

La Grande Pride

Care * Love * Serve



La Grande
SCHOOL DISTRICT

La Grande High School, La Grande Middle School,
Central Elementary, Greenwood Elementary, Island City Elementary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

First Budget Committee Meeting

Weds, May 22, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Conference Room, District Office

Memorial Day - No School

Mon, May 27, 2019

Choir Concert @ La Grande High School

Tues, May 28, 2019

La Grande Middle School performs at 7:00 p.m.

La Grande High School performs at 8:00 p.m.

Second Budget Committee Meeting

Weds, May 29, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Conference Room, District Office

La Grande High School Graduation

Sat, June 1, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

Last Day of School

Mon, June 3, 2019

Regular Board Meeting/Budget Hearing on Approved Budget

Weds, June 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Conference Room, District Office

Special Board Meeting/ Work Session

Weds, June 26, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Conference Room, District Office



Pioneer Park Gets a Facelift



By Trish Yerges

Pioneer Park has received an extensive facelift, upgrading the baseball and softball fields, building a new concession stand, bleachers, dugout and laying new sidewalks, among other things.

Four years ago, this all began as one concession stand worker's dream that she pitched to a civic club, and from there it got hit out of the ball park.

"When I was working at the concession stand four years ago, I realized that it wouldn't be long and this building would either be

condemned or not useable soon," said Darcy Blackman, head fundraiser. "So I began fundraising on my own at first, and Legacy Ford was my first big donor."

Legacy Ford let Blackman do a drive for the concession stand, and she raised \$4,000. "Legacy was the big start to my fundraising," said Blackman.

Then the Grande Ronde Association for Youth (GRAY) club joined her effort and thereafter predominantly spearheaded the fundraising from the community, said Blackman. They reached out to other organizations for sponsor-

ship and since many of the members of GRAY were also members of the Optimist Club, the latter club donated \$10,000 and the building plans.

Many businesses in Union County stepped up to the plate as eager donors. "RD Mac had put in a huge in-kind donation of over \$30,000," said Blackman. "James Challis, who laid the concrete was probably the next biggest donor."

In addition to these in-kind contributions, the City of La Grande did the demolition and *continued on page 2*

The word on Enrollment...enrollment numbers as of May 15, 2019

Central Elementary
498 students

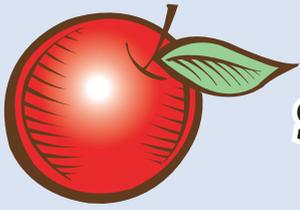
Island City Elementary
316 students

Greenwood Elementary
313 students

Middle School
538 students

High School
631 students

Total Elementary Enrollment 1,127 students
LGSD Total Enrollment 2,337 students



From the Superintendent's Desk ...

End of the school year is nearly upon us and we have had a very busy school year filled with academic achievement, learning growth, and productive relationships. Our Strategic plan is nearly complete and I am excited to be sharing more details on our plan soon. I would also like to thank you for sharing your students with our school district. We have great students and we appreciate your trust, care, and support as we strive to educate and create a well-balanced educational experience for each student.

The summer break is a great time to relax and recharge. Everyone should have some summer fun balanced with activities that promote school success. The long break from school shouldn't mean a break from learning. With this message in mind. I have attached some tips for a safe, smart, summer that I acquired from communication consultant Marcia Latta.

Summer Achievement Gap:

The National Summer Learning Association advocates continuing opportunities to learn and practice essential skills. Research on the association's website identifies gaps in academic achievement after summer break. It has identified learning problems when students do not participate in summer enrichment programs or learning activities.

All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. Research spanning 100 years shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer.

Most students lose about two months of grade-level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer months. Low-income students also lose more than two months in reading achievement, while their middle-class peers make slight gains.

More than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. As a result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college.

Smart Summer:

Reading is one of the best ways to combat summer learning loss. Regular trips to the library are helpful ways to motivate students to read and ensure a steady supply of good books. Many libraries also have summer reading programs that offer special activities and incentives. Search the web for other

ideas. For example, see 13 Ways to Sneak Learning into Summer Fun on the Camp PBS Parents site. (www.pbs.org/parents/summer/13-ways-to-sneak-learning-into-summerfun/). Cook Memorial Library's summer reading program begins June 4th. Visit <https://cityoflagrande.beanstack.org/reader365> to learn more about the program.

Active Summer:

Children lose more than academic knowledge over the summer. Most children – particularly children at high risk of obesity – gain weight more rapidly when they are out of school during summer break. Parents consistently cite summer as the most difficult time to ensure that their children have productive things to do. www.summerlearning.org/?page_know_the_facts

Just because the weather is warm doesn't mean that kids abandon video games for tree climbing. Research shows that children gain weight three times faster during summer months, gaining as much weight as they do in an entire school year.

Help keep children healthy by maintaining a mealtime routine rather than allowing all-day snacking. Ensure that kids get daily physical activity. Summer camps and programs can keep kids moving. If that isn't possible, trips to the park, walking the dog or playing outside with friends will also help.

Safe Summer:

Minimize risk during the summer by taking safety precautions to reduce injuries. Require helmets for bikes, skateboards and scooters. Accidental falls are the number one cause of childhood injury. Helmets can reduce head injury by 85 percent. Prevent heat stress and dehydration. Send your child with a water bottle for activities on hot days. Hydrate before athletic activities. Health experts recommend two to three cups of water two hours before a game and water breaks every 20 minutes during play. Get children swimming lessons and supervise around water. Drowning is the second leading cause of childhood deaths between ages 1 and 14. Teach them to always swim with a buddy and be sure adults are nearby when kids are in the water.



