

Biology grads' knowledge, skill shine in Major Field Test for June 19 challenge

LA GRANDE, Ore. (EOU) - Eastern Oregon University's 2013 biology graduates are leaving their studies well prepared, as the results of a recent Major Field Test would indicate.

Nearly 800 colleges and universities participated in the comprehensive test developed by the nonprofit Educational Testing Service.

EOU ranked in the top 40 percent overall, but the group of seniors showed particular prowess in the sub-discipline of molecular biology and genetics, placing in the top 25 percent nationwide.



Students completed the exam in the spring as part of a required capstone course for their major. Factual knowledge of the subject, data interpretation and analysis, critical thinking and problem solving were covered in 150 multiple-choice questions. Their scores were tabulated and released three weeks later.

"They [the students] were sitting on the edge of their seats!" said John Rinehart, EOU biology professor. "We've always had a strong program with measurable, tangible outcomes, but I don't think we've ever done quite this well before. It illustrates how our program compares to other institutions, both large and small."

EOU offers two concentrations in ecological and organismal biology and molecular biology. These were

included as sub-disciplines in the exam, along with cell biology, population biology, evolution and ecology.

Rinehart explained how the Major Field Test serves as a powerful tool for tracking students' understanding and proficiency in the subject. Lower scores also help zero in on areas where improvement may be needed.

"The results show our students are particularly good at critical thinking and problem solving, which we've focused on more in the last several years," Rinehart said.

Those skills combined with quality instruction and hands-on research can give students a head start if they

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Ambassadors Stampede in Elgin



Union County Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors ride along during the Elgin Stampede parade.

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Labor trends, permit logs and Chamber data

Across Oregon, 82 percent of employment is found within the private sector, compared to 72 percent in Union County. Selected Union County employment change, year-over-year, by industry for the month of May:

- Manufacturing, +80
- Leisure and hospitality, +10
- Mining and logging, +10
- Pro. and business services, -50
- Retail trade, -30
- Trans., warehousing, and utilities, 0

Union County had an estimated May 2013 jobless rate of 7.8 percent, down moderately from April's 8.3 percent. May's labor force estimates show 11,174 employed and 897 unemployed local residents. The number unemployed is down almost 189 from May 2012.

At the industry level, manufacturing employment – a key component of Union County's current recovery – rose to an estimated 1,200

	May 2013	May 2012	Year-over-year
Civilian Labor Force	12,071	12,457	-386
-- Employed	11,174	11,371	-197
-- Unemployed	897	1,086	-189
--County (Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate)	8.1%	9.4%	-1.3%
-- State (Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate)	7.8%	8.8%	-1.0%

in May. That's 180 more jobs than one year earlier and the most factory jobs in the county since Sept. 2008. At the depths of the Great Recession, in Jan. 2009, manufacturing jobs in Union County numbered only 920, so we're 280 jobs to the good in this industry alone. Then again, manufacturing employers in Union County had more than 1,600 total workers as recently as mid-2007.

This analysis is provided by Jason Yohanan, Eastern Oregon workforce analyst, WorkSource

Oregon. For additional information, call 541.963.7111. Copies of Eastern Oregon Labor Trends are available at the Chamber of Commerce, Worksource Oregon, or online.

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July Chamber outreach data

Relocation Packets	55
Visitor Information Packets	6
Total Phone Calls	109
Total Walk Ins	295
Maps	136
Magazines	2,511
Visitor Welcome Kits	50
<i>UnionCountyChamber.org</i>	
Web site visitors	1,760
Web page views	4,540
<i>VisitLaGrande.com</i>	
Web site visitors	468
Web page views	602
<i>LaGrandeNaturally.com</i>	
Web site visitors	606
Web page views	1,627
TOTAL REQUESTS FILLED	12,765

City of La Grande permits

July 2013

Building Permit Fees (total) . . .	\$7598.50
Building Permits Valuation . . .	\$1,129,829.00
Manufactured Home Permit Fees	\$0.00
Mechanical Permits	\$360.50
Plumbing Permits	\$2,240.00
Electrical Permits	\$0.00
Demolition Permits	\$0.00
Total Permits Issued	27

Union County permits

July 2013

Building Permit Fees (total) . . .	\$3,999.00
Building Permits Valuation . . .	\$612,015.00
Manufactured Home Permits . . .	\$300.00
Mechanical Permits	\$293.50
Plumbing Permits	\$1,489.50
Electrical Permits	\$0.00
Demolition Permits	\$0.00
Farm Exempt Permits	\$0.00
Total Permits Issued	17

Contact us

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207 Depot Street
 La Grande, OR 97850
 541.963.8588 800.848.9969
 UnionCountyChamber.org

Urban Renewal assists new development in La Grande

The La Grande Urban Renewal Agency is providing funding to 10 private community projects over the next year, matching \$275,000 in public funds with around \$1.5 million of private investment. At its regular meeting on July 17, 2013, the La Grande City Council, acting as the Urban Renewal Agency approved the funding for the projects following a review of the applications by City staff and the Urban Renewal Advisory Commission in June. The City had accepted funding applications during the month of May. Initially, 15 applications were received; two were determined to be a better fit for Building Façade Grant funding; two projects were combined into one and two projects were not approved for funding.

