

Daily attendance creates thriving students

BY SHEILA MILLER

Redmond School District

For the past two years, all anyone has talked about — in schools and out — has been COVID-19.

It's been the focus of educators who were trying to stay healthy and keep students learning in a challenging environment.

Sometimes, it felt like a losing battle, when perfectly healthy students would end up quarantined for 10 days just because they had the bad luck to be sitting next to someone who



Miller

got sick. As a result, there's been a lot of unfinished learning, and a lot of students missing out on classes.

Now that the state has changed its guidance and schools are able to operate a bit more normally, it's time to focus on something that can make a difference: daily attendance. During the pandemic, the Redmond School District and others around the state

de-emphasized attendance — it was hard to take attendance when students were learning online, and with the challenges of the pandemic, it was important to welcome students as often as they were able to make it.

But daily attendance is key to ensuring students are successful. Last I looked, our districtwide daily attendance was hovering around 89 percent. In a perfect world, that would be hovering a lot closer to 100 percent.

That's not the only number we need to see change. About 40 percent of our

students are considered chronically absent, which means they attend 90 percent or fewer of the days they're enrolled. That means 40 percent of our students miss at least one day of school every two weeks. This isn't just a Redmond issue — one in 6 Oregon students are chronically absent statewide.

Missing a day here or there may not seem like a big deal, especially for little kids in kindergarten or first grade. But did you know that students who attend school regularly are more likely to read at grade level by the end of third grade?

Students who don't attend school regularly, even in the early years, are less likely to end up graduating. Lost instructional time exacerbates dropout rates and achievement gaps.

Our district's motto is "Thriving Students. Engaged Community. Ready Graduates." The first step to making sure we can live out that vision is prioritizing daily attendance. So make a plan to get to school every day, and let's finish out the school year right!

■ Sheila Miller is the public information officer for the Redmond School District.

Latino business festival set for April 30

Spokesman staff report

For the first time in Central Oregon, General Duffy's Waterhole is providing the space for a Latino Business Expo and Festival Latino in collaboration with Oregon Pero En Espanol, scheduled for April 30.

It includes a free day event from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and ticketed entry from 6 to 11 p.m. Tickets to the evening portion of the festival is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

This is an opportunity for Latino business owners to network, exhibit their products/services, share knowledge and job opportunities. The family-friendly event includes music from DJ Yogi and Son de Cuba, as well as Latino breweries in Oregon such as Xicha Brewery, Tranquilo Cervceria and La Familia Cider.

The event will be initiated by the Oregon Small Business Association in Central Oregon, followed by cultural activities and incentives for customers to interact with vendors throughout the day. It will be a day dedicated to community building, celebrating and connecting.

General Duffy's Waterhole is an indoor/outdoor music Venue, event space and taphouse with food trucks in downtown Redmond.

Oregon Pero En Espanol is an initiative focused on addressing the communication with the Spanish speaking community in Oregon. Find out more at www.Oregonperoenespanol.co. Tickets are on sale now.

Ag Show

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Farming, recreation and ESA-listed species all depend on water from the Deschutes River to thrive, Symons said. Perfect Balance USA strives to find "win-win" solutions for the basin, though catastrophic drought has only made that mission all the more difficult.

"It's never been this bad," Symons said. "You really don't know how much water you'll get. You might be hesitant to plant, or you might over-plant. Some crops might be destroyed"

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, nearly 94% of Oregon is in some stage of drought. That includes 15% in "exceptional drought," the highest category, extending from the Klamath Basin north to near the Columbia River and encompassing most areas of Central Oregon.

In its latest water supply outlook, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service predicts streamflows in the Upper Deschutes and Crooked river basins will range from 43% to 83% of the median. "Water managers in the basin should prepare for significantly reduced water supplies in the coming months if conditions do not improve," the report states.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has declared a drought emergency in Klamath, Crook, Jefferson and Morrow counties, making them eligible for state and federal disaster relief. Gilliam and Jackson counties have also requested emergency drought declarations.