George Mendoza
LA GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT

FACELIFT

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ground preparation work and Boise Cascade contributed building materials. Other donors included MODA Health, Little League, Union County Babe Ruth, ASA Softball, to mention just a few of about 20 donors, said Blackman.

After the community raised sufficient matching funds, Stu Spence, La Grande's Director of Parks and Recreation, wrote and submitted a State Parks grant application, which yielded a grant award of \$96,000.

"We were successful in getting the grant to replace the concession stand," said Spence. "Not only was that in the agreement, but the new bleachers for the boys and girls and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) walkways and upgrades for the park, including access to those ball fields with paved pathways and sidewalks."

The Wildhorse Foundation also awarded the city about \$18,162 as part of the matching funds and other cash and in-kind donations from local business partners, families, corporations and individual community donors.

The total project budget was \$218,412 for the concession, bleachers and ADA upgrades and the grant agreement was finalized in October 2018. Finally, work could commence, albeit approaching winter.

"The plan was to do some demolition work over the winter, take down the old concession stand, pull up the concrete and get the grounds ready for construction in spring," said Spence.

While this work was being completed in November, softball parents Heather Gooderham and Jamey Seavert thought it would be great to also upgrade the softball field with a new dugout. Consequently, the Gooderhams contacted their family friend and 1979 LHS graduate, Mike Schlegel, and asked if he would draw the architectural plans for the proposed dugout.

Schlegel, who works for Alpine Drafting and Design out of Oregon City, agreed to do it as an in-kind donation for his hometown of La Grande. The Gooderhams and Seavert facilitated the remote process of tweaking the plans between Schlegel in Oregon City and Spence at the Parks and Rec Department.

At first, the Gooderhams and Seavert thought they would have to launch an extensive fund raising campaign, but then, in February, the La Grande School District called Spence and expressed their desire to donate \$40,000 to improve the softball field while the grounds were under construction and the equipment was already on site.

"The field needed to be updated, and the dugouts *continued on page 7*

INSPIRATIONAL TEACHERS

EOU Honors Two La Grande High School Teachers

By Trish Yerges

Two La Grande High School teachers, John Lamoreau and Kristy Moore, were honored recipients of the 2019 “Inspirational Teacher Award” given out by Eastern Oregon University.

“First-year honor students at Eastern Oregon University have nominated 17 educators from across Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to receive the 2019 Inspirational Teacher Award,” said Vicky Hart, public information representative for EOU.

In their freshmen year at EOU, those students who maintain dean’s list standing during the fall term can nominate past high school educators who influenced them to pursue higher education and academic excellence.

Lamoreau and Moore were among those nominated by 2018 high school graduates, being recognized for encouraging and representing the importance of higher education to their students.

Kain Ward, a 2018 LHS grad and now an EOU freshman honor student, nominated John Lamoreau, his

high school history instructor.

“Mr. Lamoreau is a very engaged, dedicated, and cheerful person,” wrote Ward. “He tries his best to get all of his students involved, and when any of them seem upset he tries to help them through it and give them the hope and courage to push through whatever is troubling them. His experience and connections provided so many unique and exciting opportunities and conversations for the classroom. Whenever he made a mistake, he was genuine and honest and kind about it. Truly one of my favorite people on this planet. He’s like family.”

The admiration was mutual, Lamoreau said.

“It’s always nice to be recognized, he said. “I think it’s even more of an honor considering the student who gave me the nomination. Kain Ward was one of the most dedicated, conscientious students I’ve ever had.”

Lamoreau received his Master of Arts in Teaching from EOU

in 2010 at the age of 60. Looking down the road at retirement, he anticipates that he will be 90 when he gets his thirty years in, but that’s okay, he said, because “I love coming to work. Even when I’m tired, I love coming to work.”

As he optimistically waits for that record to be realized, he’s already set a record that he’s rather proud of.

“I’m the first student in EOU to complete the (teaching) program after a child had completed the program,” teased Lamoreau. “There are a lot of children who follow their parents through the program, but I followed my son, Garron, through the program. He’s a teacher too. So I’m kind of proud of that (record).”

At La Grande High School, he teaches social studies, history, government, and Success 101. He’s also taught economics, US and World history.

The second La Grande recipient of the 2019 “Inspirational Teacher Award” is high school teacher Kristy Moore, nominated by her former high school stu-

dent, Deric Mussatto, an honor freshman at EOU this fall term.

“I had Deric for two years in English, and he was a very hard working student. He put in a lot of extra time and effort to try to have the best end product possible,” said Moore. “I’m very proud of him being an EOU honor student.”

His nomination of Moore showed just how much he appreciated her approach to teaching and the genuine interest she has in her students.

“Kristy Moore showed me how important it is to strive for excellence,” said Mussatto. “Mrs. Moore holds up her bargain and more in the English department, excelling at her job every day. For example, being available all day after hours to revise your essay or even give you ideas, grading hard but to show that you have room for improvement, being kind and allowing equal opportunity to each and every student. Mrs. Moore inspired many others and myself with her work ethic and intellect.”

