

BOARDMAN

Job fair brings 470 to SAGE Center

East Oregonian

A crowd of 470 students and job seekers filled the SAGE Center Wednesday during the second annual Agriculture and Energy Job Fair, connecting with employers aiming to boost their local workforce.

Nearly 30 food processors, farms and energy companies were on hand to provide information about open positions available to qualified applicants. Several area colleges also participated to reach out with career training and educational opportunities.

"If the employers are successful in finding a workforce, we consider the job fair a success," said SAGE Center Manager Kalie Davis. "By building a relationship with students in our region, we are able to let them know early on about the employers



Contributed photo

SAGE Center. Kirk Jacobson, Beef Northwest human resources manager, left, talks with Chelsey Magoteaux and Lindsey Cabral during the Second Annual SAGE Center Agriculture and Energy Job Fair Wednesday in Boardman.

in our area and the training or education needed to come back and start a career."

DuPont Pioneer hired more than half its summer workforce after attending the agriculture and energy job fair a year ago. The company

once again attended, along with newcomers such as Hermiston Foods, Shearer's Snacks and Amazon.com.

Donna Christensen, human resources manager at Tillamook Cheese in the Port of Morrow, said the event

is an opportunity to show community support and let people know that Tillamook is one of many employers hiring at the Port of Morrow.

"This is also a great networking opportunity with other businesses," Christensen said. "It gives us an opportunity to see the challenges that other businesses face."

Colleges represented at the job fair were Perry Technical Institute, Eastern Oregon University, Oregon State University, Blue Mountain Community College and Walla Walla Community College.

Wednesday's turnout is about 100 more than the first agriculture and energy job fair in 2014, Davis said. The SAGE was developed by the Port of Morrow as a resource about Eastern Oregon's leading ag and energy-based industries.

PENDLETON

Council approves raising convention center rent

East Oregonian

With the eastern expansion of the Pendleton Convention Center almost complete, the city council voted unanimously to double the rates of the meeting rooms on that side of the complex.

The rate for the expanded east meeting rooms rose from \$55 to \$110, which is the same as the other meeting rooms in the convention center.

City Manager Robb Corbett said staff and the convention center's advisory committee are considering other rental rate increases.

The city paid \$897,000 for the convention center expansion, which is "97 percent complete," according to a recent staff report.

In other news, the council also unanimously approved the assignment of seven people to the newly

formed airport planning advisory board.

The members are Bank of Eastern Oregon commercial lender Mike Short, Mary Lemm Davis of Eastern Oregon Nutritional Services, Gordon's Electric Inc. owner Jeff Holmes, Johnny Blagg of the National Weather Service, attorney Will Perkinson, contractor Larry Baarstad and insurance agent Mike Stratton.

The committee will meet five or six times over the next year and will provide input on an inventory of existing conditions, facilities, airport needs and operational issues.

The council also approved movement on the public library committee. Oregon Child Protective Services supervisor John Thomas will replace East Oregonian reporter Kathy Aney.

MISSION

Skateboarding exhibit grinds into Tamástslíkt

East Oregonian

Skateboarding combines demanding physical exertion, design, graphic art, film-making and music to produce a unique and dynamic culture.

The popularity of skateboarding, which has ramped up on Indian reservations, is reflected in traditional tribal iconography and contemporary art as Native youths participate in the sport.

American Indian skaters and entrepreneurs have combined core lessons learned from the sport — strength, balance and tenacity — to help engage Native youths with their history and culture.

A new exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service designed to celebrate the vibrancy, creativity and history of the American Indian skateboarding culture is coming to Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute. Ramp It Up: Skateboard Culture in Native America opens Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

One of the most popular sports on Indian reservations, skateboarding has inspired and influenced American Indian and native Hawaiian communities since the 1960s. Created in conjunction with the National Museum of the American Indian, the exhibit features 20 skate decks, including examples from American Indian companies and contemporary artists, rare images and video of American Indian skaters.



Photo contributed by Dustinn Craig

White Mountain Apache skaters Armony Hume, Jess Michael Smith, Aloysius Henry, Ronnie Altaha and Lee Nash are featured in Ramp It Up: Skateboard Culture in Native America. The exhibit, which is organized by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, opens March 14 at Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute.

"Skate culture is a great lens to learn about both traditional and contemporary Native American culture."

— Betsy Gordon, exhibit curator

Among the highlights are a never-before-exhibited 1969 image taken by skateboarding icon C.R. Stecyk III of a skate deck depicting traditional native imagery, and 1973 home movie footage of Zephyr surf team members Ricky and Jimmy Tavarez (Gabrielino-Tongva).

"Skate culture is a great lens to learn about both traditional and contemporary Native American culture," said Betsy Gordon, the exhibit's

curator.

