

**PENDLETON LINEBACKER'S CLUB TO INDUCT 2021 HALL OF FAME CLASS**

SPORTS, B1

Shawn Flanagan competes in the Sioux Falls Cougars 23-7 win over the Carrol Saints Dec. 20, 2008, to clinch the NAIA National Championship at Barron Stadium in Rome, Georgia.  
Marvin Gentry/University of Sioux Falls

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**HERMISTON**

## School district covers supplies

Pay-to-play fees for grades 6-12 also going away, but parents still buy equipment

By NICK ROSENBERGER  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Hermiston parents have enough to worry about as they send their children back to school in a few weeks, but paying for all their school supplies will not be one of them. When students reenter the classroom they will have nearly all their basic supplies covered — from scissors to glue sticks to notebooks.

The only thing Hermiston School District Superintendent Tricia Mooney asks students to bring? A backpack, lunch bag and water bottle.

“As far as the supplies that students need to complete instructional tasks,” Mooney said, “we are going to supply all of those.”

All supplies will remain in the classroom, however, so students still will need some materials at home to complete homework or independent projects.

In addition to providing elementary and middle school supplies, Hermiston School District also will be waiving pay-to-play fees for grades six through 12. Mooney said while she expects the \$85 athletic fee per sport to be discontinued going forward, families still have to buy some equipment.

“We just want to offer this opportunity for our kids and not have that be a barrier at all,” Mooney said.

These two changes, school supplies and athletics fees, come from two separate funding streams, Mooney said. The school district’s general fund will cover the athletics fees while federal relief money, known as Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, will cover school supplies.

This round of ESSER funds, the third installment of Education

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Zach Williams, a deputy district attorney with the Umatilla County District Attorney’s Office, looks through his notes during a hearing on Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021, at the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton. The Oregon State Bar is considering a move to make the Unified Bar Exam, a requirement to practice law in the state, optional.

# Resetting the Bar

## Oregon Bar considering revamped law school, legal apprenticeships as alternatives to exam

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Oregon State Bar is considering doing something that no other state has done before: making the Unified Bar Exam optional.

Passing the test is a requirement for practicing law in Oregon, but as the Bar and the Oregon Supreme Court begins exploring alternative paths to becoming an attorney, the topic has been heavily debated in the state’s legal community. Only a tiny fraction of Oregon Bar members practice law east of the Cascades, but like the rest of their peers, local lawyers have a wide range of opinions on the future of the bar exam.

### The report

The legal class of 2020 were the first group of lawyers who were admitted to the Bar without having to take the exam.

The COVID-19 pandemic meant the state suspended the bar exam requirement to become an attorney, meaning Oregon students fresh out of law school could start practicing law with-

The result is a June 18 report from an “Alternatives to the Exam Task Force,” that made the case for two new paths to becoming a lawyer.

“The Task Force found the

The “Oregon Experiential Pathway” would revamp Oregon law schools, requiring them to offer a more practical curriculum. Instead of focusing on legal doctrine, law schools would be required to offer courses on topics such as professional responsibility, state and local law, criminal procedure and personal income tax. Paired with an externship and a capstone project, completing enough of these courses would be sufficient in gaining admission to the Bar.

The other route, the “Supervised Practice Pathway,” would require aspiring lawyers to complete 1,000 to 1,500 hours of legal work under the supervision of an experienced attorney. During the apprenticeship, the attorney-in-training would have to do actual legal work, including representing clients, advising business or developing policies for governments or nonprofits.

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*“WHAT PREPARES YOU TO BE A LAWYER IS BEING A LAWYER AND DOING IT AGAIN AND AGAIN.”*

— Justin Morton, attorney with Intermountain Public Defenders

out passing the test. Although the bar exam resumed in February, the Oregon Supreme Court, the body responsible for overseeing the Bar admission process, asked the Board of Bar Examiners to take it a step further and examine permanent alternatives to the test.

different pathways it explored could be crafted in a manner that ensured minimum competency standards were met,” task force Chair Joanna Perini-Abbott wrote. “Each pathway, however, had its own advantages and drawbacks in terms of equity and access issues.”

## Helix groups rewarded for reaching vaccine goal

Town has the highest vaccination rate in the county at 63%

By BRYCE DOLE  
East Oregonian

HELIX — Love your neighbor as yourself.

That’s what the COVID-19 vaccine represents for Pastor Mark Woolbright at the Helix Community Church. It’s a way to ensure his family, and his community, remain safe.

“It’s about looking out for other people,” he said.

Woolbright and his wife Karen

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Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

The historical Helix City Hall building got its start as a schoolhouse back in the 1900s. More than 60% of the residents in Helix’s ZIP code are vaccinated against COVID-19 as of Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, making the community of about 200 residents the first in Umatilla County to reach the 60% mark.

