



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

A lone pathway sits between fields at Eastern Oregon University on Friday, May 7, 2021. La Grande city officials have proposed installing a new path that connects Gekeler Lane and G Street at EOU near Community Stadium.

PATHS

Continued from Page 1A

of traffic. La Grande students need a designated route, Carpenter said, and such a route could involve a paved pathway through campus.

Carpenter also said, if the city receives the grant, he hopes to look into ways of helping people on EOU's campus to more easily walk or bike into downtown La Grande.

"We would like to create some type of a corridor," Carpenter said. "We want to add continuity from Eastern to downtown."

Steps to achieve this could involve making use of right-of-way property between EOU and downtown La Grande.

"We would like to create walking and biking opportunities separated from vehicles," Carpenter said.

He said the city would hire a consultant to look into such options if the

Oregon Community Path program grant comes through. Once the city has a plan, it would be able to apply for construction grants from the Oregon Community Path program or other sources.

Carpenter said he is optimistic about the potential for creating corridors via OCP. He said the opportunities the grant could provide are exciting and such additions would address a need he often hears people discuss.

WELLS

Continued from Page 1A

counties have 18 school districts the IMESD serves plus Nixyaawii Community School on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

"Carter Wells is a long-time educator who has positively impacted hundreds of staff and students over the years. I consider him a colleague and friend and admire the work he does on a daily basis," Mulvihill said in a press release.

Mendy Clark, the Union School District's deputy clerk, said one of Wells' best qualities is his belief in the potential of students.

"He believes every student can succeed, every single one," Clark said.

Chuck Moore, region vice president of Mid Columbia Bus Company, said he was pleased that Wells was the recipient of the award.

"We know Carter is a hardworking and dedicated superintendent who wears many hats in the district and the community of Union. As a long-time partner with the Union School District, we at Mid Co have seen firsthand the caring commitment Carter puts forth to the students, parents and staff of the District," Moore said in a press release.

Wells does a multitude of tasks for the district, from running lawn mowers on occasion in the summer to counseling students about their graduation status and monitoring lunch periods. He thrives on the variety and the fact he cannot pre-



InterMountain Education Service District/Contributed Photo

Union School District Superintendent Carter Wells, left, poses Monday, May 3, 2021, with Mark Mulvihill, superintendent of the InterMountain Education Service District, after Mulvihill presented Wells with the Doug Flatt Memorial Leadership Award.

dict what each day will hold.

"It makes the job fun and exciting. You never know what you will face," Wells said.

Wells first joined the Union School District in 2008 as its high school principal. He began his career as a social studies teacher in the La Grande School District in 2002 and then worked for five years in the Umatilla School District. Wells graduated from Eastern Oregon University in 2002 and earned a master's degree in education administration from Concordia University in November 2009.

Wells comes from a family with a proud education legacy. He is following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Thomas Wells, who was a longtime school

administrator in Oregon and was superintendent of the Astoria School District about six decades ago.

"I was close to him while I was growing up. It is an honor to be following his path," Wells told The Observer in 2013.

Wells also draws inspiration from his wife, Kailin.

"I would not be the person I am today if I had not married Kailin 20-plus years ago," Wells said.

The superintendent said the Flatt Award is a reflection of not his skills but of the wealth of talented educators in Northeastern Oregon who have taught him.

"I put to use what I have learned from them on a daily basis," Wells said. "This award is a reflection of the amazing people of this region."

DAMS

Continued from Page 1A

be working on the plan in secret when he has been working on it for three years, speaking with everyone who would listen, including Newhouse and McMorris Rodgers.

He said he wanted as many answers as possible before going public with the concept, and he is traveling around the region taking and incorporating feedback.

"I expected pushback when this all started," Simpson stated. "What I did not expect was colleagues with whom I have worked for a number of years on a number of issues to question my integrity, to insinuate I have lied about my motivation and in fact have nefarious intentions to — what? Sabotage the economy of my own state? I have a strong

record of public service to the State of Idaho that does not need to be listed here to prove the absurdity of that notion."



