

Enterprise teens raise awareness about Holocaust, hate speech

By ELLEN MORRIS BISHOP
EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — It wasn't just the swastika drawn in the moist dust on Deedee Duncan's car. Or the burning swastika ignited on the ground at a student bonfire. But these incidents, compounded by racist and misogynistic statements in and around Enterprise High School, convinced seniors Duncan and Tishrei Movich-Fields that they had to do something.

The two 18-year-olds transformed their concerns into a Family, Career and Community Leaders of America project that has raised awareness in classmates and is motivating the school to provide more education about the power of speech and the consequences of hate.

Tishrei and her family are members of Wallowa County's Jewish community. Duncan is a longtime family friend.

"It was really worrisome," Movich-Fields said. "We realized that the students probably didn't really understand what the swastika symbol meant and how threatening it is, or how hurtful the other things

they said were. And so we decided to do our senior FCCLA project on helping students understand what all this means and why it's not a joke."

The two girls first wanted to invite a Holocaust survivor to speak at the school for the project. But the age and fragility of the available speakers were too great for a journey to Wallowa County. So instead, they invited the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education to do a presentation to students and a separate workshop for teachers.

Enterprise School District Superintendent Erika Pinkerton was supportive and pledged financial support from the district, which was augmented by a grant from Building Healthy Families. The funds covered travel and other expenses. Planning took about two months. Even as the two students planned the project, additional incidents plagued the school, including a video that circulated showing students drawing swastikas on their hands and notebooks.

To help with Duncan and Movich-Fields' project, Principal Blake Carlsen arranged the space and changes in class schedules necessary for high school



EO Media Group Photo/Ellen Morris Bishop
Enterprise High School seniors Tishrei Movich-Fields (left) and Deedee Duncan focused their FCCLA project on informing their fellow students about speech and symbols that denote hate and prejudice.

and middle school classes to participate in a session called "Is That Really What I Said?" led by OJMCHE Manager of Education Amanda Solomon. He also opened the high school library for an all-day Friday session for teachers.

The student sessions emphasized the impact and importance of words that can be unintentionally hurtful.

"You may not mean any-

thing by using them," Solomon told students, "but the words may mean something different to the person you're speaking with than they do to you. People can interpret language differently. We all have different meanings for words."

Solomon cited examples, including calling girls who excel in athletics or wish to pursue a demanding and nontraditional career "crazy," or referring

to someone who doesn't look like the rest of the group as "exotic," and using "microaggressions," including phrases like "that's so retarded."

"If someone tells you that the term you just used is offensive," Solomon said, "that's something you can apologize for and learn from."

Student reactions to the 45-minute sessions were mostly positive.

"I thought it was really helpful," and "I've never thought about any of this before," were common reactions. "I understand now that words may not mean to other people what you meant them to mean," one student wrote.

But some students took issue with the session, including comments "I think we should be careful about what we say, but I also believe if someone is offended, it is something they have to deal with. It's just a fact of life."

Amit Kobrowski from the Oregon Department of Education took the lead in presenting a daylong teachers' workshop that included suggestions about how educators could address racist and other derogatory student comments in

the school. Teachers also learned about the new K-12 requirements on the Holocaust, other genocides and Native American culture and history. Teachers from other districts, including Joseph and Pine Eagle, also attended.

Duncan and Movich-Fields were happy with the two-day sessions.