Moore was touched by his nomination and

his genuine praise for her efforts as a teacher.

“I felt humbled and honored to receive this award,” said Moore. “All teachers work very hard and to actually be recognized for that work is just humbling and such an honor because it doesn’t happen very often. I really appreciate that.”

Moore has a Bachelor’s in sociology and criminology with a minor in English. Following graduation from Eastern Oregon State College (later EOU), she worked in the medical field for 17 years. Then she returned to EOU to earn her Master of Arts in Teaching in 1999.

Her teaching career started at the middle school in North Powder for two years, followed by 11 years teaching middle and high school in Union. She is now wrapping up her seventh year at La Grande High School, where she has been teaching English and Advanced Placement Composition ever since.

“It’s always nice when students reflect back and have positive memories of high school, and Deric is a wonderful young man.”



Lamoreau



Moore

KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Day Treatment Mental Health Program for K-8 kids

By Trish Yerges

The day treatment program is an intensive integrated educational and mental health program for children in grades K-8 that are unable to successfully attend public school due to a mental health diagnosis and related challenges.

The program is divided into two age groups, including Rising Stars for K-5 students located on the Greenwood Elementary School campus and the Explore program for kids grades 6 through 8. The Explore students attend their classes at the old alternative education building, which is now called the Options Center on the corner of Second Street and M Avenue between the High School and Middle School.

"I supervise the educational portion of the day treatment program," said Carol Byron. "The educational portion of the day treatment program is individualized but it still correlates with Common Core."

Byron supervises a staff of one teacher and two para-educators that do the education piece throughout the



day for both the Rising Stars and Explore program.

The Center for Human Development handles the mental health aspects of the day treatment program. The mental health staff includes two behavioral health specialists, a clinician, psychiatric oversight and evaluations of students, medication trials and monitoring if needed and a mental health clinical supervisor.

Together, the educational and mental health approaches help special needs students to learn in a safe environment and help prepare them for integration into the public school classrooms.

This school year, the district made a change to its day treatment program when it was asked by the Department of Education and by the Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. to have its long-term treatment program on the school campus. Consequently, the new part of the program this year, Explore, has been located in the Options Center on school campus.

"We got our official certification for Explore in January," she said, "so that's brand new this year."

Parents can find help for their child through the school system, where teachers will go through an intensive

response to intervention first. Then, if needed, staff and parents form a team that will discuss a referral to one of the two classrooms of the day treatment program.

"It's a team decision, including the parents, to make a referral to the program," she said. "There's no extra cost to the parents to involve their children, but we ask the parents to get involved in the therapeutic portion of the program."

Placement in day treatment is determined by a team that includes both educational and mental health staff and supervisors like Byron. The intervention

plan is enumerated in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which describes how the student will move in and out of the program.

Parents are involved in the creation of their child's MOU, and they sign it and participate in the program services described therein. If that's not possible, then alternative interventions are explored.

The day treatment program is year-round intervention, Monday through Friday, with schedules matching the district's calendar. The Explore program is a half hour shorter each day than the Middle School, in order to accommodate busing schedules. Fridays are a half day in length so that teachers and staff can do individualized program planning for each of the kids.

Parents can learn more about the day treatment program by working with their child's teacher and requesting the printed parent handbook through the school.

Middle School Greenhouse Sale begins May 16

By Trish Yerges

Science teachers Kathy Nickerson and Kevin Lair at La Grande Middle School and their seventh and eighth-grade students are hosting a greenhouse sale mid-May at the greenhouse at 1108 4th Street in La Grande.

The sale is open Thursday and Friday, May 16 and 17, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, May 18, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There are many plants available for sale, including 12-inch hanging baskets; approximately 65 varieties of annuals such as geranium, coleus, zinnia, phlox, marigold, cascading and bedding petunias; and 33 varieties of perennials such as rudbeckia, hollyhock, bee balm, lupine, and echinacea.

In the veggie category, they are selling 13 varieties of tomatoes, 7 varieties of peppers, cucumbers, winter and summer squash, pumpkins, herbs; and for fruits, they are selling strawberries.

"The annual greenhouse sale at the Middle School has been a tradition for the past 25 years or so. The students do the seeding, transplanting, and pruning during class. Students also often



stop by before and after school to help with other chores and watering of the plants," said Nickerson.

