

Encore: ‘This hasn’t been a vacation for any teacher’

Continued from Page A1

to practice on their own at home if they want to is valuable,” she said.

Hermiston School District students excited about performing

In Hermiston School District, music teachers told similar tales of trying to adapt their curriculum to the pandemic.

Stacy Cooley, who teaches choir for both Sandstone and Armand Larive middle schools, said she has tried to come up with fun ways to engage students with music. She did a unit on music in movies and had students put together their own short film with musical score and background sounds.

Later, they were asked to write a quarantine-themed parody of a famous song. In one example Cooley provided, student Abby Goller and her father Josh Goller sang “I Just Can’t Wait to be Free” to the tune of the Lion King’s “I Just Can’t Wait to be King.”

They also watched the musical “Newsies,” and are now learning the music to it.

“This is the most excited about singing I’ve seen them so far this year,” Cooley said.

Cooley said with prior choir classes, middle school students shy about singing solos could hang back and blend their voices with the rest of their section. Now, however, everyone is expected to turn in recordings for her to listen to and give them feedback on their progress.

“When you have to sing into a camera and you’re all by yourself, that’s really hard and you’re super vulnerable,” she said.

Teachers in Hermiston have used recordings of students to splice together video “concerts” for the district’s YouTube channel. While they may look like students simply all tuned in and performed together, it



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Hermiston High School band teacher Sean McClanahan instructs a virtual class from his classroom at the high school on Friday, March 5, 2021.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Pendleton School District band teacher Andy Cary teaches an online class from his office at Pendleton High School on March 10, 2021.

actually takes hours of work to carefully sync up each student’s prerecorded part.

“It’s several hours of work,” Hermiston High

school videos. Bemrose-Rust has to record herself singing students’ parts for them, for example, so they have a frame of reference while practic-

“THIS IS THE MOST EXCITED ABOUT SINGING I’VE SEEN THEM SO FAR THIS YEAR.”

— Stacy Cooley, Sandstone and Armand Larive middle school choir teacher

School choir teacher Jordan Bemrose-Rust said. “One class video takes about 10 hours to do, and I have five choirs.”

It also takes longer for teachers to prepare their students for the concert

ing at home during the self-guided learning part of their day. They also need to have a recording of the instrumental accompaniment to practice along with, and to be able to practice harmonizing with other sections’ parts.

For HHS band teacher Sean McClanahan, working virtually with students who play a wide variety of instruments means a careful setup in his classroom where instruments ring the desk where his camera is set up, making it easy to grab whatever instrument he needs.

“I’m looking forward to getting back to a time when I can sit down and make music with the kids again,” he said.

Heading back to the classroom

When sixth through 12th grade students return to the classroom over the next few weeks, McClanahan said Hermiston School District has been studying best practices recommended by large studies on safely practicing music amid COVID-19. Like other classes, band and choir students will only meet with half the group at a time and will be spaced at least 6 feet apart. Special measures for music classes will range from using bell covers on instruments to wearing special “singing masks” for choir students.

Pendleton School District will take those same precautions, Cary said.

He said he worries students will feel even more intimidated when singing or playing with half-sized classes spaced far apart. Making video recordings may have felt like a lot of exposure, he said, but students knew only he would listen to them and as a longtime teacher he’s already seen “the good, the bad and the ugly” so many times he won’t judge.

“Now they’ll have an audience they didn’t have before,” he said.

Still, all music teachers interviewed said they were excited to at least get to see their students in person again and start moving back toward a more typical school experience.

“This hasn’t been a vacation for any teacher,” Cary said.

Vaccine: 29.54 million COVID-19 cases in U.S., 536,826 deaths

Continued from Page A1

President Joe Biden has set May 1 as the date when states should open eligibility to all those 16 and older. But Gov. Kate Brown said the state would stick with its current priority system until there is a firm commitment from federal health authorities of a major increase in vaccine being sent to the state.

Oregon health officials felt burned in January when they announced eligibility for everyone over 65 based on what turned out to be an erroneous statement by federal health officials in the Trump administration. Brown had to reverse the order and restore a tiered priority system.

Since the arrival of the first vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna in December 2020, about 1.36 million people in Oregon are in the nine priority groups already eligible.

But the state reports total shots to date at 1,346,090. The vast majority of the shots are the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which require two shots spaced about a month apart.

That translates into just under 674,000 two-shot inoculations, enough for less than half of those eligible. The gap between eligibility and availability has resulted in widespread frustration over trying to book appointments with county health authorities, pharmacies or other medical providers.

Recently, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine that requires just one shot has arrived in Oregon.

Through Monday, March 15, a total of 1,642,505 doses of vaccines have been delivered to Oregon.

Oregon has averaged

about 24,000 shots per day, putting it in the middle of states nationwide.

Because of Brown’s decision to prioritize educators over seniors in January, the state is below the national average for seniors who have been inoculated. Though vaccine is provided through the federal government and the CDC has a suggested prioritization list, states ultimately have authority to decide who gets inoculated at what point.

