

# Washington teens tackle project for essential employees

By JEDIDIAH MAYNES  
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — The sewing machine and the 3D printer have become friends.

Local students in the Walla Walla Valley are using their passion for the new technology to help provide comfort — literally — to those who must wear masks in essential businesses and services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A brother and sister at Walla Walla High School and students at DeSales High School have used modern technology to make mask wearing a much less problematic practice.

“I’ve always loved technology and 3D printing,” said Walla Walla High School freshman Jackson Adams, 15. “I’ve seen it used in medicine and medical technology, and that’s what made me want to go into it.”

The Adams family has taken its love of technological innovation and applied it to today’s needs.

“I’m extremely interested in biomedical engineering and innovation,” said 16-year-old Lauren Adams, a Wa-Hi sophomore. “Being able to print things that can save lives is just a cool thing to be able to do.”

They know they might not be directly saving lives



Walla Walla Union-Bulletin Photo/Greg Lehman  
**Lauren and Jackson Adams drop off 3D-printed ear guards for masks with registered nurse Elizabeth Bowen, a nurse leader at Providence St. Mary Medical Center, on Friday.**

with their most recent project, but it’s coming in handy for medical workers nonetheless.

As mask-wearing becomes more prolific, the U.S. has seen a shortfall in supplies of the crucial antiviral tools, even at hospitals and essential businesses, such as grocery stores.

Luckily, teams of volunteers have busted out their sewing and craft skills to make thousands of masks locally. The masks are washable and meet federal standards.

But even those fortunate enough to have masks have

found wearing them all day brings discomfort and sometimes pain as the mask’s loops tug on ears and even rub skin raw over long hours of work.

The solution is a little plastic connector that connects the loops at the back of the head, relieving tension at the ears.

Lauren and Jackson Adams worked with volunteers centered at Walla Walla Sew & Vac and Spas. They took some free designs from online and began printing the connectors — called ear guards — and using them on the cloth masks being dis-

tributed from the Rose Street business. After discussions with the volunteers and some tweaks in the design, the Adams kids got to work.

“After dozens, if not hundreds of hours, we worked out the issues and now it’s a pretty well-oiled machine,” Jackson Adams said of the printing system.

Meanwhile, in DeSales’ MakerSpace lab, a similar project has started.

Sophomore Simon Scheel learned of a group of Boy Scouts who had put their design for the ear guards online for free.

“He said, ‘Hey, why

not?’” said Scheel’s supervisor at the lab and DeSales teacher Eric Rhode. “It’s just something small to help out the community.”

That small thing, a little piece of plastic, has produced a lot of smiling — albeit masked — faces.

Scheel recently got to deliver 100 connectors to Providence St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla.

Lauren and Jackson Adams have made about 150, as of this weekend, and also donated some to the hospital, along with Walla Walla Police Department, Sharpstein Elementary School, Park Manor Rehabilitation Center and Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center.

Scheel’s first attempts at making the ear guards went to Valley Vision in Walla Walla, where a small group of employees got to give them a test run.

From there, they started to produce as many as possible.

Scheel and Rhode, along with DeSales senior Dominic Keene, space out their visits to the lab because the printers are in a shared space.

Scheel goes to the space in the morning and makes sure the printers are functioning and begins the printing process. Rhode then goes in the afternoon and finishes the process. From there, he

sends a text to Scheel to let him know the units are ready for delivery. The team is able to print 11 connectors at a time through that process, which usually means they make around 25 per day.

“It’s a 10-step process,” Rhode said of mask-making. “There are three filters on each side ... we could make one a day, maybe.”

Jackson Adams took a crack at making one as well. The Adams call it the “Darth Vader mask.”

“It makes you sound like Darth Vader when you’re breathing,” Lauren Adams said. The mask, which is up to snuff with federal recommendations, took Jackson about seven hours to print and a lot of the plastic material.

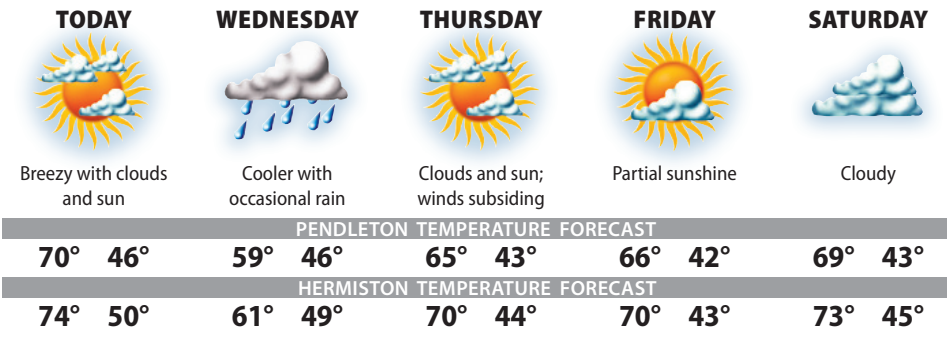
“With the ear guards ... we would benefit the most amount of people we could,” Jackson Adams said.

