

CTE program prepares students for success after high school

By JESSICA POLLARD
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Hannah Melville can't register to vote yet, but she does know how to operate a laser cutter and a 3D printer, thanks to the Hermiston High School's Computer Aided Design classes.

"You have to be open to tweaking with the machine," the 16-year-old sophomore said as she and sophomore Quinton Peterson, 15, watched the laser cutter burn the phrase "GO STEM" into a small wooden keychain tag.

Students in the school's Career and Technical Education programs — some of which include CAD classes — showcased their skills for parents, siblings and fellow students on Monday night during parent-teacher conferences.

Melville's journey to CAD class was a long time in the making. Knowing how to use design software is an integral skill for architects, engineers and artists alike.

"I started to like making floor plans in middle school," she said. "Now I lean towards mechanical engineering."

When she heard about CAD classes, she said she couldn't wait to sign up.

"This is what I want to do," she said.

Peterson pointed to some of their first attempts at woodcutting with the laser on Monday night, which were burnt and smudged.

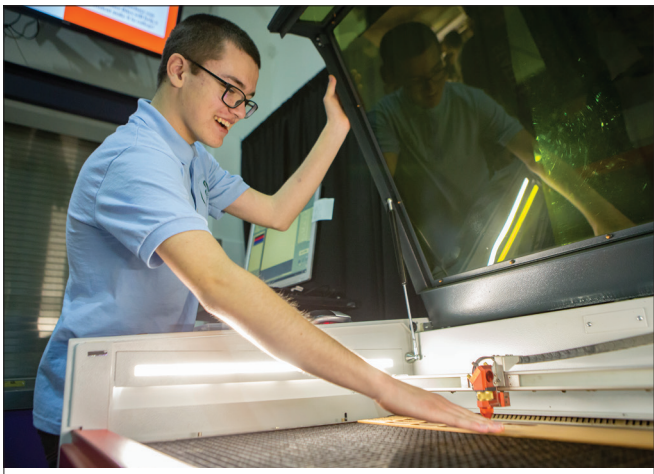
He noted that earlier in the night, there was an error present in the programming that stopped the laser cutter from punching a keychain hole through the tags. It had since been corrected.

"There are some failed designs," he said. "It's all trial and error."

According to Roger Berger, CTE coordinator, these mishaps are part of a much bigger picture.

"The focus of CTE is on careers which would be high wage and high demand," he said. "It's kind of a proud tradition that we have these technical programs."

Berger said CTE programs have been with the district since before he started 19 years ago. But if someone were to survey the room on Monday night, they'd notice some technologies that were not yet on the market or still



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Quinton Peterson, 15, opens a laser cutter to remove a freshly cut wooden keychain during a school function highlighting Hermiston High School's Career and Technical Education program on Monday night.

being invented back then.

That includes a welding simulator that allows students to practice metalworking virtually and a 3D printer that kids can program to print custom products. The district is also considering purchasing a construction simulator, but Berger said they'd like to consult more local professionals in the construction industry before investing in that.

"Some people might ask if we really need some of this

stuff," Berger said. "There is a real need."

He said that CTE programs prepare the students not just for higher learning, but also for careers right after high school if they so choose.

The goals is to get students to feel perfectly comfortable around new technology or complicated tasks, so that when they're settling into their first jobs, they're not surprised.

"The main thing is that kids are confident," he said.

onto lanyards as part of a demonstration.

"We learn a lot pretty fast," she said.

Romero spent hours outside of class printing T-shirts for the school's ASB leadership. She said the more work you put into the program, the higher the chances you'll be awarded a scholarship.

Other programs featured on Monday night included a community mural from the visual arts department, a walk-through of caring for infant simulators from students in the teaching program, and concessions from Boomer Bites, which is run by the Generation College Club.

They use the concession funds to fuel college visits and pay for college applications.

Last year, 150 students graduated after completing one or more of Hermiston High School's 10 CTE programs. The district is currently working to add a health science program to the list.

"We have great students with great big dreams and this is a way to get started without being intimidated," Berger said.

Sen. Hansell files for re-election

East Oregonian

ATHENA — Oregon State Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, announced Tuesday he will seek re-election to the Oregon Senate for another four-year term.

Hansell, a former Umatilla County commissioner, is reaching the conclusion of his second term representing District 29.

"There is still work that needs to be done and I am ready to return to Salem to continue where we've left off," Hansell said in a written statement. "Representing Senate District 29 in the Oregon Senate has been an honor and I am ready to serve for another term."

Senate District 29 consists of Wallowa, Union, Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam

and Sherman counties and part of Wasco County. Hansell served as a Umatilla County commissioner for 30 years before he was first elected as a senator in 2012.

The announcement stated Hansell's accomplishments during his time in the Senate, including funding for vital irrigation projects in the Umatilla Basin; funding for a pair of health centers in Elgin and Enterprise; funding to restore the Wal-lowa Lake Dam; funding for the FARM II Project at Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton; and funding for a mental health crisis



wing at the Umatilla County Jail that will serve all of northeast Oregon.

Hansell said when Rep. Greg Walden of Oregon, a senior Republican on an influential House committee, announced he would not seek re-election in 2020, he considered a run for the vacant seat.

"After talking with family and friends, I have decided not to seek the Republican nomination as the next congressional representative for our area. It is humbling to have received calls and e-mails from people encouraging me to run," he said. "Greg leaves big shoes to fill and I am confident that the voters of the 2nd District will elect a representative who will continue where Greg has left off."

