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Funds will help schools keep staff

School leaders discuss how they will spend their HB30 money

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

UNION COUNTY — The challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic have brought out the best in many of the teachers and staff in Union County's public schools.

And now these school districts are stepping forward to show their gratitude.

This point is clear based on how school districts are responding to House Bill 4030, which the Legislature passed earlier this year. The legislation provides about \$70 million to Oregon school districts to help them recruit new staff members and retain their current ones, as they recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Representatives from Union County's public schools across the board indicated the HB 4030 money they are receiving will be used to help retain current staff members, not recruit new ones.

The La Grande School District, which will receive \$270,000 in HB 4030 funding, will be using all of it to give teachers and staff members additional training to help them better support students and their families, said Assistant Superintendent Scott Carpenter.

The Union School District is set to receive a little more than \$40,000 in funding from HB 4030. All of this funding will go directly to the school district's employees.

"We will divert all of it to our staff for retention. We are saying thank you for all the sacrifices our staff has made," said Union School District Superintendent Carter Wells, referring to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Elgin School District will receive about \$50,000 in House Bill 4030 funding. Elgin Superintendent Dianne Greif said all of the funding will be used for staff development.

Inventive incentives

The approximately \$40,000 of funding North Powder School District will receive also will all go toward helping current teachers and staff, said Superintendent

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1930s



1946



1949

Goss Motors/Contributed Photos

HISTORICAL PHOTOS FROM TOP

Except for the cars, the storefront of La Grande's Goss Motors today still resembles this 1930s photograph.

The Goss Motors service department crew poses for a photo in 1946 in the dealership's main building on Adams Avenue.

M.J. Goss III and his son Bill stand next to a shiny Chevy four-door sedan at a new car unveiling in the fall of 1949. Goss Motors had the tradition of hosting new car reveals every September.

FAMILY LEGACY

Five generations of descendants ring in the centennial anniversary for La Grande's M.J. Goss Motors

By **SHANNON GOLDEN** • The Observer

LA GRANDE — Surrounded by friends, employees, neighbors and customers, Mark Goss and the five generations of the Goss family are celebrating a century of success.

The M.J. Goss Motor Co., a Union County landmark at 1415 Adams Ave., La Grande, is celebrating its 100th year of serving customers. The Chevrolet, Buick and GMC dealership sells new and pre-owned cars, trucks and SUVs, and provides full-service support for cars of all types.

For Tayde McAndie, Mark's daughter and the great-granddaughter of founder M.J. Goss, a throughline in the company's history has always been its small-town feel and its ability to give customers a no-hassle buying experience.

"Our roots have always stayed the same," she said of the business.

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Robert Dale "Bob" Goss, 97, marvels at the cars cruising along Adams Avenue for the La Grande Classic Car Show on Saturday, July 16, 2022. He is the last living child of M.J. Goss III, the founder of the storied La Grande dealership.



Shannon Golden/The Observer

TODAY » A refurbished 1922 Chevrolet sits outside of Goss Motors, on Saturday, July 16, 2022, highlighting the business' 100 years of service.



Wallowa County Chieftain, File

A fire line, cut with a bulldozer, crosses the forest floor near Promise on Thursday, July 22, 2021, as fire crews work to stop the spread of the Elbow Creek Fire. A year later, the cause of the fire — which consumed 22,960 acres before it was contained in mid-August — is still unknown.

Elbow Creek Fire cause remains unknown

2021 blaze torched nearly 23,000 acres in Wallowa County

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — As the one-year mark of the beginning of the Elbow Creek Fire passes, Wallowa County residents are still waiting for officials to determine a cause.

First reported the afternoon of July 15, 2021, about 5 miles northwest of Promise, the fire consumed 22,960 acres of the Walla Walla Ranger Dis-

trict in the Umatilla National Forest before it was contained in mid-August, according to Darcy Weseman, a public affairs officer for the Umatilla National Forest in Pendleton, in an email Friday, July 15.

The blaze took a few buildings in remote areas and threatened the town of Troy — which at one point was evacuated — as it burned on

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WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

	Tonight		Sunday
	53 LOW		91/56
	Clear		Sunny

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Email story ideas to news@lagrandeobserver.com. More contact info on Page A4.