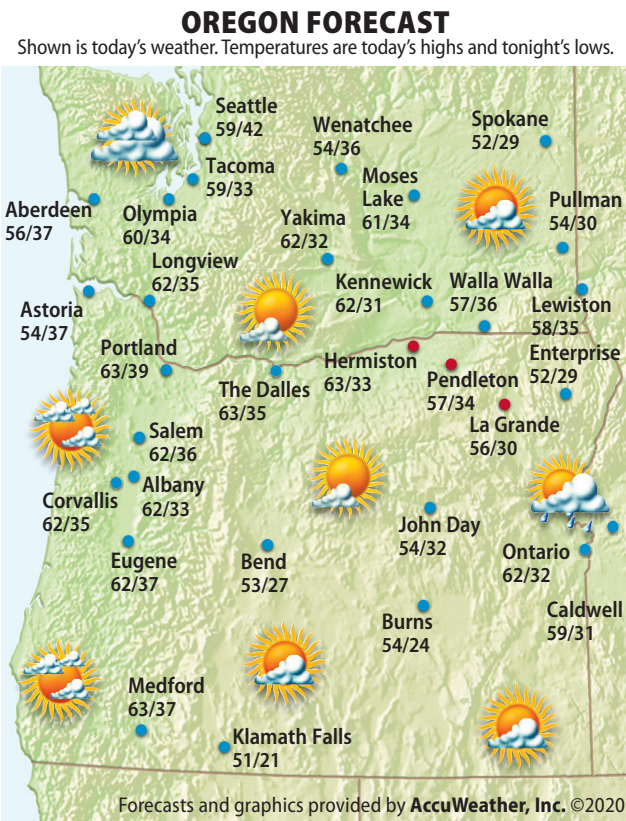
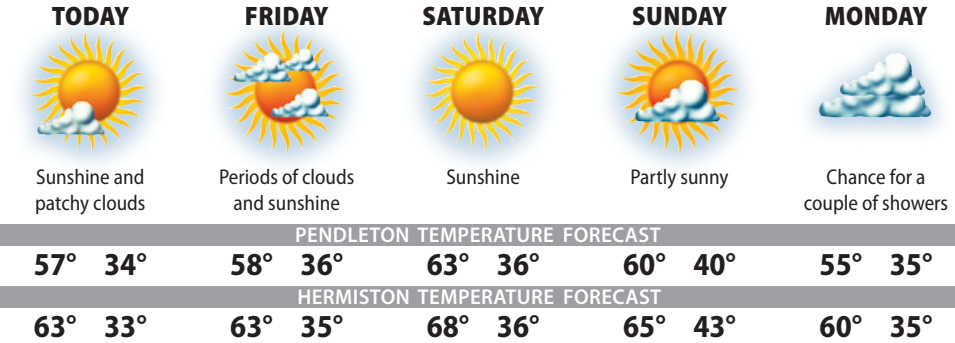
"I think it really raised awareness of how words and symbols can be misused and misunderstood," Movich-Fields said.

Now, the two will begin preparing their project for presentation at the FCCLA state convention that was scheduled for April 2-4 in Clackamas, but may be delayed due to COVID-19, said FCCLA adviser Tamarah Duncan. The top two presentations will go to the FCCLA national project competition.

Carlsen applauded the student's work.

"They did a great job," he said. "I'm looking forward to talking with them about how the project is turning out, and listening to their thoughts about continuing this kind of thing in the future." Carlsen said that teachers' comments about the Friday session "have all been very positive."

Forecast for Pendleton Area



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	53°	38°
Normals	56°	36°
Records	76° (1934)	15° (1965)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.61"
Normal month to date	0.76"
Year to date	4.67"
Last year to date	5.24"
Normal year to date	3.31"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	56°	32°
Normals	58°	35°
Records	75° (1972)	10° (1965)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.12"
Normal month to date	0.56"
Year to date	0.48"
Last year to date	3.49"
Normal year to date	2.83"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Fri.
Boardman	ENE 3-6	SW 3-6
Pendleton	NNW 4-8	WNW 4-8

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:00 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:07 p.m.
Moonrise today	5:15 a.m.
Moonset today	2:28 p.m.

