

BROTHERS

Continued from Page 1A

who are from families that cannot afford school supplies. Greif said being able to give children their own school supplies, ones they will value as personal possessions, will mean an enormous amount to them at the start of the school year.

Chris Kurtz, a 1985 Elgin High School graduate, and Damon Kurtz, a 1989 EHS graduate, both attended Stella Mayfield more than three decades ago. “This school was part of our family. It is a way to give back,” Chris Kurtz said.

The school supplies were delivered by Elves on a Mission, a community service organization Chris Kurtz created three years ago that focuses on foster children in Northeast Oregon. Damon Kurtz’s company, Allegiance Logistic, donated the supplies Elves on a Mission delivered.

Greif and Lowann VanLeuven, a friend, assisted the Kurtz brothers. Greif and VanLeuven also are



Damon Kurtz of Canby and Elgin School District Superintendent Dianne Greif carry \$5,000 worth of donated school supplies Saturday, Aug. 15, into Stella Mayfield School, Elgin.

Stella Mayfield and Elgin High School alums. Chris Kurtz said the primary focus of Elves on a Mission is to help foster children in Union, Wallowa and Baker counties. Each year it provides Christmas presents and school supplies to all foster children in the three counties. Helping these children is

close to the hearts of Chris and Damon Kurtz because they also were foster children. The donation of back-to-school supplies to Stella Mayfield was outside the normal scope of work Elves on a Mission take on. The school supplies will be presented to students during the first week

of classes, which are set to start on Aug. 31. “Each student will have their own individual bag (of supplies),” Greif said. Students will be urged to use only their own school supplies as a precaution against COVID-19. Greif said the Kurtz brothers’ donation not only will help children of fami-



Brothers Chris Kurtz, left, and Damon Kurtz on Saturday, Aug. 15, examine the school supplies they donated and helped bring into Stella Mayfield School, Elgin.

lies who are hurting financially but also will help the school district meet state COVID-19 standards. She explained that school districts are being encour-

aged to provide supplies to students this fall rather than have them bring in their own to help protect against spreading the virus.

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1A

Grande Learning Academy, the district’s online school. Robin Maille, chairwoman of the La Grande School Board, said she hoped most students in grades four to 12 take the Comprehensive Distance Learning option. She explained that students in Comprehensive Distance Learning will be able to come back to school for on-site classes immediately when metrics allow it. Students in the La Grande Learning Academy would have to wait until the semester break before returning to the classroom.

La Grande students in kindergarten through third grade are scheduled to attend classes on-site under a “stable cohort model,” meaning the same group of students will be together all day. The district’s three elementary schools — Central, Greenwood and Island City — will release more information about hours of operation as the first day of school nears.

Because the other school districts in Union County have 250 or fewer students, they have the option of providing on-site instruction for all students, providing the county continues to meet state requirements.

The Cove School District will offer classes on site to all grades starting Aug. 31. In addition, online courses will be available to all stu-

dents, said Cove Superintendent Earl Pettit, to help students and families who feel uncomfortable about returning to on-site classes because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cove students will be part of seven cohorts: kindergarten students, grades one and two, grades three and four, grades five and six, grades seven and eight, freshmen and sophomores, and junior and seniors. During school, students will only be around students in their cohort, Pettit said. And to maintain distances between cohorts, each will have its own lunch period.

“We will have seven lunch periods,” Pettit said. The superintendent said elementary school teaching will remain fairly traditional. However, students in grades seven to 12 will rarely use classrooms that members of other cohorts have already been in. Before students in a cohort uses a classroom another cohort has used, the room will have to undergo extensive sanitization, Pettit said.

Teachers will have to wear masks if they are instructing students from more than one cohort during a school day, Pettit said, but students will not have to wear masks as long as social distancing standards are met and they are with fellow members of their cohort. Students, however, will be required to wear masks while riding school buses.

“You can’t social distance on a school bus,” Pettit said.

The North Powder School District is set to open Sept. 8 with a hybrid model. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade will be taught on site each day of the district’s four-day week. High school students will be taught on site and online on an alternating day basis. High school students will be assigned to one of two cohorts — one will be taught on site Mondays and Wednesdays, and online on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students in the second cohort will have an onsite and online schedule opposite of the first cohort’s, said North Powder School District Superintendent Lance Dixon.

He said the district is in a good position to offer on-site learning because its classrooms are large enough to meet social distancing standards.