Following is a list of the projects 10 approved for funding in July:

- Tropical Swirlz: \$33,454
(renovation of a historic building and new business)
- Stephen McLean, DMD: \$75,000
(construction of a new dental clinic downtown)
- Blue Mtn. Barbers: \$7,167
(renovation of a historic building and new business)
- Maridell Center: \$3,000
(new HVAC system)
- Stratton Agency: \$14,500
(building renovations)
- Phoenix Building: \$46,290
(renovation of a historic building)
- DRC's Property Mgmt. \$9,789
(renovation of a historic building)
- RM Scarfo: \$50,800
(construction of a covered parking lot)
- Les Schwab Tire Centers: \$30,000
(blight removal/ new parking lot construction)
- Liberty Theatre: \$5,000
(new sign and canopy to match historic elements)

The La Grande Urban Renewal Agency and the Urban Renewal District were established in 1999. The District encompasses around 530 acres of the City from west Adams Avenue to the La Grande Business

& Technology Park, including downtown and some areas of Cove Avenue. The District receives property tax

revenue from the increased value of properties within the District. Funds can only be used within the District and in accordance to the Urban Renewal Plan that was developed in 1999. The goal of the Plan and



the District is to provide targeted funding to revitalize and improve the economic health of the District. Recent past projects of Urban Renewal include the Big H Streetscape project downtown, the rehabilitation of the Oddfellows building downtown, the Building Façade Grant program which to date has assisted in 45 building renovations downtown since 1999. Urban Renewal has also provided direct financial assistance to several other private projects within the District, to include The Market Place and the La Grande Medical Clinic as well as public projects such as the new Cook Memorial Library and the La Grande Business & Technology Park.

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it makes a difference!

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 Call us to find out how YOU can make the most of your membership!
 *ROI varies depending on your annual dues. Calculation based on annual dues of \$165.00.



Grande Ronde Academy Accepting Applications

Families in Union County may begin enrolling their students, K-8thth grade, at

La Grande's local private Interdenominational Christian school.

Grande Ronde Academy was founded in May of 2001. The school exists to offer Biblically-based education that challenges students to seek academic excellence and to serve the Lord.

Grande Ronde Academy is registered as a private school with the Oregon Dept. of Education and is also a member of the Association of Christian Schools International.

Our qualified staff strives to prepare each student spiritually, academically, physically, socially and emotionally through a variety of instructional methods and Christian based curriculum.

Grande Ronde Academy limits each class to 16 students and are filling up quickly. Registrations forms and more information can be picked up at the school on Tuesday mornings between nine and noon, or can be obtained on line at <http://www.granderondeacademy.org>

School location is 507B Palmer Ave. (next to Memorial pool). Phone number (541)975-1147, (541)910-8112 and (541)428-2112

Tourism Update

It's fair month in Union County!

The sun is out and the fairs of Union County kick off the final leg of your summer adventure for 2013. With such regular mainstays as the Union County Fair, Cove Cherry Festival, Grassroots Festival and the Highland games, the last leg of Union Counties Summer journey is shaping up to be a great one.

From July 31 through August 3, everyone can head down to the Union County fair at the fairgrounds in La Grande. The real old-fashioned, rural county fair will feature animal judging, a talent show, booths, rides, a LEGO building contest and lots of educational information about farm life. The fair opens at 8:00a.m. and don't miss the Parade which starts at 7:00p.m on Wednesday.

Next up, on Saturday, August 10, head out to spend a day in the beautiful Victorian city of Union! Enjoy music, food, shopping, and activities from sunrise and on into the night! There will be live music all day in the park and the Car Show & Shine will begin at 9:00a.m. and end at 4:00p.m. The festival starts at 7:00a.m. and will contain

EOU Biology grads'

continued from page 1

apply for graduate or professional school, which according to Rinehart, most do.

