

SCHOOLS

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language between schools and law enforcement is a crucial aspect of making emergency responses in schools more efficient.

“It’s critical that we agree on the same vocabulary terms for emergency situations,” he said.

IMESD led a region-wide effort in 2016 to encourage all school districts in the area to adopt the same security terminology that could be used in the event of an emergency. This Standard Response Protocol, created by the “I Love U Guys” Foundation, aims to improve communication between school administrators and law enforcement officers in emergencies.

Although not every district has adopted this new terminology, Mulvihill credited local law enforcement for their continued commitment to school safety.

“I cannot be more impressed by the response of law enforcement at this time,” he said. “Their commitment to schools in this area has been stunning.”

Union County Sheriff’s Office Deputy Justin Hernandez, a school resource officer for the La Grande School District, is planning to attend the August summit. Hernandez said he is looking forward to seeing what protocols are becoming standardized across the state and country, and how La Grande schools can keep up.

“I’m looking forward to seeing what we can implement in the La Grande School District,” he said.

The La Grande school district currently uses the Run, Hide, Fight protocol and does not have standardized terminology it uses with the Union County Sheriff’s Office. Hernandez said he is curious about the foundation’s terminology and hopes to learn more about how effective it is in school settings.

“We are always wanting to evolve, grow and build, especially when it comes to safety,” he said. “Anything that is going to give us the upper hand and that will give kids a safe learning environment and teachers a safe teaching environment, we want to implement it.”

Mulvihill is hopeful that the summit will strengthen the relationship between school districts and their local law enforcement agencies. As for school safety, Mulvihill made clear his goals for the summit.

“I hope the districts are going out into this school year with confidence that they have put in the time to make sure everything is secure and safe.”



Hernandez



Mulvihill

GOVERNOR

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opponents as leaders of an establishment that has brought Oregon to where it is today, and that the state needs new solutions to chronic problems such as homelessness, a lack of housing and mental health services, and economic insecurity.

“It’s a little bit ironic to me to constantly hear my opponents on the stage be (aghast) on how horrible Oregon is on this and that and the other — ‘We’re 50th (in the country) on this and we have to work on that,’” Drazan said. “They’ve been in charge. We got here because of their voices. There are not two other people in the state with more power than them besides the governor herself and maybe the senate president.”

Johnson, a Scappoose resident who was a Democratic state senator before resigning to run as a unaffiliated candidate, empha-



Jaime Valdez/Pamplin Media

Three candidates for governor speak during a debate hosted by Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association at Mount Hood Oregon Resort in Welches on Friday, July 29, 2022. From left are Tina Kotek, Betsy Johnson and Christine Drazan.

sized that she represents a middle ground between what she described as extremes on her political right and left, noting Drazan’s pro-life stance on abortion and positing that Kotek is a part of a progressive left that is responsible for mounting problems.

“Oregonians are distrustful of the radical right and they are terrified of the progressive left ... What could be more different and impactful than a governor with an allegiance only to Oregonians and not to a party agenda or special interests?” she said.

Kotek, a Portlander who was the speaker of the house for nine years

prior to winning the Democratic nomination, framed herself as a candidate who seeks solutions rather than simply rejecting the status quo.

“No matter what the other candidates say today, there are no quick fixes. There are no miracle cures to take on these large challenges. Only hard work is going to allow us to ensure that every part of our state can thrive,” she said.

On the issues, Drazan clarified that she considers Joe Biden to be the fairly elected president of the United States — despite efforts from members of her party to sow distrust

in the 2020 election results — while also stating that she would maintain the current gun and abortion laws in place in Oregon and expressing opposition to Gov. Kate Brown’s executive order directing state agencies to reduce carbon emissions. Regarding her and her colleagues’ decision in 2020 to walk out of the Capitol to combat Democrats’ cap-and-trade proposal while she was the House minority leader, she said she may have supported some form of policy incentivizing businesses to reduce emissions — but not in the form proposed by Democrats.

INSKO

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Programs developed during Insko’s tenure include the expansion of academic programs like agriculture entrepreneurship, reorganization of EOU’s academic colleges and the addi-

tion of two new deans, securing funding for the new fieldhouse, the addition of men’s and women’s wrestling, lacrosse, and baseball, renovations and upgrades to buildings across campus, the Rural Engagement and Vitality Center, a reorganization of the school’s diversity, equity inclusion and

belonging programs, and the just-launched Moon Shot for Equity project to eliminate achievement gaps.