Oregon has been one of the safest places in the country during the pandemic. The state has the fourth lowest number of COVID-19 cases per capita among all states, according to an ongoing count by the *New York Times*. Only Hawaii, Vermont and Maine have performed better since the first COVID-19 case was reported in Washington on Jan. 21, 2020.

Over the past week, Oregon has the second lowest number of cases per capita, with only Hawaii reporting fewer infections.

Oregon has the fifth lowest per capita fatality rate since the pandemic began, with Hawaii, Vermont, Alaska and Maine reporting lower.

Over the past week, Oregon has the third lowest per capita fatality rate, with only Alaska and Hawaii scoring lower.

OHA reported that Oregon has had 160,050 cases of COVID-19 and 2,346 deaths since February 2020.

Nationwide, there have been 29.54 million COVID-19 cases nationwide, with 536,826 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. Worldwide, there have been over 120 million cases and 2.67 million deaths.

Drones: Classes help in job training

Continued from Page A1

their vehicles there, most positions are filled either by transient workers or people who move into town from elsewhere. Steve Chrisman, Pendleton’s airport manager and economic development director, said one of the top questions he gets asked is how can locals find a job in the new industry.

Chrisman said most jobs in UAS can’t be filled by someone with a standard high school or college education. That’s where the classes offered by DelMar can help, and there’s plans in the works for the company to work with Blue Mountain Community College and local public schools to help get students trained.

“If we can get them exposed to UAS by the time they put a diaper on, that’s fine

by me,” Chrisman said.

Beyond the school helping DelMar identify potential candidates for its own business, Springer said the company’s ultimate goal for the school is to help create a stable labor supply for the industry.

The school has already garnered the interest of DeepTrend Inc., a Louisiana company that provides deep sea engineering support for oil and gas companies.

DeepTrend sponsored two scholarships for Ammarae Broncheau, a specialist with the Oregon National Guard’s UAS unit in Pendleton, and Dottie Carrell, a member of the Umatilla County Search and Rescue team.

“When my husband and I joined Umatilla County Search and Rescue, we were drawn to flying drones initially because, being retired

we could not hike as far as we used to,” Carrell said in a DelMar press release. “As we got more involved with drones we saw how useful they can be, and how well they aid the searches.”

In a statement, DeepTrend owner Matt Doan said training people like Carrell and Broncheau would create a talent pool the company could utilize in the future.

While DelMar and Volatus are focused on its two-week UAS Professional Pilot Program for now, it’s hoping to expand its offerings as the COVID-19 pandemic begins to recede.

Its current courses are simulation based, but Springer said the school is looking to offer flight courses in the future, as well as more advanced courses for students that are already working in the industry.

Messaging: Text service not mandatory

Continued from Page A1

hearings compared to a year ago.

Failing to appear in court can result in arrest warrants and new charges in a criminal case, or a default judgement or dismissal in a civil case.

The service is also intended to speed up court proceedings and “increase productivity for courts, attorneys, law enforcement and other case participants by avoiding the cost and delays of rescheduling,” the press release said.

The new service comes after the Oregon Judicial Department completed a pilot project in the Josephine County Circuit Court in February, the press release said. Umatilla and Morrow

counties will be part of a small group of “early adopter” circuit courts.

Blaine added that the service will be similar to the text message service that reminds people about upcoming jury duty, which started in Deschutes County in December 2020.

The service will only apply to state circuit courts and Oregon’s Tax Court, but will not apply to municipal or justice courts, according to Blaine. Victims in criminal proceedings can also participate if they choose. Other confidential cases, such as juvenile proceedings and civil commitment cases, are also excluded from the new service.

Those who wish to participate in the new text message

system must have a cellphone on file with the court.

After the “early adopter” courts are online, the courts will pause operations for 60 days to ensure the system works smoothly before circuit courts statewide begin using it in July.

Blaine said it’s important people know the service is voluntary.

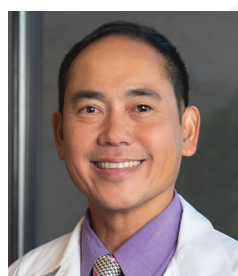
“It’s not something we’re throwing out and insisting” people use, he said. “But it is a way of communicating with people.”

Blaine added that people interested in the service should call him and the circuit court. Blaine, along with other court staff, will be overseeing the implementation of the service in the two counties.

GOOD SHEPHERD HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Let’s Get Your Sleep Back on Track

Introducing Good Shepherd Sleep Solutions Comprehensive Sleep Lab & Clinic for Sleep Studies



Jak Nikomborirak, MD
Board Certified Sleep Medicine Specialist
22 Years of Experience



Vicki Kent, ARNP
Board Certified Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner
38 Years of Experience

Welcoming New Patients
541.667.3834

610 NW 11th Street, Suite E-19
Hermiston, OR 97838

www.gshealth.org/sleep-medicine



Follow us on Facebook!