

SHOE

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“We believe that kids deserve a chance to succeed,” a press release on The Shoe That Grows website reads. “When children do not have a pair of shoes, they are faced with more struggles. Kids are more prone to illness, missing school and a lack of confidence when walking barefoot.”

Jolene said a particular worry for children without shoes in parts of Africa is the jigger parasite. It’s a small insect that burrows itself into a person’s skin — generally in the feet — and latches on to the blood vessels. Within days, the insect swells to more than 1,000 times its size, while continuously laying eggs. Those eggs hatch, mature and lead to an infestation, according to Sole Hope, a website dedicated to raising money for removal supplies and for shoes to help impoverished areas affected by these insects.

The Shoe That Grows’ website states the nonprofit relies on people who are traveling to take the adjustable shoes with them.

That’s not everything the Cooks hope to bring to Africa. They are wanting to bring enough money so they can give the people clean water as well.

“Eighty percent of kids die before the age of five because of the water,” Jolene said. “They have wells, but the water is not clean.”

She said the specific place they’ll be traveling to is one of the top three poorest countries in the world and rated as one of the unhappiest.

“There’s just a huge need (for help) there,” she said. “And most people haven’t even heard of them.”

According to the Cooks’ website, www.make-a-way.com, “Scott and Jolene are (going to) Africa to make relationships, meet needs, and show love to people who feel forgotten by the rest of the world.”

For those who would like to follow along with the Cooks, they have set up a Facebook page called “His Beautiful Feet.” Donations may be made at www.make-a-way.com.

RUN

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mapped and marked beforehand and race times will be staggered — beginning at 8:30 a.m. for the 10K, 8:40 a.m. for the 5K and 8:45 a.m. for the mile — and will begin and end at the Owsley Canyon trailhead, with refreshment areas for runners dotting the trail. First aid will also be on-site, courtesy of the La Grande Rural Fire District.

An awards ceremony will take place following the races, with prizes given to the overall male and female winners in each age group for both the 5K and 10K.

“We do recognize our race winners in gender and age category, but they don’t get the typical medal,” Wortman said of the ceremony. “The committee puts together a small gift

bag for each winner and that varies from year to year.”

While the UCSCC is funded in part by a federal grant, which covers all of its administrative costs and funds many of its activities, the coalition is in year seven of the grant’s 10-year cycle, meaning by 2021 the UCSCC will have to find an alternative source of funding. The MERA Drug-Free Run helps fill the gap.

“Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000,” Wortman said. “The money raised from the (run) can be utilized for activities that are outside of the grant action plan, but (will) still align with the coalition’s mission.”

For more information, contact the UCSCC at 541-963-1068 or ucsafecommunities@gmail.com. Online registration can be found at drugfreerun.itsyourrace.com.



Courtesy photo

Last year’s participants in the Union County Safe Communities Coalition’s Drug-Free Run started and ended the race at the Owsley Canyon Trailhead at MERA. This year’s run will take place Saturday.

FEC

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represent business, labor or ideological interests.

McLeod-Skinner, a former city manager in Phoenix, Oregon, and Santa Clara, California, city councilor, beat out six other candidates for the Democratic Party nomination in May.

According to The Center for Responsive Politics 45.65 percent of McLeod-Skinner’s money comes from small individual contributions, 53.35 percent from large individual contributions and .39 percent from PACs. McLeod-Skinner disputed these numbers and said small individual contributions constitute more of her fundraising.

Justin Discigil, Walden’s communications director, in an email to The Observer said the representative’s monetary support shows the work he’s done in Oregon.

“The people of Oregon’s Second District know that Greg — a lifelong Oregonian — is their strongest advocate in Congress because he has consistently stood up for the farming, ranching and small-business way of life in Eastern Oregon,” Discigil said in the email. “That is why groups representing doctors, hospitals, ranchers, firefighters, electricians and many more are showing their support.”

McLeod-Skinner said the donations Walden receives represent how he caters to special interests.

“You can talk about those big dollars, those big numbers,” McLeod-Skinner said. “That’s going to backfire on him because with those big numbers comes his focus on corporate PAC agenda and that does not serve our district.”

The Democratic nominee said she isn’t worried about being out-fundraised by Walden.

“I know that there’s so much focus on dollars, and dollars are part of campaigning, but ultimately it comes down to who gets the most votes,” McLeod-Skinner told The Observer. “I don’t have to raise more money than him. I have to get more votes.”