“Tom was a non-traditional president with a background in operations and financial management, but it proved to be exactly the kind of leadership we needed,” said

EOU Board Chair Richard Chaves. “Tom’s passion for Oregon coupled with a strategic education and fiscal plan brought together everyone under one vision, which has led us to the strong position we are in today. He set a high bar for our next president, but we are confident we will attract a high cal-

iber leader who can continue to advance the path forward putting the people and students of Eastern Oregon first.”

Eastern Oregon University’s board of trustees will begin transition planning for the university at its upcoming annual retreat, already planned for Aug. 8-9 in Boardman.

THEATER

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campus and other community theater venues.

“I’m grateful for being recognized by a group of people who really understand what it is that I do,” Hale said.

Freddie and Myrna Gershon founded the Freddie G Fellowship to recognize and celebrate exceptional theater educators, who are given the opportunity to live the Broadway experience and interact with qualified professionals through master workshops taught by staff at Music Theatre International and iTheatrics at the 52nd Street Project building in New York City.

“Without teachers there is no Broadway Junior,” Freddie Gershon stated on the MTI website. He is MTI’s co-chairman and, with wife Myrna, underwriter of the Fellowship.

“Myrna and I feel strongly about teachers and their significant role,” he said. “This week gives us an opportunity to immerse them in experiential skills they can take home, integrate with their students and pass on to other teachers.”

The recipients of the Freddie G Fellowship were announced at the iTheatrics Junior Theater Festivals in February 2020, but training was delayed until July 2022 due to the pandemic.

“We learned really neat things from each other, but the most important thing was the bond that we made with the six of us together — so valuable to me,” Hale said. “These are people from all over the country that are doing what I do and have similar issues and joys and problems. For us to get together and work through those things together was very valuable.”

While in New York, Hale and his colleagues attended a special master class led by Tony Award-winning director and choreographer Jeff Calhoun and participated in classes covering many aspects of musical theater. Hale and the other Fellows were immersed in Broadway, attending productions of “Between The Lines” and “Beetlejuice.” They also observed a developmental workshop performance of “Beetlejuice Junior.” There the Fellows were invited to experience Broadway as theater insiders, offering their feedback to the developmental process from their perspective.

Energize and inspire

Music Theatre International, which sponsors the specialized training for the theater teachers, is one of the top theatrical licensing companies in the world. Hale had worked with MTI many times over the years in his role as artistic director at the Elgin Opera House.

“If we wanted to perform ‘Annie’ on our stage, we had to go through MTI to do that,” Hale said. “More than half of the shows we do at the Elgin Opera House

go through Freddie’s company. He’s been a legend in New York and is highly respected.”

While in New York City, Hale said he took in three Broadway performances, one on the night of his arrival to the city and two other performances that were part of the four-day MTI sponsored training.

“They basically spoiled us for a few days and gave us some extraordinary learning opportunities,” he said.

The MTI master classes were designed to energize and inspire theater educators so that when they returned to their communities, they could share their enhanced skills and tools of the craft with other teachers and young performing artists.

“The thing I brought

home that is most important is the connections and relationships that I built while at the Freddie G experience,” he said. “I was able to meet with these other five Freddie G recipients and really establish a connection that will be invaluable to me as I move forward.”

As a recipient of the Freddie G Fellowship, Hale also received a \$5,000 grant to be utilized by Hale for the promotion of theatrical arts and education in his home community. Hale said the funds went to finish a new dance and rehearsal studio at the Hale-Turner Theater.

“We call that space the Opera House Studio,” he said. “It includes space with a new floor, mirrors and air conditioning. It’s a nice little practice area we can use for the purpose

of rehearsing and learning choreography.”

Hale’s teaching career in Union County began at the Elgin Opera House shortly after moving to Elgin in 2006. There, he produced and directed his first production in December 2007, and afterward founded the Friends of the Elgin Opera House.

Since then, he has taught hundreds of children on the Elgin Opera House stage. He has mentored some who wanted to learn how to direct and facilitated other theatrical arts training for his cast members.

In late July, Hale conducted his annual summer theater camp, this time with 95 theater students. This has been one of the largest enrollments of youth participants in this program to date.

Admission Prices for Union County Fair

DAILY ADMISSION

Adults\$6
 Kids 7-17\$4
 Kids under 6Free
 Veterans w/military ID\$5
THURSDAY
 Seniors 60+Free

WEEK PASS
 (sold Wednesday ONLY)
 Dark Blue VIP wristband
 Adults\$18
 Kids 7-17\$12