In addition to native skaters, the exhibit showcases elders, parents, government officials and community activists who have encouraged kids to skate. It also features the work of visual artists Bunky Echo-Hawk (Yakama/Pawnee), Joe Yazzie (Navajo), Traci Rabbit (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma) and Dustinn Craig (White Mountain Apache/Navajo) and highlights young native

skaters such as 22-year-old Bryant Chapo (Navajo), 13-year-old Augustin and 10-year-old Armondo Lerma (Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians).

Ramp It Up: Skateboard Culture in Native America runs through May 25 at Tamástslíkt, which is located near Wildhorse Resort & Casino. Admission is free on opening day. Regular rates are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$6 for youths ages 6-17, free for ages 5 and under or \$25 for a family of four. Also, there's no charge for First Fridays.

For more information, call 541-429-7700 or visit www.tamastslíkt.org.

BRIEFLY

Falling tree knocks out man

HEPPNER — A 43-year-old man suffered a head injury while cutting a tree in the Blue Mountains.

The incident happened around noon on U.S. Forest Service Road 53-21 near Coalmine Hill Campground, about 22 miles east of Heppner. Emergency responders from Morrow County took the call.

Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack said he knew only partial information at this point, but the man was cutting a tree when the treetop fell and struck his head, knocking him unconscious. The Morrow County dispatch center confirmed the man was unconscious for 30-60 seconds, was woozy after and suffered a 3-inch cut to his head.

Sheriff's deputies and an ambulance crew moved the man to Coalmine Hill, where a helicopter ambulance from The Dalles flew him to a hospital.

IMESD wins \$30K dental health grant

A new \$30,000 grant will help the InterMountain Education Service District improve dental health for students in Eastern Oregon.

The education service district, acting as an administrator for the Early Learning Hub, was awarded

the grant by the Oregon Community Foundation as seed money to plan a regional program for providing dental services to low-income students.

Mark Mulvihill, the ESD's superintendent, said the money could provide anything from teeth sealants to fluoride rinses for students whose families can't afford preventative dental work.

The foundation referenced a Centers for Disease Control report that ranked Oregon 39th out of 43 states reporting on levels of childhood dental disease. According to the report about 35 percent of Oregon students have untreated tooth decay.

For more information visit www.oregoncf.org.

City sponsors cleanup effort

BOARDMAN — The city of Boardman will sponsor a community-wide cleanup in April.

Garbage vouchers are available at city hall, 200 City Center Circle, beginning April 1. The voucher program encourages residents to clean up their homes by disposing of yard debris. Vouchers are valid through April 30 at Finley Buttes Landfill and the North Morrow Transfer Station.

For more information, call city hall at 541-481-9252.

PENDLETON

Training conference to bring over 600 teachers to town

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Hundreds of teachers will go to class in Pendleton on Friday for an unprecedented regional training conference hosted by the InterMountain Education Service District.

Superintendent Mark Mulvihill said between 600 and 700 educators are expected to attend the professional development day.

"It's a pretty big deal for Eastern Oregon," he said.

Mulvihill said the ESD's 19 school districts usually have their teacher in-service days on different schedules from neighboring districts. Providing professional development for teachers across the region, then, means either holding multiple sessions or having districts pay for substitutes.

For this year, the ESD proposed that the districts all try to schedule March 6 as a teacher in-service day with no school, allowing hundreds of teachers to attend trainings at the same time without districts having to worry about finding and paying enough substitute teachers.

"Taking the same days, it's new," Mulvihill said. "No one else in the state is doing it."

Most of the smaller districts in Eastern Oregon scheduled a day off school for students on Friday, but Hermiston and Pendleton didn't.

Hermiston School District assistant superintendent Brynn Browning said Hermiston's school board had already adopted a calendar for 2013 through 2015 by the time the ESD announced the regional conference. She said the district plans to send a handful of staffers but it doesn't have the substitute teacher pool to send everyone.

Pendleton had also already adopted its school calendar.

To put on the conference the IMESD is partnering with a number of state agencies, colleges and private education-related organizations. Terie Dreussi-Smith, author of "Bridges Out of Poverty," will conduct a session addressing the root causes of poverty that holds many students back, and the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators will help facilitate a workshop called "Visible Learning for Lead Teachers and Adminis-

trators."

Workshops available on Friday also include trainings on autism, administering medications at school, kindergarten readiness, measuring learning, Eastern Promise and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) teaching.

Jennifer Carnes, IMESD career technical education coordinator, said the STEM workshop will feature keynote speaker Mark Lewis, who currently serves as the STEM director for the governor's Oregon Education Investment Board. After his presentation, about 80 K-12 teachers will be split into groups and practice new projects that help teach STEM to students.

"They will learn how to duplicate it in their own classrooms," Carnes said.

Later, the teachers will tour Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute to check out the ways the institute teaches science and other topics. In the afternoon they will once again work in groups, this time to design their own hands-on STEM project to use in the classroom.

"We want it to be a fun day," Carnes said. "We want it to reinvigorate teachers."

Workshops will be held at the IMESD building, the Red Lion Hotel and Wildhorse Resort and Casino.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

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Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.