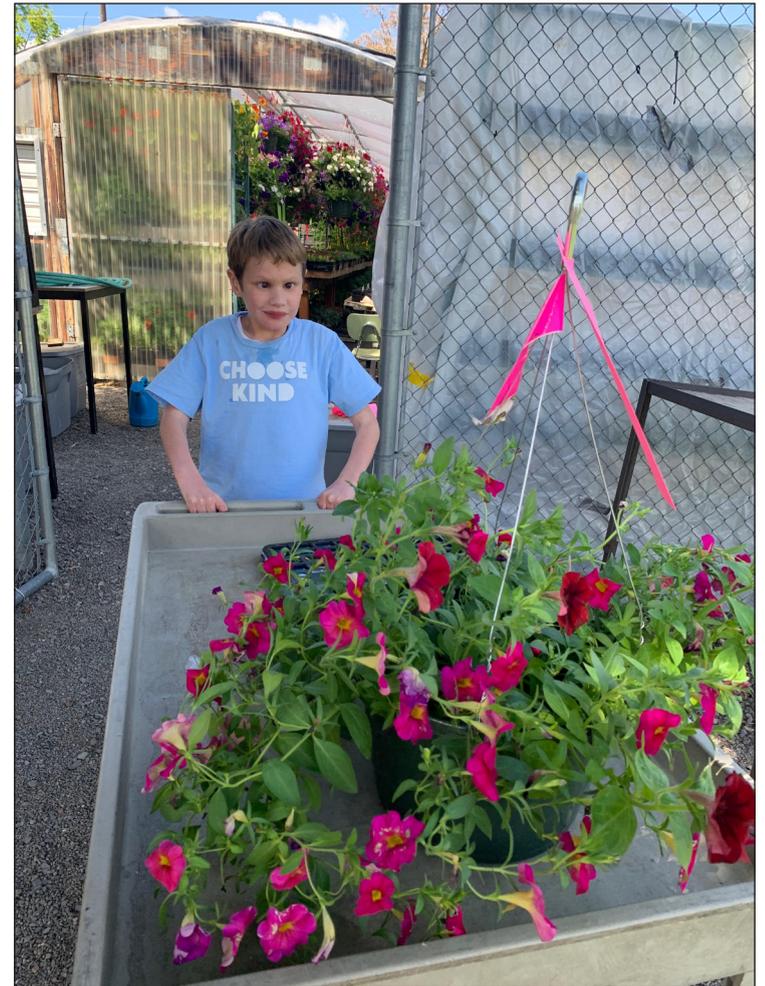
Preparation for their annual greenhouse sale always starts around Valentine's day and the plants are ready for public sale the week after Mother's Day.

"We use the money we raise for our science program, buying supplies and for other activities," said Nickerson. "We would like to build another smaller greenhouse to start plants because we're running out of space."

Nickerson said that they operate in the black, so they make a little profit every year.

"We use the money to pay for greenhouse maintenance and expenses the following year," she said. "We are also able to supplement materials for our science program. In the past, we have purchased compound light microscopes and Chromebooks for our classrooms as well as buying supplies and other items for labs."

With funds they raise, Nickerson is planning to put up a



second smaller greenhouse to allow more space between growing plants and create room to work with students in the greenhouse.

"We currently do all of our seeding and most of our transplanting in our classrooms and then transport them to the greenhouse," she said.

Approximately 340 students participate, and they learn very practical life skills as well as lessons in biology, pest management, pruning, and other science topics.

Leftover plants never

go to waste, said Nickerson.

"After the sale, remaining plants are given to students who would like to try out their new gardening skills at home," she said. "They return in the fall excited to share their gardening successes and failures with teachers and other students."

Other unsold plants have been donated to local organizations such as Kids Club, Master Gardeners, and Community Gardens.

CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING

STEM Education at Greenwood Elementary

By Trish Yerges

A day of hands-on learning experiences taught students the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) of real world occupations at the “Equipment Examination and Career Exploration” event hosted by ODOT and held at Greenwood Elementary School in April.

Promoting and facilitating this event was In4All, a non-profit organization in Beaverton, Ore., which encourages student interest and engagement in math and science through career-connected learning experiences. In4All coordinates events like this throughout Oregon, but this was the first time it reached out to the La Grande School District.

Poised for just such a partner and opportunity, Donna Rainboth, an assistant professor at EOU and GO STEM Program Coordinator, met with In4All to plan a STEM event in the La Grande School District.

“Once In4All made the connection with the school district, it really flowed very well between ODOT and me as the STEM coach,”



Jocelyn Van Vleet, 3rd grade student at Greenwood is shown working with Mark from ODOT.

said Rainboth. “Certainly Greenwood Principal Ryan Westenskow was very involved, and the teachers were more than willing to jump on board.”

After engaging ODOT as the host industry participant, Rainboth worked with them to design an interesting curriculum for the event, which encompassed two days of instruction, a field day and a STEM Night at Greenwood Elementary School.

“It was a day for celebrating partnerships, collaboration and STEM education,” said Rainboth. “We started

with ODOT coming in the morning with 14 volunteers and heavy equipment. They set up six (career-learning) stations for the kids to rotate through. They had passports for the kids to fill out, questions they asked for each station as the kids rotated through each one.”

Fourth and fifth grade students are targeted for the field day for a reason.

“By fourth grade, 30 percent of boys and girls have lost interest or confidence in science and math, and by eighth grade, 50 percent have lost confidence,” said Rainboth.

received career-connected learning along with all the big equipment.

“The kids loved the crane,” said Rainboth, “because they got to put on hard hats and head phones and talk to the crane operator, and they took turns telling him to turn it left or right, up or down with a 1500-pound cement block. They could speak and hear him, so they got that experience.”

Another station showed a robotic camera that was showcased to demonstrate how culverts are examined and maintained.

“That was impressive because they got to see themselves on camera,” she said, “but also they got to see how robotics can be applied to a career.”

The kids also climbed into the cab of a snowplow and pretended to drive it. They learned about cleanup operations of a hazmat team and watched a demonstration of how ODOT uses drones.

The day concluded with a Family STEM Night, which was open to all Greenwood students and their families. Stations

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“For us to address these kids at these lower grade levels is really important. So hopefully, we’re catching that and keeping that (STEM) interest alive in the kids.”