2022 Union County Fair Schedule

Wednesday, August 3

- 8:00 am Fair Opens
- 8:30 am FFA/4-H Swine Conformation - market followed by breeding Beef breeding immediately following swine show with ½ hour break FFA/4-H Beef Breeding & Dairy follows Swine Show
- 8:30 am FFA/4-H Sheep Conformation - market followed by breeding Goats immediately following sheep show with ½ hour break FFA/4-H Meat Goat Conformation - market followed by breeding
- 10:00 am Exhibit Booths Open
- 10:00 am - 11:00 am Lego Time (Small Stage)
- 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Countryfied (Large Stage)
- 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Carla’s Fiddle School (Small Stage)
- 4:00 pm FFA/4-H Market Steer Conformation
- 5:00 pm Open Class Sheep & Meat Goat Show Open Class Beef & Dairy Cattle Show (immediately following beef show)
- 5:30 pm Talent Show (Small Stage)
- 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Countryfied (Large Stage)
- 10:00 pm Fair Closes

Thursday, August 4

- 8:00 am Fair Opens
- 8:00 am Free Breakfast Sponsored by The Observer
- 8:30 am FFA Swine Showmanship followed by 4-H Swine Showmanship 8:30 am FFA Sheep Showmanship followed by 4-H Sheep Showmanship Goats immediately following sheep show with ½ break FFA Meat Goat Showmanship followed by 4-H Meat Goat Showmanship
- 9:00 am DeLong Applications due at Livestock Office
- 9:00 am Feed and Growth Records due at Livestock Office
- 10:00 am Exhibit Booths Open
- 10:00 am - 11:00 am Lego Time (Small Stage)
- 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Blue Plate Special (Small Stage)
- 2:00 pm ADGA Open Class Sanctioned Dairy Goat Show NO EARLY CHECK IN)
- 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Lynque Overson (Small Stage)
- 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Tiller’s Folly (Large Stage)
- 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Alka Mahdi (Small Stage)
- 4:00 pm FFA Beef Showmanship followed by 4-H Beef Showmanship
- 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Becky’s Dance Studio (Small Stage)
- 6:30 pm 4-H Archery Competition - Fair Horse Arena
- 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Alka Mahdi (Small Stage)
- 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm Tiller’s Folly (Large Stage)
- 10:00 pm Fair Closes

Friday August 5

- 8:00 am Fair Opens
- 8:00 am FFA/4-H Dairy Goat Showmanship followed by breeding - Sheep/goat arena
- 9:00 am 4-H Citizenship Award due at 4-H Office
- 9:00 am ADGA Open Class Sanctioned Dairy Goat Show
- 10:00 am Exhibit Booths Open
- 10:00 am 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest (beef/sheep ring bleachers)
- 10:00 am - 11:00 am Lego Time Championship (Small Stage)
- 11:30 am FFA Round Robin
- 1:00 pm DeLong & Ruth Becker Award Interviews
- 1:30 pm 4-H Round Robin
- 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Ripple Effect (Large Stage)
- 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm Wasteland Kings (Small Stage)
- 3:00 pm Pee Wee Show
- 4:00 pm Fair Parade Line Up
- 5:30 pm Fair Parade Downtown
- 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Parade (Downtown La Grande)
- 6:30 pm Mutton Busting & Stick Horse Race - Mavericks Arena
- 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Wasteland Kings (Small Stage)
- 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Mutton Busting, Goat Tying, Stick Horse Race (Mavericks Arena)
- 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm Ripple Effect (Large Stage)
- 7:30 pm 4-H Ice Cream Social - 4-H Exhibit Building
- 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm Teen Dance Sponsored by UCSCC & La Grande Wrestling
- 10:00 pm Fair Closes

Saturday, August 6

- 8:00 am Fair Opens
- 10:00 am Exhibit Booths Open
- 10:00 am - 11:00 am FFA Awards (Small Stage)
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm 4-H Awards (Small Stage)
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm 4-H Revue Show (Small Stage)
- 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Sage & Stone (Small Stage)
- 3:30 - 5:00 pm Auction Buyers Appreciation Dinner & Check I
- 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Brewers Grade (Large Stage)
- 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Cory Peterson (Small Stage)
- 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm Jr. Livestock Auction (Livestock Barn)
- 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Cory Peterson (Small Stage)
- 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm Teen Dance (Outside-Designated Location)
- 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm Brewers Grade (Large Stage)
- 10:00 pm Fair Closes

Sunday, Aug 7

- 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Static Exhibit Pick up for Open Class & 4-H exhibits

Charles & Eileen Stewart

10304 A 1st St.
Island City, OR

cstewartpc@gmail.com

541.910.5435

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Join us August 4th for our first Thursday event

GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL

UNION COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sip, Shop, Repeat, Local

The evening starts at the Chamber Office, 207 Depot Street where you pick up your insulated tumbler and participating businesses map for a \$10 donation. Participating businesses will be open 5pm-8pm, serving samples of different beverages and offering discount promotions