The plastic needed to make 3D printed objects — which are called filaments — is harder to come by these days because of the popularity of these ear guards and the printed masks. Not only that, it’s expensive to print in general.

The Adams family and DeSales have benefited from generous donors.

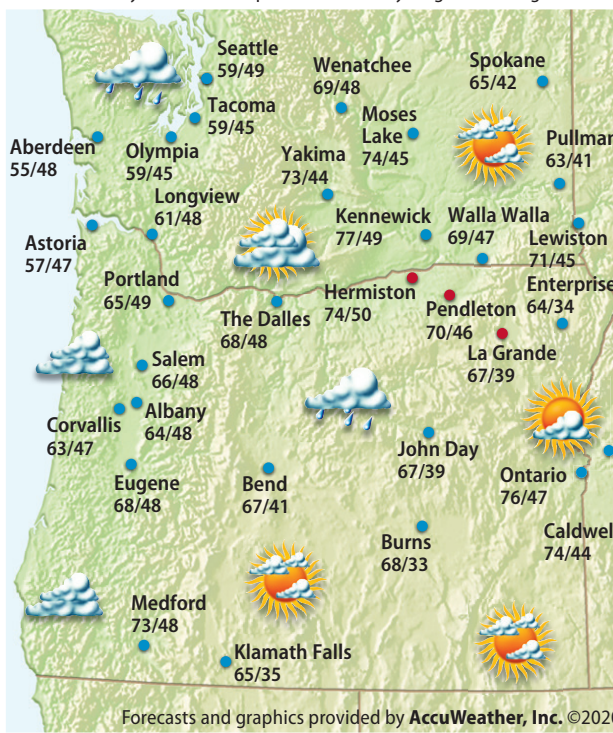
Lauren and Jackson’s parents, Dan and Teresa Adams, purchased the first batch of filaments for their project.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

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



## ALMANAC

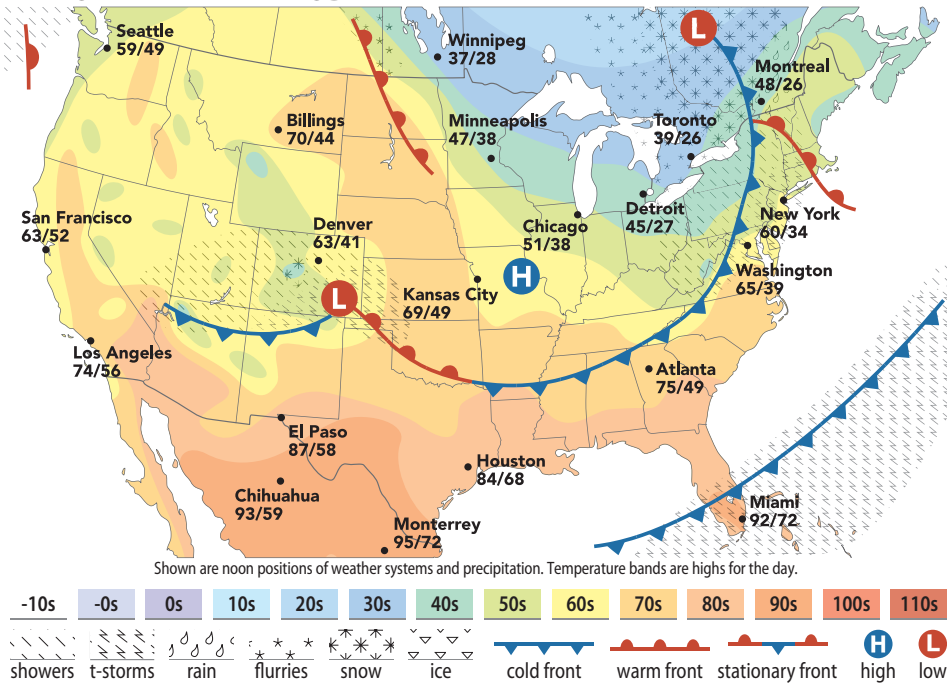
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	74°	39°
Normals	63°	40°
Records	92° (1934)	18° (1927)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.03"	
Normal month to date	0.80"	
Year to date	4.98"	
Last year to date	7.76"	
Normal year to date	4.80"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	75°	37°
Normals	66°	40°
Records	90° (1934)	22° (1931)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	Trace	
Normal month to date	0.54"	
Year to date	0.48"	
Last year to date	3.88"	
Normal year to date	3.68"	
WINDS (in mph)		
	Today	Wed.
Boardman	WSW 10-20	SW 7-14
Pendleton	W 10-20	WSW 6-12
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	5:58 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	7:50 p.m.	
Moonrise today	5:52 a.m.	
Moonset today	6:33 p.m.	
	New	First
	Full	Last
Apr 22	Apr 30	May 7
	May 14	