During the field day ODOT talked about their careers and what they do, like how they repair the traffic signals. They had a traffic signal there, and ODOT workers talked about the work they did on it. They showed the kids how they use the lift bucket. They also talked about the electricians and the electrician apprentice occupations, so the kids

Student Support Important During State Testing

By Trish Yerges

State testing occurs each March and runs through mid-May, and most schools are doing whatever they can to make it a positive experience for students.

Some ways that school faculty support their students is by promoting and teaching them the “growth mindset” approach to testing and helping them feel positive about their growth over the year.

Director of Educational Programs Scott Carpenter said that some schools are doing testing in classrooms so that the environment for testing is one that is conducive to their being successful.

“We are looking at students with individual educational plans and 504 plans and made plans that we entered into our system so that they can get the accommodation that would best support them so they can do well,” said Carpenter.

A lot of schools have done some good work with growth mindset, and the teachers have worked hard to prepare their students for state testing. Carpenter said he is very excited and curious to see how the students perform this spring with their testing.

State testing reveals

as much about the student’s learning as it does the performance and effectiveness of school initiatives designed to help them succeed.

“Our teachers have done a great job of trying to prepare kids,” he said, “trying to look into what were our shortcomings last year, and where we could improve and be more responsive.”

Preparing the students for state testing is a year-long routine in the classroom. Promoting literacy, writing and math skills are a real focus for the faculty.

Carpenter reminds parents to read 20 minutes a day with their kids. Help the kids write or read as much as they can over the summer months. Keep their math facts honed over the summer with flash cards or other math apps, and that will help the student make an easier transition into the next grade level after summer break.

On test days, parents should make sure their student eats a good breakfast before leaving for school, and make sure they received a good night’s rest before test days. Be positive with your child prior to their leaving for school, and make them feel supported on the home front.

“We want students to know this test is important---for the students

and the schools to know where our strengths and weaknesses are. It’s important as we compare with other districts. Are we meeting the students’ needs or where do we need to learn from?” asked Carpenter.

It’s natural for students to feel some anxiety going into testing,

but what’s important to remember is that, in grades six through eight, it is just one measurement of how the district is doing, a dipstick that shows what kind of growth the district is seeing over time.

Faculty and parents can help reduce test anxiety by reminding

their students that no one will be held back by taking these tests.

“Nothing bad will happen because of these tests, so just do your best and use your growth mindset that tells you that you can do hard things, and let’s see what happens,” said Carpenter.

FACELIFT

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needed storage space and to be built so the players were better protected from the elements,” said district athletic director Darren Goodman, who had a voice in the design phase of the project.

The scope of the school district’s project included new fencing, new dugouts and a new backstop for the girls’ varsity softball field (Sam Marcum Field). All these upgrades have been completed, thanks to the help of many community volunteers like Fred Bell Jr. and enthusiastic softball parents. The concession stand is slated for completion by the end of the summer.

“The concession stand will be a two-story (structure) with the top story being a ‘crow’s nest’ where announcers can announce the boys’ and girls’ games, potentially at the same time,” said

Spence.

The new softball coach, Woody Wright, who came to the team this school year from Union, said the Tigers are thrilled to be playing on the new field and using the newly built dugout. Tiger outfielder Kara Gooderham and leadoff batter Alaina Carson are really enjoying the professional look and amenities of their ball park.

“The biggest improvement is the dugout,” said Gooderham. “It’s bigger and it has a back now, not a chain link fence that you can see through. The bench is bigger, and they have cubbies for our stuff, our helmets and bats.”

As for the girls’ field itself, some donations for its makeover were made in memory of Willie George, a former resident of La Grande. The funds were applied toward the field’s professional landscaping and improves safety for the players.

“There’s been more red dirt added and in the

back of the field there used to be a huge lip, and they leveled and fixed that so there’s no hazard of tripping,” said Carson. “They made it enclosed so the ball never travels out or no one is in danger of getting hit by the ball so we can play the ball no matter where it’s at, which I think is great.”

The Tigers softball team is very grateful, Carson said, that the city, district and community have thought of them in this way. Everything looks so nice, and “it just makes us look a little more intimidating,” teased Carson.

“We’ve been a good team and now we definitely look like it when teams come here and play us,” said Gooderham. “It matches how we play as a team.”

“We want to express a big thanks because none of this would be possible without the volunteers who put in the kind of hours to make this happen,” said Coach Wright. “We really appreciate it.”

ANNOUNCING 5-YEAR GOALS

Strategic Planning Team Announces Plan Updates

By Trish Yerges

The Strategic Planning team is winding up a year-long effort of monthly meetings and have now selected three primary goals for the district to achieve over the next five years.

Scott Carpenter, director of educational programs for the district, has been a member of the Strategic Planning (SP) team since its formation in August 2018. He has attended the monthly meetings held throughout the 2018-19 school year, facilitated by consultant Jerry Colonna, and he announced recently that the team has set “challenging but reachable goals” for the district.

“The team limited the number of goals to only three so that the three following goals can be high priorities and aligned with adequate and sustainable resources,” said Carpenter.

Each of the goals correlated to the district’s core values, its mission and especially the vision statement. Their mission statement reads: **“Empower La Grande’s learners to learn, staff to thrive and our community**



to prosper.” The SP team’s vision statement is **“Prepare all La Grande students for their brightest future.”**

With each goal there will be performance indicators designed to divide the goals into manageable units and identify steps in the implementation process. These indicators utilize methods of measurement so that the goal processes stay on task.

