

Youth Challenge facilities expansion complete

Students sent home due to governor’s coronavirus order

By JACKSON HOGAN
EO Media Group

BEND — Everything is new and improved at the Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program east of Bend after a recent \$11 million upgrade and expansion.

The cafeteria is larger and equipped with the latest fridges and equipment. Students now have individual showers, compared to prior years where they’d huddle 10 at a time in group showers. And the building added a new wing, so the student capacity in the tuition-free statewide alternative school grew by nearly 90 students.

But because of Gov. Brown’s orders last week to close all K-12 schools due to the growing threat of COVID-19, the disease caused by the spreading new coronavirus, no students remained in the improved facility by Saturday.

The school is a military-style residential high school for at-risk students from all over the state.

The program’s staff have



Female cadets walk single-file while moving between rooms in the Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge building in Bend in 2018.

stuck around. Social distancing isn’t hard when you work in a massive, remote building, said Dan Radabaugh, the program’s director.

“It’s a 70,000-square-foot facility, so we’ve got lots of room to spread out,” he said Monday. “We’re just trying to keep staff employed at this time.”

Last week, Radabaugh said the renovation added 7,000 square feet to the existing building. This will allow the program,

which is associated with the National Guard, to host 84 more students per term, for a total capacity of 240 students per class.

The expansion also allowed the program to hire 35 more staff members, from teachers to counselors to cooks, Radabaugh said.

“Every department got plussed up to manage the amount of kids coming through the program,” he said last week.

The program accepts students throughout Ore-

gon. The students live at its High Desert campus east of Bend for 22 weeks, where they are put through a rigorous academic schedule during which students earn nearly two years worth of high school credits.

The building’s renovation began in the fall of 2018, paid for with bonds from both the Oregon Legislature and the National Guard. The renovation was already complete for the new class of students who arrived in January, accord-

ing to David Sutterfield, who oversees recruitment and mentorship for the program.

The improved building is clean and modern, but still no-frills and minimalist.

Perhaps the most noticeable difference is in the bathrooms. They’ve doubled in size and now have individual, rather than group, showers. This was a huge plus for Carlos Harpole, an 18-year-old student from Bend who saw the old facilities while visiting for orientation last fall.

“There were like 10 people in a group (last year), you had to shower together,” he said. “Now, we just have curtains and dividers, so it’s more personal.”

The improved campus is also more energy efficient. Solar panels were added, along with water-saving faucets and LED motion-sensor lights.

“Makes it cost less for the taxpayers and it makes our facility more green,” Sutterfield said of the improvements.

Other improvements include a new teacher’s area with a lounge and conference room, more office space for the program’s staff, and three new classrooms, to bring the total to six learning spaces. The

old classrooms didn’t even have doors, something the remodel fixed, Sutterfield said.

The renovated building was named after recently deceased state Sen. Jackie Winters, who was instrumental in securing state funding for the renovation, Radabaugh said.

“She was such an advocate for the program,” he said. “Every time we’d go to the Capitol, she’d invite the kids into her office and sit down, spend some time with them.”

But for the moment, these new classrooms and facilities won’t be used by students again until April 1 at the earliest, due to Gov. Brown’s orders.

Radabaugh said remote learning would be very difficult for the program’s students. But teachers did send them home with assignments and their phone numbers, he said.

At the moment, the Youth Challenge staff are still figuring out what happens next if schools stay closed past April 1, according to Radabaugh.