Brown



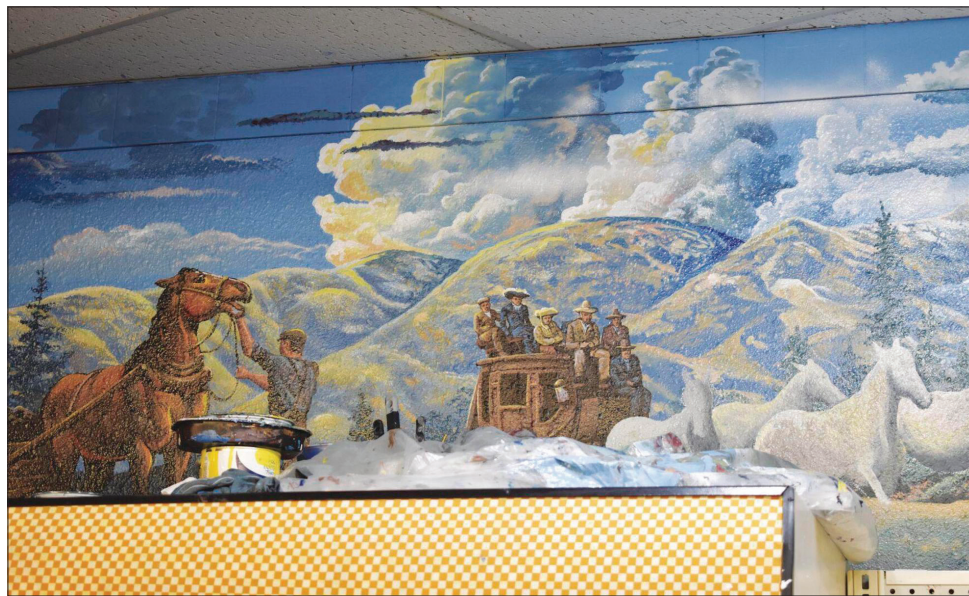
Simpson

Simpson argued that "nothing undermines regional dialogue more than refusing to talk."

He called the Center for Biological Diversity one of the "extreme environmental groups" that opposes his concept, "because it would end their business model of keeping the stakeholders in the region in perennial litigation over the four Lower Snake River dams."

"It is interesting that Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Dan Newhouse and Cliff Bentz are using this group's work in their effort to discredit me," Simpson stated.

Agricultural stakeholders and power companies also oppose the plan, saying removal of the dams is a nonstarter.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Jon Hanley is working to complete a mural at the Old Pine Market in Halfway. The painting depicts the history of horses in Pine Valley.

ARTIST

Continued from Page 1A

cartoons for the weekly Eastern Oregon Review, then freelanced for The Observer during high school, from 1976-1979.

"That was my foray into professional illustrating," he said.

He became a full-time cartoonist while attending Portland Community College.

He's drawn cartoons of every president from Nixon to now.

"It's delightful," Hanley said. "I'm bipartisan in my cartooning. I won all my cartooning awards doing (Ronald) Reagan and (Mikhail) Gorbachev."

From his time at college, he developed a certain approach to political cartoons.

"We were conscientious that the editorial cartoons made an impact, made a difference. I've always done that," he said. "It's been a good career. I've enjoyed it."

Other artistic ventures

Along with the cartoons, Hanley's work includes murals and set painting for live theater.

Another venture is cre-



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Jon Hanley shows an example of his illustrated maps. This one is for Island Park, Idaho.

ating cartoon-style maps of towns. So far, he's mapped 92 places, and this year he's focusing on Halfway.

The map will cover about 30 miles from Hells Canyon to Sparta.

"It will incorporate the history of the area and be filled with trivia," he said.

The finished map will measure 11 inches by 7 inches and will be folded into the size of a brochure. Although one side is a highly stylized depiction of businesses and landmarks, the opposite side has a more traditional map of the area.

"It makes a souvenir for years to come," Hanley said.

This is the first map project where he's spent

extensive time in the area, which has helped him collect its history.

"I've met all the old-timers — we can sit down and talk about history," he said. "Pine Valley has been really hospitable. Everyone has been so sweet."

It was time to map Halfway, he said, because he's already completed similar projects across Eastern Oregon, including Baker City, La Grande, Joseph and Ontario, and Weiser, Idaho.

Although he has a few trips planned back to Pocatello, he will stay with family in Halfway this summer until the map is finished. He's also scheduled to paint a mural in La Grande.




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