Periodic assessment reports will be published 2-3 times a year and shared with the LGSD board members and district residents. These reports will show what progress has been made and if any adjustments to the goals, indicators or methods of measurement are needed.

“In this way, the Strategic Plan is a living document,” said Carpenter.

The first goal, “Ensure all students are

ready to learn” has four indicators: (1) By 2024, Culture of Care strategies will be fully implemented with effective tiered interventions and a robust health and wellness program; (2) By 2024, the district will improve daily attendance rates to ninety-six percent and decrease chronic absenteeism to ten percent (17 or more absences in a school year); (3) The district will continually update its comprehensive safety plan, enhance relationships with emergency services and provide ongoing training for all staff and students; (4) By 2024, sixty percent of all students will have pre-kindergarten learning experiences.

The second goal is “Foster increased academic success” and there are three indicators for this goal: (1) By 2024, ninety-five percent of high school freshman will be on-track (6 or more cred-

its) for graduation or completion of diploma or certificate; (2) By 2024, the district will exceed Oregon State averages in English, Language Arts and Math assessment benchmarks and annually improve achievement and growth rates; (3) By 2024, ninety-eight percent of students in the 2020 freshman class will graduate or complete high school with a diploma or certificate.

The third goal is “Develop civic-minded, engaged, life-long learners” and there are three indicators to help achieve this goal: (1) By 2024, all students will participate annually in community service, clubs, sports and/or activities within their school community; (2) By 2024, community and regional partnerships will be expanded to support students in developing into college or career ready adults; (3) The district will develop a plan to improve student competency in financial literacy and job/soft skills.

“On May 7 the Strategic Planning team met to outline measurements of those indicators and what data

we’re looking for to see how we’re improving on those indicators,” said Carpenter.

The SP team will be broken up into committees and will start developing action plans to meet those indicators and have it ready to implement at the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.

The committees will meet regularly and the SP team will meet twice annually.

“After we have the first year template created, the Strategic Plan for the district will fall under the supervision of Superintendent George Mendoza. He will take the lead in implementing the plan,” said Carpenter.

The Strategic Plan is a five-year plan with one-year plans that are updated every year. It represents a cumulative and thorough effort on the part of the SP team and community focus groups to come to this stage of development.

“The SP team has been insightful and have focused on input we got from the community, and the goals and indicators reflect what was asked for by the community,” said Carpenter.

In the Works: Summer Facilities Projects Ahead

By Trish Yerges

La Grande School District's Facilities Manager Joseph Waite has a long list of facilities projects that will be worked on this summer.

"The district will be working with ZCS Engineering of Oregon City and Griffin Construction of La Pine on the high school's gymnasium and locker rooms and the Greenwood Elementary classrooms," said Waite.

Of the overall construction budget of \$3 million, \$2.5 million will be covered by the State of Oregon Seismic Grant program and \$500,000 of the school district funds.

The scope of the project includes structurally supporting non-reinforced masonry walls and adding sheathing and mechanical connections between the roof and wall to keep the building from collapsing in the event of an earthquake.

Additional improvements at Greenwood would include a new gymnasium floor, windows and roof for the gymnasium.

"Work will start May 13 at the high school, but the gymnasium will be open for graduation commencement,"

said Waite. "Work will begin at Greenwood at the end of May. Completion will be the second week of August in time for teachers to return to the buildings."

The district will also be working with Johnson's Quality Construction and Curtis Restaurant Equipment to remodel and provide new commercial style equipment for an upgraded culinary art classroom replacing the 1950's vintage home economics classroom in the high school.

"There will be over \$150,000 in equipment installed in the classroom that will be purchased from Curtis Restaurant Equipment through a procurement contract," he said. "Construction will cost about \$175,000. Work will start as soon as school is out and be completed the second week of August."

Another summer project will be managed by Day Wireless, who will replace all the district's emergency radios. Testing and infrastructure will be installed to ensure there is district-wide communications in the event of an emergency. These radios will also be used for communication within the buildings for

day-to-day operations.

"The La Grande District is also planning to convert an alcove in the commons of the Middle School into a classroom space for choir," said Waite. "This is because the Middle School population will increase by 20 students

for the next two years and top out at just over 600 students."

The additional space will help keep classroom sizes to the ideal numbers. The project budget for this is \$50,000. Next summer the district will create two additional class-

rooms in the library at the Middle School.

The summer projects will prove to be great enhancements to the facilities and campus. When students return this fall for the new school year, they will enjoy the many upgrades and remodels.

