

STUDENTS: Laura Dewey will be at a new school this fall

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made the finals in a NASA competition.

Embry-Riddle's spring term ended May 2, which meant Lacey had a serious case of cabin fever by the time his job as a research assistant at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service center near Adams started on June 12.

A career in agricultural science isn't in the cards from Lacey, but he's still using the data entry tasks required for the job to hone his spreadsheet skills.

If Lacey has his way, he'll be using some of those newly found spreadsheet skills in Florida next summer.

In addition to Excel, Lacey is teaching himself engineering software this summer in the hopes that it will help secure him an engineering internship in the Sunshine State next year.

It may have taken Cece Hoffman a while to get there, but she feels like she finally found her area of study.

After starting at the University of Washington in the fall, the Pendleton High School graduate cycled through majoring in public health, anthropology and medical anthropology before landing in a program that covers her current interests.

Hoffman is now majoring in education, communities and organization, otherwise known as an ECO degree.

The website advertises the ECO program as an educational degree that covers "human development, equity studies, learning across contexts, organizational change and community engagement."

Besides teaching, ECO degrees can be used for careers in higher education administration, education policy, community outreach and advocacy, and youth development, the university website states.

Hoffman doesn't yet know which career path she wants to pursue, but she likes the variety of options the degree promises.

Following a week back home in Pendleton, Hoffman has already returned to Seattle

to work with an AmeriCorps program that feeds children over the summer.

Hoffman is subletting an apartment in the city during her summer stay, but her brief stint back home has reminded her to appreciate the strengths of both Pendleton and Seattle.

If balancing football and school isn't hard enough, Patrick Collins wants to add a job to the mix at Eastern Oregon University next year.

After finishing his first year of college with a 3.9 GPA, Collins returned home to Heppner and took a job with the U.S. Forest Service identifying trees and marking certain ones for timber harvest.

Collins switched from business to the agriculture and natural resource, an Oregon State University program that's hosted at EOU.

He doesn't yet know what career path the degree will lead to, but he thinks it could help lead him to a job back in Heppner or a community similar to it.

A standout football player at Heppner High School, Collins expects to compete for some playing time at linebacker next season.

In the midst of trying to grow his role on the football team, Collins also wants to secure an on-campus job for his sophomore year.

Some of the jobs he's considered include being a member of the grounds crew or working in the school's multicultural center, a job with flexible hours that might mesh well with his football schedule.

When asked about the challenge of juggling school, work and football, Collins doesn't hesitate to answer. "I'm always ready for a challenge," he said.

Kodie Arnold was nervous about living alone when she left Hermiston, but after her first year at the Oregon Commission for the Blind, she couldn't be more excited to get back to her studies and the friends she's made.

She laughed. "There's this thing called 'motivation,' and this other thing called

'practice.' I finally realized in my last three months here, if I wanted to stay."

Arnold, who has been blind since birth, took classes to help her learn how to live independently, honing skills like cooking, household chores and money management. She also learned to navigate the city of Portland, where she takes classes to help with orientation and mobility.

She said tasks that scared her at first have gotten easier.

"I learned the route from the School for the Blind to Safeway," she said. "I had to write every little detail down. When you're blind and traveling, you've got to know stuff. For example, there's a pillar there, and you've got to lean your shoulder up against it. It's a lot of tactile information."

Arnold, who will spend this summer in Salem at a work experience program, plans to return to the OCB in October to continue classes.

After the next round of classes, she's not sure what she'll do.

"There's not really an assigned amount of time (to stay)," she said. "It's when you and they think you have all the skills it takes to be in the real world."

But this year has left her excited about returning to Portland.

"It turned out really well," Arnold said. "This was the best term by far."

College offers many challenges, academic and social. But after her first year at Oregon State University, Laura Zepeda is ready to help other students navigate them both.

Zepeda is a science student, who decided after an initial interest in pharmacy to pursue a career as a physician's assistant. Her classes are going well, but she was surprised to find herself getting involved with some activities she hadn't considered.

"I ended up joining my hall council, and applied to be an RA (resident assistant)," Zepeda said. She was hired to work in the residence halls spring term of her freshman year, monitoring and providing assistance for the other students

in the building. The experience was enlightening for Zepeda. Having to deal with issues like conflict between other students, or vandalism of the halls didn't deter her.

"It was amazing," she said. "It was kind of a challenge, but I'm really happy I took the position."

So much, in fact, that she will continue to serve in the role her sophomore year.

"I found it very rewarding getting to know other people who like the job, and helping other college students have the best experience."

She said the work also gave her an appreciation for the students who hold down full-time jobs along with their studies.

Zepeda is enjoying being home for the summer, but is eager to return to her studies, and her job.

"I'm looking forward to building relationships with my students and staff members," she said.

Laura Dewey will be at a new school this fall, but her goals are still intact. The Hermiston High grad, who spent the last year at Blue Mountain Community College, will transfer to Oregon State University to study animal sciences.

While Dewey had always planned to take that route of study, she had expected to be at BMCC a little while longer.

"I moved out, so that was a bit of a struggle," she said. "But I passed all my classes, and after I moved out, I felt more motivated to figure out my own path."

This summer Dewey is staying busy, taking prerequisite classes and working at the pool and the OSU Extension office.

Dewey is excited about the changes living in Corvallis will bring, but enjoyed the year she spent in her hometown before moving away.

"It was nice to be around a lot of familiar faces," she said.

Emily Ross and Monica Aguilar, part of the original series, were not available for comment in this story.

WORLD BRIEFLY

Saudi says suicide bomber killed in foiled Mecca plot

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi security forces said Saturday they disrupted a plot to attack the Grand Mosque at Mecca, home to the holiest site in Islam, just as the fasting month of Ramadan concludes.

The Interior Ministry said it launched raids in Jeddah province, as well as two areas in Mecca itself, including the Ajjad Al-Masafi neighborhood, located near the Grand Mosque.

There, police said they engaged in a shootout at a three-story house a suicide bomber, who blew himself up and led to the building's collapse. He was killed while the blast wounded six foreigners and five members of security forces, according to the Interior Ministry's statement. Five others were arrested, it said.

Saudi state television aired footage after the raid near the Grand Mosque, showing police and rescue personnel running through the neighborhood's narrow streets. The blast demolished the building, its walls crushing a parked car as what appeared to be shrapnel and bullet holes peppered nearby structures.

The Interior Ministry "confirms that this terrorist network, whose terrorist plan was thwarted, violated, in what they would have perpetrated, all sanctities by targeting the security of the Grand Mosque, the holiest place on Earth."

London evacuates residents amid fire safety concerns

LONDON (AP) — One London community is evacuating some 800 households from five publicly owned apartment towers because of safety concerns following the devastating fire that killed 79 people in a west London high-rise last week.

The move comes as residents of thousands of tower blocks around Britain expressed concern about safety after commonly used building materials were blamed for rapidly spreading the blaze at Grenfell Tower.

Camden Council in north London, which announced the evacuation Friday night, was the first local government to take the dramatic step of emptying its buildings so safety upgrades could be made.

Council leader Georgia Gould said the borough made the decision after the London Fire Brigade and council experts said they couldn't guarantee the safety of residents after inspecting the five towers. The inspectors were following up on previously unknown safety complaints from residents, she said.

"I've made the really, really difficult decision to move the people living there into temporary accommodation while we do the urgent works to guarantee safety," Gould told reporters outside the public housing complex. "I know it's difficult, but Grenfell changes everything."

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