Approximately 18 students graduated with biology degrees from EOU this academic year. The program's focus in molecular biology and molecular genetics also serves the needs of those seeking pre-professional training in medicine, nursing and veterinary medicine.

"Congratulations to our fabulous students!" said Steven Gammon, dean of EOU's college of arts and sciences. "Their outstanding performance is a clear indication of the strength of our students, faculty and programs. It is especially gratifying to see biology faculty creating a world-class educational experience that incorporates personalized, excellent classroom instruction with research. This special combination prepares students for success."

EOU was one of five Oregon institutions participating in the Major Field Test this year. Public and private schools with five or more seniors in the time period specified are eligible to administer the exam.

*Laura Hancock | University Advancement
541-962-3585 | lhancock@eou.edu*

fun and entertainment for the whole family!

Halfway through the festival circuit, on August 17, the Cove Cherry Fair will be kicking off at 6:00a.m. with the Clover Haven Ride. Festivities will include a race and fun run/walk, breakfast, and parade, with activities happening all day long for the whole family. Good music, good food, and lots of fun.

The last festival to be sure to hit in August, from the 24-25, is the 6th Annual Celtic Festival & Highland Games. You can celebrate everything Celtic in La Grande and enjoy classic Celtic competitions. Enjoy entertainment, dance, highland games, food and more at the 6th Annual Celtic Festival & Highland Games located at the Union County Fairgrounds in La Grande.

The last leg of the summer is going to be chock full of education and fun for the whole family unit. This will be the time to visit Union County and partake in some of the areas ritual festivals and fairs. Don't miss it!

Letter to the Editor

Yes, we are living in a bad economy; we are all feeling the pinch. But a “good time” doesn’t have to cost a lot of money.

Here’s something to do that is local, supports Union County Businesses, is fun for the whole family and best of all, it’s free!!

Come to Union Saturday, August 10th for the “Remember When” Union Grassroots Festival. Save fuel by staying in the Grande Ronde Valley and relax in Beautiful Historic Downtown Union.

Start the Day Early with the City Wide Yard Sales, (pick up maps at the info booth) then from 8 to 11 enjoy the Fireman’s Breakfast at the Fire Hall. At 9 am Main St will be closed to make room for over 40 vendors, live music, and the “Remember When” Car Show and our first ever Motorcycle Rally with many awards, raffles and games.

Live Music in the Park from 9:00 am to 6 pm:

- 9:00a.m. – 10:30a.m. Chris Mallory & Co., Country/Rock
- 10:45a.m. to 1:15p.m. Kelly Thibodeaux & Etoufee, Bluegrass/Cajun
- 12:30p.m. – 2:00p.m. Nathan Leigh, Indie Folk
- 2:15p.m.-3:45p.m. Jimmy Bivens, Country
- 4:00p.m. to 5:30p.m. Bitterroot, Folk Rock

For the Kids there will be a Kiddy Carnival and Bouncy House from 9am to 4 pm at the school. The kids will also enjoy a Pie Eating contest at 3 pm.

Dutch oven cooking will be going on at the Union County Museum. Pie Baking contest at the Frontier lot. (Enter Pies by 10 am at info Booth)

There will be many contests to enter, including the Annual Duck Race on Catherine Creek, buy a duck for \$5 from the 2014 Union Senior Class next to the info booth. Lawn mower races at 6 pm followed by a Family Street Dance with DJ Denny.

- To be on the map for City Wide Yard Sales call Nadyne at 541-910-5425
- To enter Dutch Oven Cook Off at Museum email mpmiller@eoni.com
- To enter Pie Baking bring your pie to the info booth by 10 am.
- To buy a duck for the duck races call McKenzie at 541-910-9971 or any member of the Union Class of 2014
- To sign up for the lawn mower races email grassroots@eoni.com or sign up by 4 pm August 10th at the info Booth
- For the Motorcycle Show ‘n’ Shine for more information call Mark Gish at 760-937-2000

Plan on spending Saturday, August 10th in Historic Union and let us show you real small town hospitality!! See you there!!

The Union Grassroots Committee

Welcome New Members

The Union County Safe Communities Coalition

The Union County Safe Communities Coalition is comprised of many Union County businesses, organizations, and individuals working together for a safe, healthy, and drug-free community. In 2011 the Coalition received a federal grant from SAMHSA to address underage alcohol and tobacco use in Union County. The Coalition also helps guide the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) funding which addresses high risk drinking among 18 to 25 year olds. We have been working to increase awareness and community readiness to address these issues through educational seminars, media messaging, participation in community events, and developing a local youth council. The Coalition also organizes the Annual 12 hour Drug Free Relay that is held the last Saturday in September. Start organizing your team TODAY!