GOOD THINGS IN LA GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

\$31.5 Million Facilities Bond Approved
Day Treatment Program opens Options Center
New Security at all Schools/classrooms
Top Coaches Bodfish & McKinley Honored
Energy Upgrades in all Schools
Seismic Building Project Starts 2019
Upgrade Island City Gymnasium
Modern Culinary Arts Classroom Built
Upgrade LHS Gymnasium
EOU honors two LHS teachers
Upgrade Greenwood Gymnasium
Four New Tennis Courts
New Central Elementary School Built
Laid New Blue Track
New Building for Career/Technical Education
Softball Field Upgrade
Emergency Action Plan updated
Welcome New Softball Coach Woody Wright
Parking Lot Expansion at LHS
HVAC Upgrades Completed at 3 Schools
LED Energy Saving Lights in all Buildings
Beneficial Modular Classrooms at LMS
Resurfacing all Asphalt Parking Lots
Energy Efficient Windows Installed

Wrap-Around Services Help Students
Free Kindergarten Jumpstart Program
Addition/Facelift to Island City School
New Bus Routing & Parking at Central
Two New Asst. Principals in District
New Athletic Director Darren Goodman
Carpenter Fills Dir. of Educational Programs
New Food Service Management Begins
Teachers Love, Care, and Serve Others
Strategic Plan Team Sets 3 District Goals
Achievement Club at Greenwood
New STEM Initiatives Begin
Track State Championship 2018
Football League Championship 2018
Volleyball League Championship 2018
Girls' Soccer League Championship 2018
Students Taught "Growth Mindset"
Teachers Use Social-Emotional Learning
District Staff Wellness Grant Awarded
Read Together La Grande! Initiative
Graduation Rate Rises 80 % to 86.4 %
Special Ed Grad Rates Rise to 80.77 %
Greenwood Plant Sale Raises Money



2019 Crystal Apple Awards

La Grande School District is pleased to honor four staff members as winners of the 2019 Crystal Apple "Excellence in Education" awards. These individuals are recognized based on the nomination by their peers for their excellent contribution in serving our students. Congratulations and thank you! The Crystal Apple Awards Ceremony took place Monday May 6, 2019 at the Gilbert Event Center.



Kailin Wells



Holly Wagner



Lori Cox

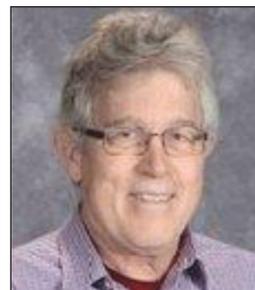


Pat Ogburn

La Grande School District is also pleased to honor two high school teachers; Kristy Moore (English and AP Composition) and John Lamoreau (History) as the 2019 recipients of Eastern Oregon University's Inspirational Teacher Certificate of Merit. These individuals are recognized based on the nominations of first year Eastern Oregon University students on the fall term 2018 Dean's List, who named their most influential high school teacher.



Kristy Moore



John Lamoreau



Carla Arnold



Cody Bowen

The 2019 Union County Chamber awarded our very own Carla Arnold as educator of the year. Carla is a music teacher at La Grande Central Elementary school and has been the key educator behind Central's fiddle club and is a leader in our thriving K-12 music program!

Cody Bowen was also a 2019 Union County Chamber winner as the public servant of the year! Not sure if you have a textbook definition of Student Resource Officer...I do. He creates a safe environment, reduces crime, makes connections with kids and staff, mentors, and educates students and adults alike.

This is special opportunity for me to personally acknowledge these staff members who have played a vital role in the lives of our students. When you get a moment...Please congratulate them as well!

George Mendoza



Wesley Keefer, a 4th grade student at Greenwood Elementary, working with ODOT

STEM

continued from page 6

were hosted by ODOT, Greenwood Elementary staff, teachers and EOU student teachers, La Grande High School students, GO STEM team members and the Grande Ronde Symphony.

"Over 160 elementary students and their families attended the event," she said.

In4All wants to continue organizing STEM field days and nights at Greenwood in the future, said Rainboth.

"I've been talking to them about doing this for all three of the elementary schools, so we're working on who

might sponsor those and get involved," she said.

ODOT had about 20 to 30 volunteers that participated in this event---two days of teaching in the classroom, the ODOT field day, bringing the equipment to the school and the family STEM Night. That was a lot of volunteer hours, and Rainboth said they were fun to work with.

After such a successful first event, the district and Rainboth are already discussing next school year's STEM event. "We'd like to make this an annual event because it was really a positive experience for everyone," she said.

SPRING SPORTS UPDATE

By Trish Yerges

La Grande athletic director Darren Goodman has a lot of good things to say about the 2019 spring sports season, which is winding down as the student athletes and teams have been working hard to perform at their best.

Baseball has been strong this season. “In baseball, we’re 13-8 and tied for first place with two games left,” said Goodman.

Softball has an OSAA ranking of number 2. They have an overall 18-1 record with 10-0 in the league, and they are returning state champions. Their final games for the season included two League games (McLoughlin) and one non-League (Pendle-



Tigers softball team welcomes new coach Woody Wright of Union.

ton).

“We’re looking good to repeat as the Greater Oregon League champions and going into the playoffs as the number one seed,” said Goodman.

There’s more exciting news for the Tigers softball team, as they welcome a new coach, Woody Wright of Union. Wright is an example of homegrown

talent, and La Grande is proud to have him as coach.

“I was born and raised in Union, graduated from Union High School and started out coaching high school boys’ baseball,” he said. “I was the JV coach there for about 8 years. Then when my daughters got a little older, grade school age, I jumped the fence over to softball and was an assistant coach in Union for 10 years.”

When Wright’s daughters both graduated, he applied for the head coaching position that opened up in La Grande, and he was excited to get the position. Wright is very excited with the energy from the community, school, and players. With a very talented group of players and a

huge support base from the parents, school and community, it makes it a lot easier, Wright said, to step into a new program as the head coach.

“Thank you to the administration for giving me an opportunity to help build a stronger program for the years to come,” he said.

This opportunity to coach in La Grande will help with Wright’s long term goals of coaching at the college level.