PHS fight under investigation

School officials say staff responded immediately to break up fight

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A fight between students at Pendleton High School resulted in "corrective actions" and an ongoing police investigation.

The fracas broke out Friday in a hallway at the school. Principal Melissa Sandven said student safety is a top priority, and staff responded within moments and broke up the melee.

"The students received corrective action per school district policy and state law," she said. "We handled it as we would any fight."

District policy and laws also prevent Sandven from disclosing much information about the fight, she explained, including who was involved. She said staff followed protocol and questioned students as they would in any incident. The school needs to find out what happened, she explained, to impose the appropriate discipline.

"As principal, that's something I take very seriously," she said. "We're very concerned about making sure what happened and with being fair and consistent in the corrective actions."

Sandven is in her second year as principal. She said Pendleton High generally is a safe place, but conflicts arise. When they do, she said, the school works to make sure students receive due process.

The school also notified parents of the students involved and called police.

Pendleton police Lt. Tony Nelson confirmed there was an "incident" at the high



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
A fight broke out at Pendleton High School on Friday prompting a response from Pendleton Police Department and school officials.

school and police have made no arrests.

"It's a case we're still actively investigating, and I don't want to taint anything while we're investigating it," he said.

Once the work is complete, he said, the department will forward the report to the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office to determine charges.

This is the second assault involving juveniles in less than two weeks in Pendleton. Two teenage boys attacked a Pendleton man on Oct. 22 on the city's River Parkway. Police arrested a 15- and 16-year-old soon after that assault.

District Attorney Dan Primus said that case is in the juvenile court system, which operates a little different from adult criminal court.

Police reports involving juveniles go through the county's juvenile department rather than his office, Primus said. Juvenile courts use "petitions" to bring charges instead of "charging instruments." And juvenile courts hold "adjudications" rather than trials.

"It's different language for the same things," Primus said.

And juvenile courts are open to the public, according to the Oregon Judicial Department, but much of the information in case files remains confidential.

BRIEFLY

Crash blocks Highway 395

HERMISTON — A Stanfield man died Tuesday morning in a crash on Highway 395 just south of Hermiston.

Dustin Scott, 48, died at the scene after being ejected from his truck.

According to the Hermiston Police Department, Jose Ascencio Torres, 70, of Hermiston, was driving a 2017 Subaru Legacy south on the highway when he attempted to turn left into a driveway across from Kelli Boulevard. He turned in front of Scott, who was traveling northbound in a 1992 Chevrolet truck.

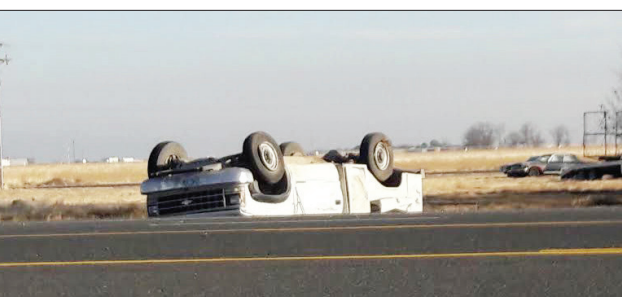
The vehicles collided at about 7:25 a.m. and Scott's truck rolled, ejecting him and injuring his 14-year-old passenger, who was wearing a seat belt and not ejected. The child and Torres were both transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center and released later Tuesday.

Officers arrived at the scene and began performing CPR until they were relieved by Umatilla County Fire District 1 EMS personnel. Scott was eventually pronounced deceased at the scene.

Traffic was blocked for several hours, with vehicles rerouted down Shannon Way while investigators examined the scene. Oregon State Police assisted by providing a traffic reconstructionist. The crash is still under investigation, according to HPD, but speed or intoxicants did not appear to be a factor. Torres has been cited for careless driving.

Inmate dies at state prison

UMATILLA — An inmate at Two Rivers Correctional Institution died while on hospice at the facility Monday night,



Staff photo by Jade McDowell
A white truck sits upside-down after a crash north of Hermiston on Tuesday morning.

Department of Corrections officials said.

Terry Lee Allen, 68, entered DOC custody on June 29, 2015, from Deschutes County with an earliest release date of November 30, 2022.

As with all in-custody deaths, according to the corrections department, the prison contacted Oregon State Police, and the medical examiner will determine cause of death. The state also notified Allen's relatives.

Two Rivers Correctional Institution in 2000 and houses approximately 1,800 inmates in medium and minimum security.

M-F man arrested in threat with gun

BURBANK, Wash. — A 53-year-old Milton-Free-water man was arrested Monday after he allegedly pointed a gun at another driver.

Jeffrey W. Fusselman was arrested for investigation of second-degree assault by Washington State Patrol troopers about 4 miles east of Burbank on U.S. Highway 12.

WSP Trooper Chris Thorson said Fusselman pointed the gun at the victim at about 10:45 a.m. near the Blue Bridge on State Route 240 in Kennewick, after which the victim followed him into Walla Walla County and pulled over in

Burbank. Troopers then caught the suspect east of the community.

Thorson didn't release the suspect's name, but the Benton County Jail's online roster listed Fusselman as the only 53-year-old man arrested Monday for the alleged crime.

Fusselman was booked into the Benton County Jail at 12:34 p.m.

—EO Media Group and wire services

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