Members of the coalition currently include the following organizations as well as concerned individuals from the community:

- Boise Cascade LLC ,
- Center for Human Development,
- City of Island City,
- Department of Human Services,
- Eastern Oregon University,
- Elkhorn Media Group,
- Elgin Schools,
- Grande Ronde Hospital,
- Grande Ronde Recovery,
- La Grande Church of the Nazarene,
- La Grande Lions Club,
- La Grande Police Department,
- La Grande School District, ODOT - Transportation Safety,
- Oregon State Police,
- Shelter From the Storm,
- Union County Government,
- Union County Extension-4-H,
- Union County Juvenile Department, Union County Sheriff’s Office .

The Union County Safe Communities Coalition

office is located at:

1106 K Avenue, La Grande OR 97850

541-963-1068,

fax 541-963-107z9,

cell 541-886-0211

rwortman@union-county.org

Find them on the web at:

www.ucsafecommunities.org

Office hours: 7:30 – 5:00 M – TH, with appointments available outside office hours as scheduled.

"Thank you!" to July membership renewals

La Grande Super 8 Motel
2407 East "R" Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.8080
800.800.8000

James G. McMahan, DMD
504 Fourth St
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.5632

D&B Supply Western Home
& Family Store
10101 East First St
Island City, OR 978502
541.963.2437

Pendleton Grain Growers
10209 N McAlister
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.4195

Edward Jones
1119 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.2608

City of La Grande
1000 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.962.1309

Furniture West, Inc.
215 Elm St
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.5440

Union County Art & Culture Center
1006 Penn Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.624.2800

Eastern Oregon Title, Inc.
1601 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.8561

Premier Mint & Oils, Inc.
PO Box 1197
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.6194

Longbranch Bar & Eats
208 Depot
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.9442

Benchwarmers Pub & Grill
210 Depot
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.9597

Anthony Lake, Inc.
47500 Anthony Lakes Hwy
North Powder, OR 97867
541.856.3275

Seydel, Lewis, Poe, Moeller
& Gunderson, LLC
1121 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.4191

Grande Ronde Retirement
Residence
1809 Gekeler Lane
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.4700

CB's Septic Tank Service/
Portable Restroom
10408 N McAlister
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.5231
800.774.5900

Ranch-N-Home Realty, Inc.
1526 Jefferson Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.5450

La Grande Country Club
10605 S McAlister Lane
Island City, OR 97850
541.963.4241

Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op
2408 Cove Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.3155

Pizza Hut of La Grande
2602 Island Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.3311

Northeast Oregon Network
1802 4th ST Suite A
La Grande, OR 97850
541.624.5101

Frontier Communications
1101 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.8181
877.462.8188

Corp Production Services
64325 Booth Lane
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.3735

Sun Pest Management
1140 15th Street
Clarkston, WA 99403
541.663.4343
800.422.4803

Valley Insurance
1603 Washington
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.3121
800.453.7346

Cam Credits Inc.
100 Depot St
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.7177

M.J. Goss Motor Company
1415 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.4161

Anderson Perry &
Associates, Inc.
1901 N Fir St
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.8309

Blue MT. Seeds Inc.
380 Railroad Ave
Imbler, OR 97841
541.534.2231

Eastern Oregon Endo & Implants
Wesley Rampton, DMD
1904 4th St, Suite B
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.4111

Eastern Oregon Livestock
Show
PO Box 1052
Union, OR 97850

Rogers Asphalt Paving
Company/Redi-mix
Company
10410 N McAlister
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.3633

Conley Farms LLC
69092 Hwy 237
Cove, OR 97850
541.568.4867

Globe Furniture Company
1520 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.4144
888.449.2704

McDonalds
2308 Island Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.9015

Jack & Patricia Johnson
70097 Ponderosa Lane
Cove, OR 97850
541.568.4204

La Grande Amusement Inc.
1525 Jefferson
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.6377

"Thank you!" to July membership renewals

Oak Street Shell/Burger King
408 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.9616

Boise Cascade, LLC
1917 Jackson Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.962.2188

Les Schwab Tire Center
2306 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.8411

Blue Mountain Bottled
Water, Inc.
PO Box 306
Cove, OR 97824
541.534.2185

By-Rite Texaco and Car Wash
2112 Island Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.6566

Robert Brooks Painting CONTR
PO Box 1361
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.8222

Bealls Department Store
2212 Island Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.962.7820

Swartz Ink
212 Fir St
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.2366

Flying "J" Travel Plaza
184 Ext 265 & Hwy 30
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.9762