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 104° in Falfurrias, Texas Low 2° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



## \$10,000 reward for poaching info

East Oregonian

ENTERPRISE — The reward for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for poaching a bighorn ram in rural Northeastern Oregon has increased, according to a press release from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The reward for information started at \$1,000 but has steadily increased thanks to contributions from a variety of groups, including the Oregon Hunters Association, Oregon Wildlife Foundation and the Oregon Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.

“Collaborative efforts like this send a strong message that Oregonians feel protective of our fish and wildlife,” said ODFW

Director Curt Melcher. “This is a place where we find common ground in our values and beliefs.”

The ram was shot illegally in Wenaha Wildlife Area, outside of Troy, in late January, according to Oregon State Police. The ram was shot near a winter feed station where Oregon Fish and Wildlife staff provide winter food for a variety of animals in the wildlife area while the ground is snow covered.

The animals’ trek toward the feeding station makes their presence predictable, which creates opportunities for poachers, officials said.

“Poachers take away opportunities from everyone else out there following the rules,” Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Cpt. Casey Thomas said. “I’m very appreciative of

all the different organizations coming together to increase the reward amount, which will hopefully generate a good tip or information that leads us to those responsible for killing this bighorn.”

The ram in question was shot on Jan. 26, according to data from a GPS tracking collar the ram was wearing. When police investigated, they found the tracking collar had been cut off the ram and a severed ear, which has an identification tag, was from an adult ram.

Forensics evidence indicates the animal was shot, OSP Fish and Wildlife Sgt. Chris Hawkins said in a news release.

To provide information on this case or any poaching, call the Turn In Poachers (TIP) line by dialing \*OSP or 800-452-7888.

## BRIEFLY

### Washington anglers protest coronavirus fishing closure

RICHLAND, Wash. — Protesters in boats and on shore Saturday demanded that restrictions on recreational fishing and shellfish harvesting in Washington because of the coronavirus be lifted.

About 50 boats along with several hundred protesters on shore gathered on Saturday around Columbia Point Marina in Richland in Southwestern Washington.

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife on March 25 temporarily closed recreational fishing and shellfish harvesting to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

But the protesters say the restrictions should be lifted because anglers can practice social distancing while fishing. They said kayakers, jet skis, wake boarders, pleasure boaters and others are on the water.

“There’s nobody but us two out in the middle of the river,” Alan Doughty told the *Tri-City Herald*. He was on their boat in the Columbia River with Pam Doughty and their two dogs. “We’ve got a \$60,000 boat. We have I don’t know how much in gear. We’ve got a fishing license. We’ve got insurance, and we can’t use it.”

Ben Hanes organized the protest after noticing non-fishing boaters on the water and believed the restrictions on fishing

were unfair.

“The anglers of Washington state aren’t going to put up with (the ban) much longer,” he said.

### St. Luke’s hopes to increase coronavirus testing capacity

BOISE, Idaho — St. Luke’s Health System said it’s looking to significantly increase its testing capacity for the coronavirus by using its own labs starting Monday.

Hospital officials said they hope that facilities in Boise, Twin Falls, Ketchum, Meridian, Nampa and McCall can start using their own labs that could boost testing capacity past 1,700 per day by May.

But that depends on getting particular testing supplies that have been in high demand.

St. Luke’s also said that drive-up screening tents for the coronavirus will operate from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. seven days a week in Boise, Meridian and Twin Falls starting Monday. The screening tents had been operating to 6 p.m., but officials say volume is greater in the morning.

Idaho has at least 1,655 virus cases and 43 deaths, according to a Johns Hopkins University tally on Saturday morning.

— Associated Press

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