

PENDLETON District continues to develop strategic plan

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

It's only the second week of school, but the Pendleton School Board is already looking to set expectations for the years ahead.

The board met Tuesday to discuss the Pendleton School District's strategic plan, which the board, staff and community members have been developing over the past year.

Superintendent Chris Fritsch provided a draft plan that included four goals, areas of focus and methods for measuring progress.

Board member Steve Umbarger warned against setting expectations too high.

"I don't want to be too overreaching on our projections ..." he said. "Our aspiration is one thing. Our reality would be another. And if we start going behind more and more each time, it might lead to frustration with the staff or with the community."

Board member Debbie McBee countered that many of the goals asked for a minimum of 1 percent improvement from year to year.

Board members suggested tweaks and additions to the goals, which ranged from improving academic outcomes to better promoting the district.

• Goal 1: Pursuit of instructional excellence

Among the goal's aims is to boost professional development, such as starting an induction program for new staff that covers the first three years of their career in the district. The goal also calls for developing a 3-5 year implementation plan for each new program.

With a better developed staff, the district is looking to increase the on-time graduation rate by 1-2 percent each year and increase the percentage of reading proficiency for third graders and math proficiency for eighth graders on the Smarter Balanced assessment.

The district is specifically targeting Native American students and students of poverty under this goal and will set out to improve standardized testing scores for both groups by 3-5 percent per year and on-time graduation rate by 5-7 percent per year.

• Goal 2: All students are provided the opportunity to reach their full potential

The second goal calls for continued development in the district's understanding of adverse childhood experiences and traumas as well as coordinated activities for students to explore post-high school opportunities, among other things. As a part of

the goal, district staff would develop and administer a student and parent survey that would ask them about the characteristics of a high performing school.

The district will look for improvement through a 1-2 percent decrease in the dropout rate each year, increase the number of students pursuing post-high school education or training by 3-5 percent each year and annually increase the amount of students who complete career technical education programs by 2-4 percent, among other statistics.

School officials also want to increase sub-group (students that are minorities, impoverished, disabled etc.) course enrollment in Advanced Placement and honors classes.

• Goal 3: Create classrooms and schools without borders

This goal would make official the district's interest in creating an online school to reverse a declining enrollment trend.

A virtual education program would include "hybrid learning opportunities" that would combine online school and a traditional classroom experience.

The district could also explore new scheduling practices that change the structure of the school day or

year "supported by replicable data."

Among the district's existing schools, the district wants to further define Hawthorne Alternative High School, including the description of its programming, target population and its measurable outcomes.

The district would measure success for this goal through participation in online school and the Schools to Careers programs, as well as its ability to retain students from one grade to another.

• Goal 4: Maintain and establish the Pendleton School District brand

The district also thinks it can boost enrollment by better advertising itself.

The fourth goal would have staff develop four-year marketing and communications plans for the years 2018-2022.

The effectiveness of the district's brand will be measured through enrollment, net student migration and student and parent satisfaction data.

After receiving input from the board, Fritsch said he would take the draft strategic plan to the schools to gather the opinions of staff members.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.



Staff photo by Jade McDowell
Sunset Park in Hermiston awaits the arrival of new playground equipment.

Sunset Park to celebrate new playground

HERMISTON —

Community members are invited to celebrate a hard-won victory that will result in new playground equipment at Sunset Park.

A celebration will be Thursday at 4 p.m. at the park, located at the intersection of Northeast Fourth Street and East Dogwood Ave. The groundbreaking ceremony to begin installation of the new equipment is a result of Hermiston residents rallying votes to win an online contest sponsored by Moda Health and the Portland Trail Blazers, pledging \$1 per assist during the Blazers' 2017 season.

Attending the ceremony on behalf of the Portland Trail Blazers will be vice president of social responsibility Christa Stout and Moda Health senior vice president Robin Richardson.

Boys and girls ages 7-10 have also signed up to participate in four 30-minute basketball clinics taught by a Blazers camp staffer (not to be confused with members of the Blazers coaching staff), according to Moda corporate social responsibility manager Karis Stoudamire-Phillips. The clinics will take place from 3-5 p.m.

Hermiston won the Moda Assist competition in March, beating out schools in Portland and Tillamook by more than 4,000 votes. The contest was expected to net about \$20,000 for the park.

Gallery show includes apples

MILTON-FREEWATER — Farm fresh apples are featured during an opening reception for watercolor artist Jean Ann Mitchell and photographer Lori Montgomery.

"How Do You Like Them Apples?" opens Saturday from 2-4 p.m. at Arts Portal Gallery 508 N. Main St., Milton-Freewater. The free event features live music, local farm fresh apple tasting and apple cider from Blue Mountain Cider Company.

Mitchell's work has appeared on labels for Blue Mountain Cider Company and she's been commissioned for other Walla Walla Valley tourist businesses. Her paintings on display also represent her love of deep woods and flowing water.

Montgomery has more than 18 years of experience with photography. A founding member of the Blue Mountain Photo Club, she has received local,

regional and international awards for her work.

The gallery's regular hours are Saturday and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Laura Rose-Grabinski at lauralei.jean@gmail.com, 509-301-1784 or visit www.facebook.com/artsportgallery.

AARP classes cruise into region

Drivers can gain useful information that can assist when on the road during upcoming driving classes.

The AARP Smart Driver course also provides information about how age-related factors can impact driving and ways to make adjustments. While the classes are designed for older drivers, anyone with a license is welcome to attend.

To register for upcoming classes, numbers are listed:

- Saturday, Sept. 9 from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton (541-861-0024).

