BOLTS: Spend week listening to speakers

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need to invent new and better ways? Newer and better people."

The kids are spending the week listening to several speakers from Port of Morrow businesses, including Amazon Web Services and Boardman Foods. They spent time with Blue Mountain Community College instructor Jerry McMichael learning about industrial systems technology.

They took some aptitude tests to find out what types of careers they might be interested in.

They also got a chance to do some hands-on projects, applying the concepts they learned during the week.

Ken Jacobs, a woodshop teacher at Pendleton's Sunridge Middle School, was one of the instructors for the camp. He led the students in building two projects — a pallet tray and a cell phone speaker.

"We're going to take pieces of lumber that would otherwise go to waste," Jacobs said.

Students used a computer-aided drafting program called "SolidWorks" to design the cell phone speakers, and got to use tools such as a miter saw and a drill press.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Izaak Mendoza, 11, of Boardman sands a piece of wood while making a pallet tray .

Alexis Partlow, an eighth grader from Boardman, said the most interesting part of the camp for her was the woodworking activity.

"I'm looking forward to creating something new," she said.

Arianna Velasco said the camp had piqued her interest in some new things.

"I learned a bit about hydraulics manufacturing, and electronics manufacturing," she said.

"I'm looking forward to creating something new."

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Wyatt Browne, 12, of Boardman watches as Ellie Sak, 10, of Boardman takes a measurement on a piece of wood.

TEACHERS: Helps youth find jobs locally

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year college path," said Tyler Davis, a math teacher at Stanfield Secondary School. "But when students are curious about a tech or a trade school program, I know they're there but I don't know specifics."

The teachers spent three days last week in Portland, visiting a carpenters union and a sheet metal union, and job-shadowing construction companies. They returned to Boardman on Thursday and spent the day at Lamb Weston, observing different aspects of operations at the factory.

On Monday, they spent the morning with Jacob Cain, a Port of Morrow civil engineer, and Miff Devin, the Port's water quality manager. Teachers asked them about how they got their jobs, common openings at the port, and apprenticeships and internships that students can seek.

"I think this helps local youth find out there's jobs locally," Cain said. "If they're not cut out for a four-year degree, it can be a lot easier with teachers knowing that."

Cain said there is a need for electricians and project surveyors in the area.

"You can start low and work your way up," he said.

After a discussion with Cain and Devin, the teachers went on a tour of port facilities, observing processing plants, grain elevators and vacant lots being graded for future development. They drove by several Amazon data centers and the cold storage facility, and discussed the job opportunities for recently graduated students at many port businesses.

"I'm glad to know what all these buildings are," said Rhonda Brennan, a science teacher at Riverside High School in Boardman. "Kids don't pay attention — it's their phone and their friends. Now if we're going somewhere I can say, this place here, you can get a job."

The teachers all noted the change from manual labor when they were teens to more technology-oriented jobs for today's younger workforce.

"There may be a few less jobs because of technology," said Cain. "But the workforce is expanding. Technology is creating different types of jobs."

Davis said he looked at the experience as a way to help students see the breadth of options available to them.

BALLOT: Some of the estimated $300,000 would go towards hiring new staff

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sion because each property's real market value is different.

In an interview after the meeting, humane society board president Jackie Carey said she did not think the animal control district would affect compression too much because of its relatively low rate.

The society, which operates the Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter, has contended that it needs a boost in revenue or it will run the risk of closing permanently.

The estimated $300,000 the humane society would bring in from taxpayers would go toward hiring new staff, expanding spay and neutering services, locating a new pound facility and funding repairs at the shelter.

If voters approve the animal control district in November, Carey said the humane society would retain its nonprofit board, which is not an elected board.

Although the board would have oversight over the bolstered budget, Carey said the budget meetings would be open to the public.

Fairley and Primmer were vocal about their concerns, but found themselves in the minority when it came time to vote.

Chalmers said he was hesitant to prevent the community from voting on an issue by blocking it from the ballot.

"We have to be careful about 'We the council' versus 'We the people,'" he said.

With councilors Chuck LeValle and Neil Brown absent, councilors McKennon McDonald, Becky Marks and Jake Cambier joined Chalmers to put the district on the ballot.

Although the Umatilla County Animal Control District will appear on ballots in Pendleton and much of the rest of Umatilla County, some cities decided to forgo the vote completely.

Neither Hermiston nor Milton-Freewater are putting the district on their ballots and taxpayers there will pay nothing even if the measure passes in Pendleton.

Mark Morgan, Hermiston assistant city manager, wrote in an email that city officials met with humane society representatives to talk about the district, but came away unconvinced.

"The largest issues with regard to animal control come down to who's going to collect the animals, and where they will be housed once they're collected; this proposal provides no discernible benefit to residents of Hermiston or the surrounding area in those regards," he wrote. "The PAWS facilities would be located 30 miles away, and they indicated that any service with regard to collecting animals would be done through an additional contract with the local jurisdictions. The city of Hermiston already has a contract for these services to be provided locally at a lower cost, so the proposed district appears to add no value to our taxpayers."

Election Day is Nov. 6.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.

FIRE: Only major fire in NE Oregon

Continued from 1A

other trail closures.

The weather is staying hot and dry, prime for wildfires. The National Weather Service reported temperatures Wednesday in Heppner reached 95 and predicted the same for Thursday, then a dip of a couple degrees Friday before rising to the upper 90s Saturday and Sunday.

The Northwest Interagency Coordination Center shows the Wilson Prairie fire is the only major wildfire in northeast Oregon while the southeast section of the state has two blazes. The Rail Canyon fire is about 20 miles east of Rome and 300 acres. The Big Grassy fire, meanwhile, is 3,000 acres and about 20 miles east of Vale.

More restrictions in federal and state forests in Eastern Oregon kick into effect Friday.

The tighter restrictions apply to campfires, debris burning, smoking, internal combustion engines and more. The U.S. Forest Service announced the restrictions for the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests, and the state reported its rules affect private, state, county, city and tribal lands in Union, Baker, Wallowa, Umatilla and small portions of Malheur, Grant and Morrow counties.

You can find fire restrictions for forest lands in northeast Oregon at www.bmidc.org. You also can contact local Oregon Department of Forestry and U.S. Forest Service offices for information on restrictions. The Washington Department of Natural Resources could have similar restrictions on state and private lands it protects. More information is at www.dnr.wa.gov/.

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Dr. Libby is originally from Hilton Head, South Carolina and graduated from Furman University in Greenville, SC. She attended medical school at the University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine, and completed her residency in Family Medicine at the University of Alabama, Huntsville. She then spent three years at Western Family Care/Lander Medical Clinic in Riverton, Wyoming. Dr. Libby is Board Certified, American Board of Family Medicine. She has a passion for rural medicine and looks forward to living in Pendleton with her husband Brandon and daughter Sophie Belle.

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