“There’s just so many unknowns,” Radabaugh said Monday. “But we are determined to give these cadets their education and what they signed up for.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Variable clouds with a shower	Mostly sunny	Periods of clouds and sunshine	Sunshine	Clouds and sunshine

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
50°	30°	55°	32°	59°
30°		34°	61°	34°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
56°	30°	61°	31°	63°
30°		35°	66°	35°

OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	51°	25°
Normals	55°	36°
Records	76° (1900)	10° (1906)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.61"
Normal month to date	0.71"
Year to date	4.67"
Last year to date	5.24"
Normal year to date	3.26"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	52°	22°
Normals	58°	35°
Records	76° (1972)	19° (2002)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.12"
Normal month to date	0.53"
Year to date	0.48"
Last year to date	3.49"
Normal year to date	2.80"

WINDS (in mph)

Today	Thu.
SSW 3-6	NE 3-6
Pendleton W 4-8	N 4-8

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:01 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:05 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:33 a.m.
Moonset today	1:27 p.m.

New First Full Last

Mar 24 Apr 1 Apr 7 Apr 14

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 95° in Falfurrias, Texas Low -14° in Rudyard, Mont.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

-10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s

showers t-storms rain flurries snow ice cold front warm front stationary front high low

Idaho bill bans transgender women, girls from competition

By KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — An Idaho bill banning transgender women from competing in women’s sports despite warnings that such a law is unconstitutional headed back to the House on Monday after being amended in the Senate.

The Senate voted 24-11 to approve the measure that would apply to all sports teams sponsored by public schools, colleges and universities. A girls’ or women’s team would not be open to transgender students who identify as female.

Backers say the law is needed because transgender female athletes have physical advantages. They say that allowing transgender women to compete can limit athletic, economic and self-growth opportunities provided through sports made possible by Title IX.

The 1972 law bars sex discrimination in education and is credited with opening

up athletic competition for girls and women.

“It started to level the playing field,” said Republican Sen. Mary Souza. “But now we are in a new crisis. Girls who have been struggling and training and competing in their sport are suddenly confronted by biological males.”

Opponents said the bill discriminates against transgender girls and women, and will subject athletes to invasive tests, causing them to forgo sports altogether.

The original version of the law easily passed in the House. The Senate amended the bill in an attempt to alleviate concerns about such tests. But opponents were unconvinced, arguing anyone from a parent to an opposing player or someone with a grudge could require a student to take a humiliating test.

“It would damage and hurt her reputation and dignity for life,” said Democratic Sen. Michelle Stennett, noting very young girls

would be subject to invasive physical exams. “Beyond the medical inaccuracies, this bill risks harming the physical and emotional health of our children.”

Republican Sen. Jim Rice agreed with Souza that males are generally better athletes than females. He said allowing transgender high school students to compete in girls’ sports could limit the competitive experiences of others.

“I think that it is important to protect those opportunities for my granddaughters,” Rice said.

Democratic Sen. Maryanne Jordan said there was no need for the law because there were no instances of transgender girls or women competing in Idaho sports. She also said the Idaho High School Activities Association has a policy in place already, as does the NCAA.

Both include a requirement for medically prescribed hormone treatment before participating on a girls’ team.

BRIEFLY

Woman gets prison in attempted kidnapping case

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — A Walla Walla woman is to serve 15 months for witness intimidation, attempted kidnapping and other charges.

Karlee A. Phillips, 22, was sentenced Monday in Walla Walla Superior Court after pleading guilty Feb. 24.

Phillips and Mollie R. Janson — also known as Mollie Alexander and Mollie Evans — 30, of College Place, began harassing a woman Dec. 22 while the three were riding in Janson’s van.

They were headed to a home, where a man — against whom the woman was to testify in trial — had been on house arrest.

The woman told police she gave Janson

her phone to “avoid any problems,” records stated. And when the three arrived at the North Palouse Street home, the woman explained to the other two that the man had new charges in which she wasn’t involved. But Janson and Phillips continued threatening, pushing and shoving her, records stated.

The woman ran to Safeway on Rose Street, with one following her in the van and the other on foot, where employees called the police.

Janson and Phillips were arrested that night.

Phillips pleaded guilty to intimidating a witness, first-degree complicity to theft, second-degree attempted kidnapping, and conspiracy to tampering with physical evidence.

— Associated Press

CORRECTIONS: The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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