The Union School District is preparing to make on-site instruction available to all students when it opens Aug. 31. Union School District Superintendent Carter Wells said if there is a spike in COVID-19 cases in the county, it is likely state rules would force his district to stop its on-site program for students in grades four to 12 and instead provide them online instruction. The school district, however, likely would be able to continue providing onsite instruction for students in kindergarten through third grade under the state’s metrics, Wells said.

The superintendent

stressed Union’s return to on-site instruction is dependent upon the number of new COVID-19 cases remaining low. “We are relying on the people of Union County to limit the number of COVID-19 cases,” Wells said.

Plans are in place for the Imbler School District to open Aug. 31, also with on-site instruction available to all students. Imbler School District Superintendent Angie Lakey-Campbell said students will be in cohorts of 25-30 people, and the cohorts will be kept separated. This will involve not allowing students in different cohorts to be on the elementary school playground at the same time, assigning cohorts specific entries and exit doors and more.

The Elgin School District also opens Aug. 31 by offering on-site classes to students. Students whose family does not want to risk coming to school will be able to take classes online via eDynamic Learning, a new program the district is offering.

On-site classes will not vary dramatically at Stella Mayfield Elementary School from its traditional model, in which students stay in their classrooms with the same classmates for most of the day. At Elgin High School, which serves grades seven to 12, students will be in cohorts that will make a minimum of classroom transitions each school day.

BANKERS

Continued from Page 1A

tacked on to the end of their mortgage repayment period.

“The moratoriums on evictions and foreclosure will go a long way to ensuring working families can stay in their homes and small businesses can continue operating amidst the pandemic,” Gov. Kate Brown said at the time.

The law applies through September but authorizes the governor to extend its provisions until a later date.

The bankers’ lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Eugene, argues that Oregon’s new law unconstitutionally pre-empts federal law and said it unfairly seeks to establish retroactive protections beginning March 8 — more than three

months before the bill was passed.

The suit also seeks to reverse provisions of the new Oregon law that prevent banks from enacting fees, higher interest rates or other charges for non-payment during the pandemic.

“It would allow lenders to pursue whatever recourse they have under their agreements, absent the foreclosure remedies that are outlined in” the legislation, Cunningham said.

The lenders’ suit argues the absence of penalties could hurt banks’ liquidity and affect them for decades in the case of long-term loans.

The bankers are taking no position on whether the foreclosure ban itself is unconstitutional, according to Cunningham. He said

that even if the court rules in favor of the bankers on other provisions, he expects the court would allow the foreclosure ban to stand.

“My position is the court would only rule on the provisions that the plaintiff presents,” Cunningham said.

Democratic House Speaker Tina Kotek believes the suit has “no

merit,” according to her spokesman, Danny Moran.

“At a time when a declining number of Oregonians are able to make rent or mortgage payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we should be focused on extending housing protections, not weakening them, particularly in the midst of a public health crisis,” Moran said.

Heart 'n Home
HOSPICE

BAKER CITY
(541) 524-7688

LA GRANDE
(541) 624-5800

GoHOSPICE.com

Get support for the
mind, body, and spirit
with hospice.

BRING EVERYTHING
YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE

America's Top 120 Package

\$59.99 MO. **190 CHANNELS**

for 12 Mos. Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100

1-866-373-9175 Offer ends 7/15/20.

All offers require credit qualification. 24-month commitment with early termination fee and eAutopay. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper w/Sling or Hopper 3 55mo. more. Upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification.

Imagine The Difference You Can Make

DONATE YOUR CAR

1-844-533-9173

FREE TOWING

TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Help Prevent Blindness

Get A Vision Screening Annually

Ask About A **FREE 3 Day** Vacation Voucher To Over 20 Destinations!!!

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY!

877-557-1912

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* A \$695 Value!

Offer valid March 16, 2020 - June 30, 2020

Special Financing Available

Subject to Credit Approval

*Terms & Conditions Apply

GENERAC

20 DAYS to CELEBRATE **20 YEARS**

Stoneware
Raku
Upcycled Furniture

Come In and Browse the Gallery

August 5 - 25

thePottersHouseGallery.com

The **POTTER'S HOUSE** Gallery

1601 6th Street, La Grande corner of 6th and Penn

FAMILY OWNED

NORTHWEST FURNITURE & MATTRESS

215 Elm Street La Grande (541) 963-5440

northwestfurnitureandmattress.com

Turning 65?
We're here to help!

Joel Myer
jmyer@valleyinsurance.com

Valley INSURANCE

1603 Washington Ave, La Grande

(541) 963-3121

Let us take the **mystery** out of Medicare for you!

Kathy Rienti
krienti@valleyinsurance.com