- Friday, Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Blue Mountain Community College, Milton-Freewater (541-938-7176).

- Saturday, Oct. 14 from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton (541-861-0024).

The fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. No test is required to pass the class. Participants may want to contact their insurance provider for possible premium discounts for course completion.

Community Extravaganza highlights resources

BOARDMAN — In an effort to provide information on available resources, Sam Boardman Elementary School is hosting a Community Extravaganza.

People are invited to enjoy a free dinner and possibly walk away with a door prize. In addition, there will be raffle prizes, games for kids and upwards of 20 information booths. The event is Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 5-7 p.m. in the school's gymnasium, 301 Wilson Lane, Boardman. For more information, call 541-481-7383.

ENTERPRISE Mule Days offers family fun in its 37th year

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

A family-fun event centering around mules kicks off this weekend in Enterprise.

Hells Canyon Mule Days was selected five consecutive years as "One of 101 Great Western Events" by *American Cowboy Magazine*. It draws mule owners and spectators from across the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Among the highlight are the Classic Jump-Off Challenge and other fast action events, including pole bending, barrel racing, mule races and the Fast Ass Express. The event also includes exhibitors and vendors.

The gates open Friday at 9 a.m. and the event continues through Sunday at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds in Enterprise. Daily admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for youths ages 7-12 and free for those 6 and under. Also, three-day passes are available.

The Max Walker Memorial Cowboy Poetry Gathering starts 6 p.m. Friday. Come sit a spell for a chance to hear cowboy



EO Media Group file photo

A driving mule competes in a race during the 2016 Hells Canyon Mule Days. In its 37th year, the event kicks off Friday at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds in Enterprise.

poets and musicians. Arrive early, as the popular event often becomes standing-room-only. There's a suggested \$5 donation, which goes to a scholarship fund.

A non-motorized parade takes to the streets of Enterprise Saturday at 11 a.m.

Grand marshal Bob Bales will lead the procession. Also, young cowpokes won't want to miss the excitement before the 1 p.m. Grand Entry. The Kids Stick Mule and Boot Scramble races provide an opportunity for youths ages 4-9 to compete. Also, during

the Saturday afternoon show, there are contests for the oldest spectator and the visitor who traveled the farthest to attend.

The Max Walker Memorial Scholarship Pit B-B-Q Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. The \$10 fee includes Western entertainers. And, the Private Treaty Mule Sale starts at 6 p.m. Andy Bales will present traditional cowboy songs and poetry at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door; kids are \$5.

Sunday activities include a Dutch oven cook-off from 9 a.m. to noon. Spectators are invited to visit cooking camps and learn about traditional pioneer meal preparation. Those sampling dishes can vote for the People's Choice award. Also, for training tips, attend the free mule clinic at 10 a.m. The event closes out with show awards at 4 p.m.

For a full schedule, visit www.hellscanyonmuledays.com. For questions, call 541-426-3271 or 541-263-0104.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6 COLLECTIVE GOODS FUNDRAISER, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Good Shepherd Medical Center conference room 2, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. A variety of books and gifts at affordable prices. Proceeds help pay for medical equipment and fund scholarships.

BABY & ME LEARN & PLAY, 10-10:45 a.m., Hermiston Public Library back entrance, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Engaging children and getting them excited about music, improving motor skills and sparking creativity while supporting early literacy development. For children ages newborn to 4 years and parent/guardian. (541-567-2882)

STORY TIME, 11:15 a.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

STANFIELD SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Stanfield Community Center, 225 W. Roosevelt, Stanfield. Cost is \$3.50 for seniors, \$6 for others. (541-449-1332)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12-1 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101)

ADULT BEGINNERS' COMPUTERS, 3-4 p.m., Pendleton Public Library meeting room, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Registration is required. Classes tailored to the needs of the attendees. (541-966-0380)

DOGGIE DIP DAY, 5-7 p.m., Pendleton Aquatic Center, 1800 N.W. Garden Ave., Pendleton. Bring your dogs and enjoy a romp in the water before the pool is shut down for the year. Leashes required; cost is \$3 per dog, and only dogs are allowed in the pool. (Casey Brown 541-276-8100)

ADULT & TEEN COLOR CLUB, 5:30 p.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. A relaxing hour of coloring. We have colors and coloring

sheets so just come join us. (Mary Finney 541-966-0380)

KIDS CLUB, 6:30-8 p.m., Hermiston Christian Center, 1825 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. For ages 5-12. Includes open gym, games, prizes, snacks music, puppets and more. Transportation available. (Joanna Hayden 541-561-5573)

VEGAN/SUSTAINABLE LIVING POTLUCK SUPPER, 7 p.m., location varies, location varies, Pendleton. Bring a vegan dish and recipe. Gluten-free friendly group. Call to RSVP and for driving directions. (541-969-3057)

TOUR OF KNOWLEDGE, 7-8 p.m., Eastern Oregon Higher Education Center, 980 S.E. Co-

lumbia Drive, Hermiston. Discussion of public hearings, meetings and events relevant to the area, and reports on sites and facilities that impact natural resources and places of historical interest. Free and everyone welcome. (Eileen Laramore 541-303-3872)

THURSDAY, SEPT. 7 PRESCHOOL STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 10:30 a.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. (Lili Schmidt 541-938-8247)

BOARDMAN SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St., Boardman. Cost is \$4 for seniors 55 and over or \$5 for adults.

(541-481-3257)

HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church parish hall, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. Cost is \$4 for adults, free for children 10 and under, \$4 for Meals on Wheels. Extra 50 cents for utensils/dishes. Bus service to parish hall by donation. (541-567-3582)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12-1 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101)

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