In tennis competitions, the players are individually ranked, and Goodman reported that no one qualified to go on to state this season.

“The track and field athletes are having a strong season, and we are hosting districts at our site in La Grande, so we welcome com-

munity members who want to come and watch,” said Goodman.

Coach Julie Bodfish and Goodman expect a strong showing in state again for both boys and girls, and of course, it’s noteworthy to add that the boys are returning state champions.

La Grande had a great golf season. “Boys’ golf won districts! Braden Bell won District Championships,” said Goodman. “And girls’ golf took second in districts.”

Since the spring season is just winding up, you can find the final rankings, visit www.osaa.org. Don’t forget to check out the upgraded softball field and buildings at Pioneer Park. Watch a game and support the Tigers!

LGHS CHOIRS WIN AT STATE



The La Grande High School Choir program saw their hard work and hours of rehearsal come to fruition this last week by winning two State Championships. The LHS Tenor-Bass Quartet “Homerun” won the Oregon Music Educators State Ensemble TTBB contest on Friday, 26 of April. The contest was held on the campus of Pacific University in Forrest Grove. They sang two songs: *Canta Del Agua*, and *Be Still My Soul*.



On Tuesday, April 30th, the LHS A Cappella Choir competed at the Oregon State Activities Association (OSAA) 4A choir contest held at the Lesells Stewart Center on the campus of Oregon State University. They earned top points in both performance and sight-reading, earning a total of 332 points out of 360, clinching the championship.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

Bodfish and McKinley are Top Coaches of the Year

By Trish Yerges

La Grande School District celebrates two top coaches of the year, Julie Bodfish head coach for track and field sports and Parker McKinley, head coach for baseball and wrestling.

Julie Bodfish is a homegrown talent, a graduate of La Grande High School and a 1984 graduate of Oregon State University with a degree in business administration. While attending LHS and Oregon State, she participated as a student track athlete and became a record holder on the LHS track and field team.

"I hold three individual and two team records at the high school, the 100, 200, the high jump, the four by one and the four by four on those two teams and those records have stood for over 40 years," said Bodfish.

She returned to La Grande in 1985 and started coaching at LHS and at the same time, worked in partnership with her mother at Fitzgerald Flowers, continuing in both occupations to this

present day.

Coach Bodfish is in her seventh year of coaching at LHS. "When my daughter was a sophomore and the head coach job opened up at the high school, I applied for it, and I've been there ever since," she said.

After starting at LHS, she taught for two years as assistant coach at Eastern Oregon University and another two years as head coach there. In addition to her experience at coaching, she also received certification in coaching.

"I was accepted into the U.S.A. Track and Field Academy at the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center where I earned a Level 2 certification in coaching jumps, sprints and hurdles," said Bodfish.

Everything combined, her training paid off because last season her student athletes won the State Championships for the first time in LHS history of track and field competitions.

"We had the highest point total ever scored by a 4-A school in the history of the state," she said. "That was kind of a big deal."

Very deservedly,

Bodfish received the Oregon Coaches Athletic Association honor of "Coach of the Year" for the state of Oregon for 4-A boys track and field. She is proud to have worked with some fantastic athletes over the years and seen them go on to university with athletic scholarships.

"Not only are we developing all-around athletes, but we're helping them along their career path by doing so," she said. "We're really invested in the kids and that's what makes our program successful."

Parker McKinley is the head coach for the La Grande High School baseball team and for the La Grande Mat Club (wrestling). He came to LHS as an assistant coach for one year and has currently been acting as head coach for the past six years.

McKinley graduated from EOU in 2001, after which he moved to Palm Springs, where he taught for six years. He also coached there for two high schools, the Desert Hot Springs High School and Palm Springs High School.



McKinley

After this he relocated his family to Burns, where he coached for 5 years as assistant coach. Then he came to La Grande, volunteering for a year as assistant coach and then stepping into the head coach position when it became available.

"Last season we won the Greater Oregon League and went undefeated with 10-0," he said. "We hosted two playoff games, one with Estacada (1-0) and with Banks (8-2), winning both. Then we traveled to North Marion for the semi-finals and won that with 1-0. Then we went on to Gladstone in the State Championship game and lost 3-2."

That was the baseball team's second appearance in state championship in two straight years. "We actually won it in 2017," he said.

The biggest change in the 2018-19 baseball season is that the team roster has seen about 18 seniors graduate last year and leave the team. This year the team has about 30 youth playing, with a wide age range, including freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors on the varsity team. "It's a bit of an anomaly, but we're

making the most of it," said McKinley.

No matter the changes, the team is making it work. As of mid-April, the LHS baseball team was 5 and 1 in the league which is first place. They played Ontario on April 26 and won the first game 4-1, and they also won the second game 7-1. That makes their record 11-6 for the season and 7-1 in league. They are currently sitting in first place in league.

"We have tremendous support from our community for baseball, and we have fantastic people involved in the youth level of baseball," he said. "Everybody has a common goal of trying to make the kids the best they can be and not just as baseball players, but the best people they can be."

The young athletes on his team work hard, sacrifice for their teammates and have created a winning mentality, excellent training that McKinley said will go with them into their adult lives.

"It's certainly nice to be recognized for that," said McKinley, "but I'm truly a believer that it takes everybody, and we got a lot of good people doing a lot of good things."



Bodfish