Sandridge Farm
63502 Sandridge Road
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.3424

Blue Mountain Auto Parts
1104 Jefferson Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.8688

North Slope Hay Company
63600 Viewpoint Lane
North Powder, OR 97867
541.898.2507

C&M Country Store
10102 N. McAlister
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.3411

GlasSmith
PO Box 814
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.0474

New Day Enterprises, Inc.
1502 Washington Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.2348

Golden Crown Restaurant
1116 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.5907

Ten Depot Street
10 Depot St
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.8766

Valley Realty
10201 West First St, Suite 2
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.4174

Mamacitas Grill LLC
2003 4th St
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.6223

Home Matters
1115 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.624.2333

Alegre Travel
1307 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.9000
800.323.7330

Upper Glass Window Care
PO Box 921
La Grande, OR 97850
541.962.8783

Judge Russ West
1008 K Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.962.9500

Grande Ronde Hospital
900 Sunset Drive
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.8421

Wal-Mart Store #1889
11619 Island Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.6783

La Grande Ranger District
3502 HWY 30
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.7186

Wheatland Insurance Center Inc.
1901 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.2136

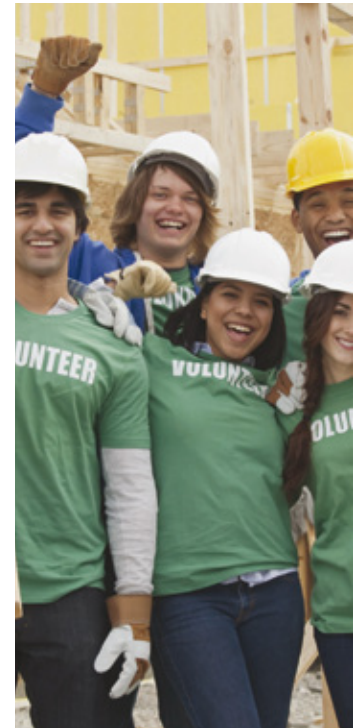
Opportunity's Knocking
PO Box 1362
Sherwood, OR 97140
503.413.0657

Edward Jones Investments
1910 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.0519

La Grande Rendezvous RV Resort
2632 Bearco Loop
La Grande, OR 97850
541.962.0909
800.276.6873

Wallowa Lake Tramway, Inc.
PO Box 3028
La Grande, OR 97850
541.432.5331

Comfort Dental Lab, LLC
215 Prospect Dr
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.5687



Welcome New Member
The Union County Safe Communities
Coalition
1106 K Avenue, La Grande OR 97850
541-963-1068,
fax 541-963-1079,
cell 541-886-0211

August 2013

Union County Chamber of Commerce

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 UC Fair	2 UC Fair	3 UC Fair
4	5	6 Ambassador Coffee 2p.m.	7	8 Board Meeting	9 Mountaineer Day, EOU	10 Grass Roots Festival
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Cove Cherry Festival
18	19	20 Ambassador Lunch ?	21	22	23	24 Celtic Festive
25 Celtic Festive	26	27	28	29	30	31

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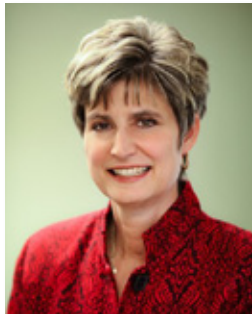
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You can't get BS from a buffalo.™

What You Need to Know About Health Care Reform

Big changes regarding your health insurance take effect January 1, 2014. The bulk of the changes affect businesses, and individuals and families under age 65 (those not yet on Medicare). Join Beth Stewart of Valley Insurance for one of three evening seminars in August. Beth will explain how the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) will affect you, your family and your business. Have questions? Call 541-963-3121.



Learn the answers to questions like:

- Will my health insurance plan change?
- Am I required to purchase health insurance?
- Can I be denied for a pre-existing condition?
- Will my health plan be more expensive?
- What is Cover Oregon and why should I care?
- Am I eligible for financial assistance?
- As a business owner, do I have to offer insurance?

FREE EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

Individuals and Families

Designed to educate individuals and families about the Affordable Care Act and Oregon's new health insurance exchange. Learn how you may be eligible for help paying your premiums. (We will not be addressing Medicare or those age 65 or older tonight.)

Tuesday, August 13, 7 p.m.
Thursday, August 15, 7 p.m.

Local Businesses

Designed to educate local business owners about the Affordable Care Act and what it means to your group health plan. Learn which businesses may face penalties if they don't offer health insurance, and what may be the best business strategy in 2014.

Thursday, August 22, 7 p.m.

Community Room