Symons said agriculture is the backbone of the nation, and "needs to be prioritized, especially right now."

Perfect Balance USA plans to resume farm tours in April,



George Plaven/Capital Press

A vintage tractor at the Central Oregon Ag Show, part of the Early Day Gas Engine & Antique Tractor Display presented by Ed Staub.



Joe Beach/Capital Press

A future farmer visits the Central Oregon Ag Show.

which Symons said are the best way to reconnect people with where their food comes from.

The group is also targeting several projects including planting MegaFlora trees on govern-

ment land to sequester carbon. That wasn't the only potential solution being proposed at the Central Oregon Ag Show.

Tony Newbill, a cattle rancher from Powell Butte, purchased a vendor booth at the show to promote cloud seeding — a type of weather modification where compounds such as silver iodide are released into the air, bonding with water particles in clouds and causing them to fall as precipitation.

Cloud seeding is successfully used in other Western states including Idaho and California, but not Oregon, Newbill said. He worries that deepening drought and water shortages will eventually lead to infighting among the eight

irrigation districts that make up the Deschutes Basin Board of Control.

"All us farmers and ranchers in Central Oregon right now are struggling," Newbill said. "What I'm seeing evolve here is we're going to start fighting among the districts."

Newbill was joined by Paul Romero, a Republican candidate for Oregon governor from Roseburg, who has adopted cloud seeding as part of his campaign.

Elsewhere around the fairgrounds, crowds gathered each afternoon for a live working dog demonstration by trainer Clint Johnson. A vintage tractor and gas engine exhibition was presented by Ed Staub, along with 59 other exhibitors.

Rodeo

Continued from P1

Rodeo organizers were only able to attract a crowd about 20% of the size it could have been, Fast said. And there was no event in 2019, so many were looking forward to attending this year, he said.

"We also tried something new, which was to have a slack day on Wednesday at the start of the rodeo," Fast said. "It was a family-fun event and gave cowboys a chance to ride what we call rough stock" — a special section of bareback, saddle bronc, bull riding and steer wrestling.

This year the Stampede was featured as a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) National Finals Rodeo

Playoff Series stop. That means the Redmond roundup was one of the top 60 rodeos in the country — out of nearly 700 put on nationwide.

The first rodeo of the year on the Columbia River Circuit, the Stampede offered a chance for cowboys and cowgirls to secure additional points and money toward qualifying for the National Finals in Las Vegas in December.

"Riders came from all over. The Redmond Airport was full of cowboy hats as we ran a shuttle service from there," Fast said.

Stock was provided by Bridwell Professional of Red Bluff, Calif., which Fast described as "excellent."

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Saddle bronc riding is always a crowd favorite at the High Desert Stampede.

Bill Bartlett/for The Spokesman

OBITUARY

Claire Herbert Limbeck

June 17, 1930 - February 28, 2022

Claire was born June 17, 1930, to Otto and Velma Limbeck in Scio. He passed away peacefully from cancer on February 28, 2022, in Bend at age 91.



Claire grew up on a farm in Scio, attending Stayton High School where he played football (elected team captain), served in the Naval Reserves, and then was active-duty Navy briefly after graduating in 1948. Drafted by the Army, he served in Korea, making the rank of corporal. Returning home, he courted and married Sally Studnick on February 14, 1957.

Claire was hardworking—log truck driver, mill worker, millwright, and ultimately mill electrician, retiring in 1992. Always active, he farmed the couple's 100-acre homestead in Scio, and later relocating to Redmond ranched their 40 acres. Claire loved hunting, fishing, and tending the garden.

He was preceded in death by his wife-Sally, sister-Cleo, brother-Merle, and his parents. He leaves behind 4 children-Laurie Marsh, Kevin Limbeck, Victoria Shawgo, and Scott Limbeck, 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Private family graveside services (with full military honors) were held on March 5, 2022.

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