Real ID now available in Oregon

HERMISTON HERALD

Oregon is now offering drivers licenses compliant with federal Real ID requirements.

Starting in October 2021, a regular Oregon driver's license will no longer be valid identification for flying commercial or entering a secure federal site, such as a military base. As of July 6, the state began offering driver's licenses and identifications that qualify as a "Real ID" that can be used for those purposes.

Standard licenses and identification cards are still available, according to the Department of Motor Vehicles, if people prefer to wait until 2021 to get a Real ID or use other forms of identification, such as a passport, instead. A Real ID from another state is not transferrable.

To get a Real ID, Oregonians must visit the DMV in person and present documents so that the DMV staff can make a digital copy of the records and store them. The documents needed are proof of address, proof of Social Security number and proof of lawful status in the United States, such as a birth certificate or certificate of naturalization.

"Since we added the online services, customers have attempted to get a Real ID by ordering a replacement card online," DMV Administrator Tom McClellan said. "Due to federal requirements, DMV must see the original documents and make digital images of them. The law also requires a new photo be taken the first time you get a Real ID."

The federal government was planning to stop accepting Oregon driver's licenses in October 2020, but extended the deadline because of the pandemic.

The cost for a Real ID is the cost for a new driver's license plus $30. If someone applies for a Real ID when their driver's license is not expired, the expiration date on their Real ID will be the same as their driver's license expiration date.

To learn more about the Real ID, visit oregon.gov/realid. To make an appointment to get a Real ID, visit oregondmv.com/dmv2u.

Consortium provides career and training services

By JEFF BUDLONG
FOR THE HERMISTON HERALD

LEARN MORE

For more information, call program manager Tara Bishop at 541-377-6209 or email tbishop@tecteam.org.

The impact of COVID-19 has left many people without a job or in need of new skills across the nation. The Training and Employment Consortium has funding available to aid adults and youth who have lost a job or are looking for work.

TEC encompasses Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties to provide a variety of career and training services.

"Our goal is employment and to have living wage jobs for people," Training & Employment Consortium Workforce Program Manager Tara Bishop said.

TEC focuses on adults who are looking for or have been dislocated from their job and young adults trying to enter the workforce.

Training can take on many forms, from classes through a college, on-the-job training or help with job search and skill assessment. TEC pays a portion of an individual's wages during on-the-job training until they are hired by an employer.

WorkSource Centers offer staff-assisted talent development workshops to teach essential skills for work readiness.

As technology and demands shift, employees are often asked to do new or advanced tasks that require more training. TEC can help ease the financial burden as employees gain the necessary skills and remain part of the workforce. Bishop said training and assistance lasts no more than two years.

WorkSource Center offices have been closed because of COVID-19, but Bishop and her staff continue to help through virtual consultations.

"We do an assessment with them to see what their skill level is, and that is different for each individual," Bishop said. "It can be a conversation, a proficiency test or something else. It just depends on the individual. We will do career planning with them, and if they need additional training we work with them."

The young adult program can help individuals get their GED, learn life skills and obtain paid work experience.

"Our first goal is to get them back into school, but we can help them with their GEDs," Bishop said. "We do work experiences with our youth. We pay them but we place them in a business and that business helps train with those soft skills so they learn to get to work on time and how to provide proper customer service."

Help also is available for resume writing and basic computer skills.

The Incumbent Worker Training Program restarted last year with a focus on businesses working with current employees to train them in advanced skills to keep them employed and productive.

"This funding is for the businesses to provide the necessary training," Bishop said. "We have seen this in the medical field with people continuing in a master's program or they have a [certified nursing assistant] and they want to become a registered nurse."

Priority is given to businesses that demonstrate that funding could assist in avoiding layoffs, downsizing or closure.

Photo contributed by Agape House

Lamb Weston employees present a check for $5,000 to Agape House director Cathy Putnam, center.

Lamb Weston donates $5,000 to Agape House

HERMISTON HERALD

Boardman East Lamb Weston recently donated $5,000 to the Agape House in Hermiston.

The money will help support the nonprofit's food program, which distributes emergency boxes of food to families and individuals in need.

According to a news release from Agape House, the $5,000 came from the Boardman East plant's recent win in a company-sponsored Lamb Weston Sustainability Award. The company reported the plant reduced its annual water usage by 35.6 million gallons.

"This money will help strengthen our mission of providing food boxes for families and weekend food backpacks for children," Cathy Putnam, interim director of Eastern Oregon Mission, said in a statement. "Lamb Weston is one of the many business partners we have in the community who enable us to reach as many people as we do."

For more information about Agape House, visit agapehousehermiston.org.

ODOT plans work on Highway 395

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

Staff photo by E.J. Harris, File

A semitrailer passes in front of an ADA-compliant wheelchair ramp crossing Highway 395 in Hermiston in 2018. Summer roadwork will add similar curb ramps from Southeast Fourth Street to Interstate 84.

Highway 395 will be more accessible after a summer project by the Oregon Department of Transportation through Hermiston and Umatilla.

According to an agreement that the Hermiston City Council approved on Monday, July 13, ODOT will be upgrading street corners along Highway 395 from Southeast Fourth Street in Hermiston through Stanfield to Interstate 84, to construct curb ramps compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The department had previously installed ADA-compliant ramps along the highway in Hermiston farther north as part of an ongoing effort to bring curb ramps on state highways up to code. In 2017, a report by Disability Rights Oregon stated that 97% of the crossings on state highways in Oregon were not completely in compliance with ADA rules.

According to a July 13 news release, ODOT is reevaluating the timeline for some of its projects after facing revenue shortfalls along with other state agencies due to the economic downturn spurred by COVID-19. The department's latest revenue forecasts predicts losses of about $170 million in 2020 and 2021.

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