McLeod-Skinner said she is more focused on overall resources, pointing to her approximately 1,350 volunteers — 400 are making calls and another 400 are knocking on doors in Oregon’s Second Congressional District, which spans from Wallowa County in the northeast to Malheur County in the southeast to Jackson County in the southwest and Hood River County in the Northwest. For that reason, she remains confident in her campaign.

“It’s billboards versus your neighbors calling you up and encouraging you to vote for me, and that’s the contest we’re facing right now,” she said.

Walden has raised more money during the 2018 campaign than in any of his previous congressional

campaigns. The most he raised previously was almost \$3.5 million in 2014, when he earned 71 percent of the vote to beat Democrat Aelea Christofferson, who raised \$135,231. Discigil said Walden’s fundraising levels are partially due to how big the district is, Oregon’s Second Congressional District is the sixth largest in the country and approximately the size of the state of Washington.

“Advertising in a district with as many newspapers, radio and TV stations and billboards is expensive,” Discigil said. “Couple that with outside groups that have already spent more than \$500,000 attacking Greg. It only makes sense that his campaign would step up to meet the unknown challenge of third-party special interests and their dark money.”

For McLeod-Skinner, her campaign will continue to rely on personal contributions and volunteers. She tells one story of a woman who said she cut a cord of wood from land she lives on and sold it to be able to contribute to McLeod-Skinner’s campaign.

“I will trade the cord of wood that she cut for my campaign for Greg Walden’s big pharma dollars anyway,” McLeod-Skinner said.

To donate to either of the candidates, visit their websites at <https://gregwalden.com/join-greg/> or <https://jamieforrOregon.com/>.

EDUCATOR

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felt he was in the right place at the right time (that year),” Glaze said.

In a May 24, 1986, Observer article on his retirement, Lilly referred to that as his “ulcer year.” He explained that a nagging stomachache he developed that year was diagnosed by his doctor as an ulcer. Fortunately, it responded to treatment and vanished the next school year when the district did away with its three-school principal “area administrator” position.

Lilly said the position was too much for one person.

“(I was) dealing with three different communities, three different parent groups,” Lilly said in the retirement article. “I think people just like to have a principal in each school.”

Even when under the mountain of stress he experienced while leading three schools, Lilly rarely let people see it.

“He always had a pretty calm demeanor,” Glaze said.

The educator served as Willow Elementary’s principal for at least 13 years.

Those who worked with him at Willow include Kaye Juniper, the school’s secretary from 1976 to 1996.

“He really knew people. He knew how to choose a staff and blend it together so that it worked well and became a family,” she said.

Juniper recalled that once Lilly told

her of a librarian at Greenwood Elementary School.

“He told me, ‘If you two ever get together, you are going to be best friends,’” Juniper said.

A few years later the librarian, Marilyn Lester, was transferred to Willow, and Lilly’s words proved prophetic— she and Juniper became best of friends.

“We are still very good friends today,” Juniper said.

The secretary said Lilly was the type of person who showed enormous respect and interest in every person he came into contact with, especially children.

“He chose the right profession, because he loved children,” Juniper said.

Those who had Lilly as their principal included La Grande business owner Patty Glaze, who attended Willow in the 1960s and is the wife of Larry Glaze.

“He was truly interested in everybody. He made you feel genuinely important,” she said.

Lilly was also Patty Glaze’s principal when she was attending junior high. She has never forgotten the time she accidentally broke one of the school’s gym windows while tossing a snowball.

“I was terrified,” she said.

Lilly, however, was anything but upset, apparently sensing that the student had not been up to mischief.

“He was very kind,” she said.

Lilly grew up in La Grande, where he was a standout high school athlete. He helped La Grande High School advance

to the state basketball tournament in 1937, qualified for the state track meet in the 440-yard dash twice and was a star football player.

After graduating from LHS, Lilly attended Willamette University in Salem where he played basketball and ran for the track team. He did not play football at Willamette and at least on one occasion he was thankful he did not, according to a story in the March 30, 1989 Observer.

The Willamette football team was in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, the day Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Fortunately, the Willamette football team was not caught in the crosshairs of the battle and returned safely to Oregon after playing just one of two scheduled games in Hawaii.

Less than a year later, Lilly enlisted in the U.S. Navy, from which he was honorably discharged in 1945.

After that he worked for Portland General Electric before returning to La Grande where he took a series of education classes at what is now Eastern Oregon University before beginning his career with the La Grande School District, during which he also taught elementary school.

Lilly said in the May 24, 1986, Observer article the dedication of elementary school teachers is incomparable.

“I’ve always seen that (dedication) in elementary school teachers,” Lilly said. “There are very few I’ve seen who would put anything above teaching.”

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