New

First

Full

Last

Mar 24

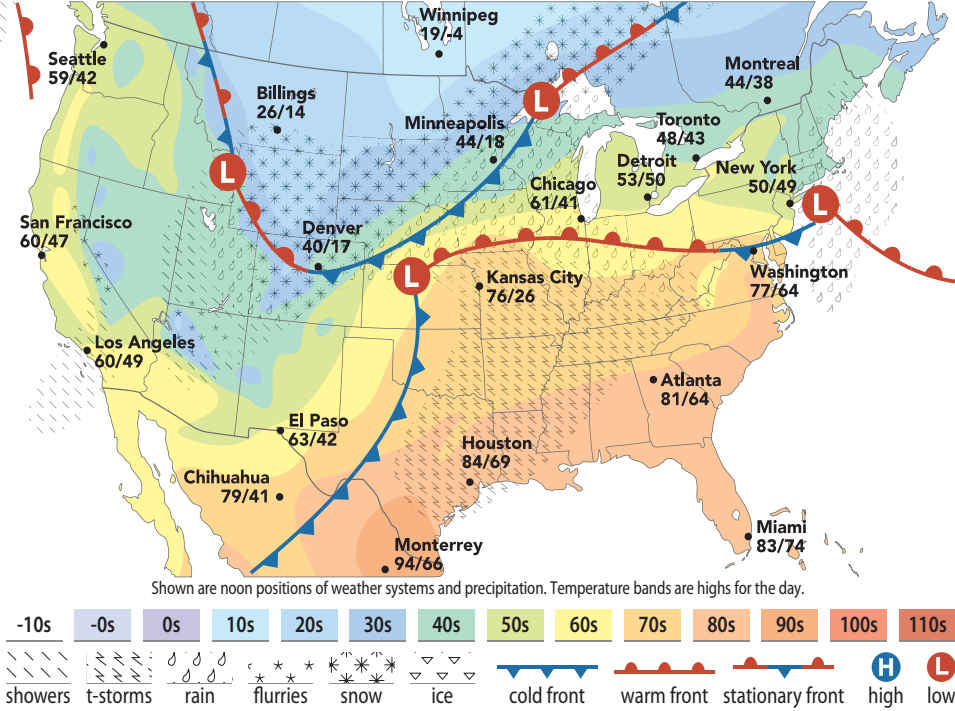
Apr 1

Apr 7

Apr 14

NATIONAL EXTREMES
Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 96° in Falfurrias, Texas Low -1° in Ely, Minn.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



BLM targets May release of final plan for Southeastern Oregon

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

VALE — The U.S. Bureau of Land Management in early May aims to release its final plan for 4.6 million acres of BLM-managed land in Oregon.

The district in 2019 took comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan Amendment, BLM Vale District Manager Don Gonzalez said.

The district is amending a 2002 plan that a federal appeals court vacated. A 2010 settlement agreement required updated information about lands with wilderness characteristics and an analysis of various management scenarios. The process also considers long-standing uses like grazing,

and more recent activity, such as off-road vehicle use.

Gonzalez said some people commenting on the draft EIS wanted to preserve wilderness characteristics on lands deemed to have them. Others expressed concerns about potential development of power-transmission lines and pipelines, and the availability of grazing permits.

Vale BLM in the draft EIS preferred the alternative that does not designate any special management considerations for lands found to have wilderness characteristics. These are separate from Wilderness Study Areas that await management decisions by Congress.



Gonzalez

Gonzalez said the district is finishing the final EIS, to be released to the public following reviews by the U.S. Department of the Interior and Oregon state director. Whether the preferred alternative changes is yet to be determined.

The final EIS "will talk about how we are going to handle the land we found to have wilderness characteristics, along with how we are dealing with grazing as far as permit relinquishment," he said. It also will detail how Vale BLM will deal with off-road or off-trail use by motorized equipment.

After the final EIS is released, the public has 30 days to review it and submit protests that would provide standing to appeal a final Record of Decision. The governor's office has 60 days to review the EIS.

BRIEFLY

\$1.2M sex discrimination suit filed against hospital

BEND — A former pharmacist is suing Central Oregon's largest health care provider for \$1.2 million saying the hospital maintained a hostile work environment that included gender discrimination and sexual harassment.

Darcy Martin filed the lawsuit against St. Charles Health System on Thursday in Deschutes County Circuit Court, *The Bulletin* reported.

Martin worked for St. Charles as a staff pharmacist from March 2015 until she was fired in December 2019.

She says the work environment included jokes of a sexual nature, routine sexual innuendo, the showing of videos of par-

tially clothed or nude women and the "comparison of bananas to penises," the lawsuit states.

Martin claims she was subjected to different attendance standards than her male co-workers and was treated worse because she's a woman. Martin claims that before she was fired, she "opposed, resisted and/or complained" about gender discrimination and sexual harassment.

She also says after she was terminated, St. Charles republished a false claim about her: that she provided a customer with incorrect information.

"We just received the lawsuit and are in the process of evaluating with counsel," said hospital spokeswoman Lisa Goodman on Friday.

— Associated Press

CORRECTIONS: In the Page A3 story "ODOT plans projects for 2021-24," published Wednesday, March 18, misstated one of the locations in Pendleton where the Oregon Department of Transportation plans to remove a traffic signal. It is Southwest Fourth Street and Dorion Avenue.

In the Page A1 story "Wildhorse partially closes," published Wednesday, March 18, the story misstated the day Wildhorse begins its partial shutdown. It started Wednesday at noon.

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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