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School board member asks for more transparency

Ed McDonald says Imbler School Board wasn't transparent in superintendent search

By DICK MASON
The Observer

IMBLER — A member of the Imbler School Board charged on Tuesday, June 1, the board had not been transparent while conducting its search for a successor to Superintendent

Angie Lakey-Campbell, who is leaving to take a position leading the Hansen School District near Twin Falls, Idaho.

Board member Dan McDonald made this charge prior to the board voting 4-1 to name Doug

Hislop interim superintendent. Hislop, who served as Imbler's superintendent from 2004 to 2014 before retiring, will serve as interim superintendent in 2021-22 beginning July 1.

McDonald voted against naming Hislop as superintendent because he said the selection process was not open enough. In a letter he read at the June 1 school

board meeting before its vote, McDonald said he has great respect for all members of the school board but in his opinion the hiring process lacked transparency.

McDonald, who said he does not believe the school board did anything illegal or violated state rules, proposed that the vote on Hislop's selection be canceled

and that the school board reconsider its options. The board voted 4-1 against McDonald's motion.

The school board named Hislop as interim superintendent after initially attempting to pursue hiring a permanent superintendent earlier this month. The board, though, decided to pursue an interim superintendent after interviewing

three finalists because it did not believe it had a candidate with the experience needed or who would be the right fit for the school district.

Imbler School Board member Ken Patterson said on June 2 that he believes the board is transparent. "We take a lot of pride

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LA GRANDE

Hard work pays off

High school students rack up \$830,000 in awards, scholarships

By DICK MASON
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The number, even with a calculator in hand, is eye popping.

La Grande High School's class of 2021 has been offered a combined \$830,000 in college scholarships and awards to a total of 55 students, according to information provided by La Grande High School.

"This is a testament to the hard work of our students," said LHS Assistant Principal Eric Freeman.

The assistant principal also said the scholarship total is a credit to people in the community reaching out to young people. Freeman noted that a number of the scholarships are from local organizations.

"They are the lifeblood of La Grande," he said.

The sum total of what LHS students have been offered is comparable to what it has been in previous years, according to LHS Principal Brett Baxter.

Not all of the scholarships and awards offered to members of the class of 2021 will be accepted, Chelsea Rohan, an LHS counselor, said. She explained that some

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Riding in style

Horse-drawn carriage offers a unique experience in La Grande

By DICK MASON
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The popularity of electric cars appears to be growing in Union County.

So too is another mode of transportation, one whose story predates electrical power — horse-drawn carriage rides.

Hundreds of Union County residents have received rides in a horse-drawn carriage over the past five months, many for the first time, thanks to a new service provided by Matt and Veronica Henneke, the owners of Henneke Farm Carriage in La Grande.

The Hennekes are providing quarter-mile horse-

drawn carriage rides throughout Union County, plus much longer ones for celebratory events, such as weddings, prom dates and birthdays. All rides are given in an elegant carriage that would fit right in at a royal wedding in London, with comfortable red velvet seats, ornate designs and an immaculate white exterior.

Matt and Veronica Henneke began providing the service in January after receiving their carriage from community members who had purchased it from a La Grande owner.

"It is such an amazing gift," Veronica Henneke said. "We wanted to give back."

Matt Henneke is the

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Alex Wittwer/The Observer

ABOVE: Matt Henneke pauses for a portrait in front of his team and carriage on Saturday, May 29, 2021. He and his wife, Veronica Henneke, own Henneke Farm Carriage in La Grande, which provides horse-drawn carriage rides. BELOW: Matt Henneke drives down Leffel Road near La Grande with his two horses, Jill and Annie, on Saturday, May 29, 2021, as a part of his side business providing carriage rides.



WALLOWA COUNTY

Josephy Center receives large grant

\$30,000 grant part of \$4.3 million OCF awarded

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture has received a grant that will give it a major boost in funding its programs in 2021, especially as the non-

profit looks to expand on the information it presents.

The center has received a grant of \$30,000 from the Oregon Community Foundation, an award that was part of more than \$4.3 million OCF announced in May.

"This funding was primarily for us to build upon our existing programs, but in a way that really reflects what's going on in our community and in the world,"

said Kellee Sheehy, Josephy's development director.

"For instance, with our youth services, the funding is helping to pay to maintain the programs we already have in place. A lot of the momentum really came to a screeching halt in 2020."

Oregon Community Foundation said in a press release the grant monies

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Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph received a grant of \$30,000 in 2021 from the Oregon Community Foundation.

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WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

	Tonight		Friday
	57 Low		84/50
	Mainly clear		Mostly sunny

CONTACT US

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La Grande, Oregon

Email story ideas to news@lagrandeobserver.com.
More contact info on Page 4A.



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SATURDAY

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