotzmann, a junior from Hermiston.

The EOU SBDC students will be working with EOU SBDC Director Greg Smith to gain experience working with business owners throughout eastern Oregon. The SBDC provides no-cost confidential advising to those looking to start a business or already in business. Their team of professional staff can assist with a variety of issues including business plan development, learning the steps of starting a small business, government contracting, economic and financial assistance and more.

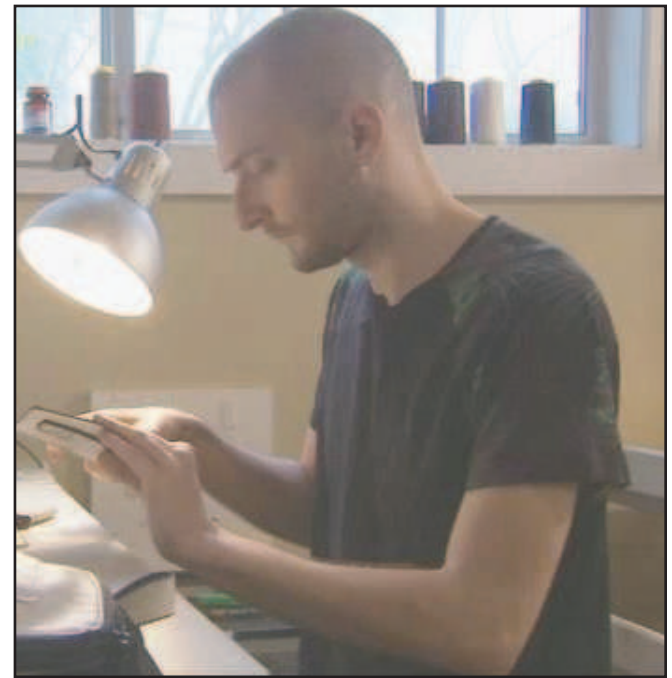
Heppner man creates his own handbag and accessory line

By Bobbi Gordon

Colton Helfrecht, a 2006 Heppner High School graduate, has established his own manufacturing company, CH Design & Manufacturing, to produce his personal line of handbags and leather accessories, COLTY. Helfrecht reports that COLTY is a gender-neutral leather lifestyle brand centered around accessories and small leather goods such as wallets, portfolios, totes, backpacks and body harnesses. Only limited collections are released every few months. Each piece is designed, hand-cut, and sewn in a small workshop in Portland.

Helfrecht moved to Heppner in 1998 with his parents Ronda Fox and Jamie Helfrecht when he was in the fifth grade. According to his mother, he grew up with an interest in creating and designing and was always making something creative. He took art classes in school as well as private art lessons.

After he graduated from high school, he moved to Portland and enrolled at the Portland Art Institute, graduating in 2010 with his degree in handbag and accessory design. His first job was in a men's designer boutique and eventually he became a handbag and ac-



Colton Helfrecht designs and manufactures handbags and accessories for the COLTY line. -Contributed photo

cessory designer at Spool Town.

Over the past two years, Colton has become one of Portland's top handbag designers. One of his favorite things about handbags is that they can be used by anyone - male or female, he said.

In 2013, Helfrecht partnered with Bespoke Accessory Group (BAG) and started a small factory. He also continued working on his own handbag and accessory line, COLTY, during that time.

Helfrecht launched his COLTY line at Fade to Light and his own website in 2017. His line has been featured in music videos, in the Portland Monthly and in Portland Interview Magazine. Recently he was contacted by Pendleton Woolen Mills to do a three-bag collection for their "Made in Oregon" line that is sold in their online store.



One of the many bags available from COLTY. -Contributed photo

HES students compete in Time Out for Reading



Pictured are the top ten readers in Time Out for Reading. Back (L-R): Lynn Williams, Nathan Ellsworth, Aden Lathrop, Jackson Coiner, Hallee Hisler, Zandra Masterson, Morgan Cutsforth. Front (L-R): Keeley Nairns, Landon Mitchell, John Lindsay. -Contributed photo

By Landon Mitchell and Irelynn Kollman, sixth grade students at HES

At Heppner Elementary School, kids read thousands of minutes each week. They are all fighting for the top prize in Time Out for Reading. This program was created by Mrs. Allen, who was a former sixth grade teacher at HES. This year the fifth- and sixth-graders read over 63,000 minutes in four weeks.

Time Out for Reading is a program that pushes kids to read more. In this program, kids time themselves while reading their books. They have to read at least 120 minutes per week to move on to the next quarter. This program

helps kids learn to read for fun. At the end, they get a prize, with the child with the most minutes choosing a prize first.

Each year the fifth- and sixth-grade students spend the month of January striving to be the top reader and to be in the Thousand Minute Club, which requires them to read 1,000 minutes each week. This year Landon Mitchell, Jackson Coiner and Keeley Nairns kids were in the Thousand Minute Club every week. This was quite an accomplishment as they had to dedicate a lot of time in order to reach their goal.

Aside from individual achievements, students are separated into teams and

can earn team accomplishments as well. Each team is assigned an NBA team name and a captain who is responsible for calculating the team's minutes and average for the week. The winning team this year was the Celtics whose captain was Landon Mitchell. They were rewarded with a pizza party after Time Out for Reading ended.

The top reader for 2018 was Landon Mitchell with 5,370 minutes, followed by Jackson Coiner with 4,611 minutes, and Keeley Nairns with 4,230 minutes.

This program is made possible by donations from individuals and organizations in the community.

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