

OHSU students in La Grande to embark to Honduras

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A group of nursing students in La Grande is gearing up to take part in an international service project.

Nine students currently studying at the Oregon Health & Science University La Grande campus will embark on a full-week service project in Honduras this June, focusing on health-related outreach and sustainable development in places in need. The trip is student organized, with extensive fundraising efforts underway to afford the trip.

“For most of us, we are wanting to be able to have more experience caring for a more diverse population,” OHSU student Jessica Norton said. “We’d like to gain that experience with a more diverse community and increase access to the care that they’re unable to receive.”

The project is organized through Global Brigades, an international health and sustainable development nonprofit organization founded in 2007. The organization operates year round, organizing trips for nursing students and other areas of study alike. The students embark on the fundraising and trip planning process, while Global Brigades organizes the service week and gets the students where they need to be to help those in need.

Diana Siltanen, a clinical instructor at the La Grande OHSU campus, helped bring the Global Brigades trip to La Grande for the first time. The partnership stems from connections to other



Jessica Norton/Contributed Photo

Jessica Norton, right, a student at Oregon Health & Science University La Grande campus, drops off a meal to Susan Lewis, left, during a meal-delivery event for the group of La Grande students who are set to embark on a trip to Honduras through Global Brigades. The group of students will participate in a week-long service event in the summer of 2022 in Honduras.

OHSU campuses in Klamath Falls, Monmouth and across the state. The nonprofit organization pioneers service trips to locations such as Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, Ghana and Greece.

The group of La Grande students consists of Kylie Kennedy, Brianna Humeston, Sierra Ashley, Madison Conklin, Morgan Bogart, Tiana Williams, Amanda Vieira De Melo, Jessica Norton and Lexie Johnson.

For Kennedy, the buildup to the trip has been a worthwhile experience in creating a new-found camaraderie amongst OHSU students after the pandemic has limited in-person interactions over the last two years.

“We’ve been in school online for our first year and a half, so this term has been our first term where we have classes together in person,” Kennedy said. “I think it’s been a

great opportunity to really get to know people.”

Fundraising is a key component of taking part in the trip, which is open to all current OHSU students as well as recent alumni. According to Norton, the group has raised \$31,787 of the required \$50,258 necessary for the entire trip.

“The students do their own fundraising and organize that process entirely on their own,” OHSU

Diversity Coordinator Beckie Juarez said.

According to Norton, the preparation process also includes sharpening up on Spanish language speaking skills and watching preparatory videos. In addition to fundraising for travel costs, the group was required to raise roughly \$1,000 worth of supplies to hand out during their time in Honduras — the items include hygiene packs and travel-size toiletries. Upon arriving in Honduras, the group will be led by Global Brigades organizers to pinpoint projects in areas of need.

“It’s going to be very structured, they have pretty much every hour of the day planned for us,” Norton said.

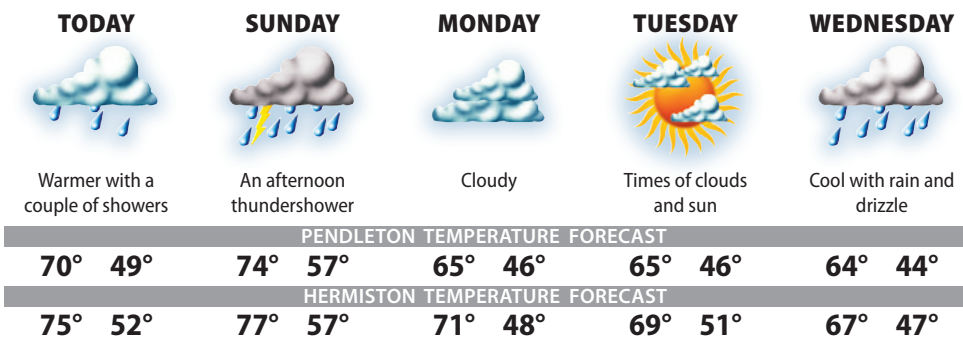
For Kennedy, the trip is an opportunity to apply her studies in a real-world setting. Hearing stories from previous students who took international service trips inspired her to take part in a similar experience.

“I have gained skills working through the healthcare field within the last six years that I think would be really beneficial in an area like Honduras,” Kennedy said.

Juarez noted that a local group of OHSU previously planned a service trip to Thailand years ago, but the pandemic put a halt on those plans and the possibility of other service trips over the last several years.

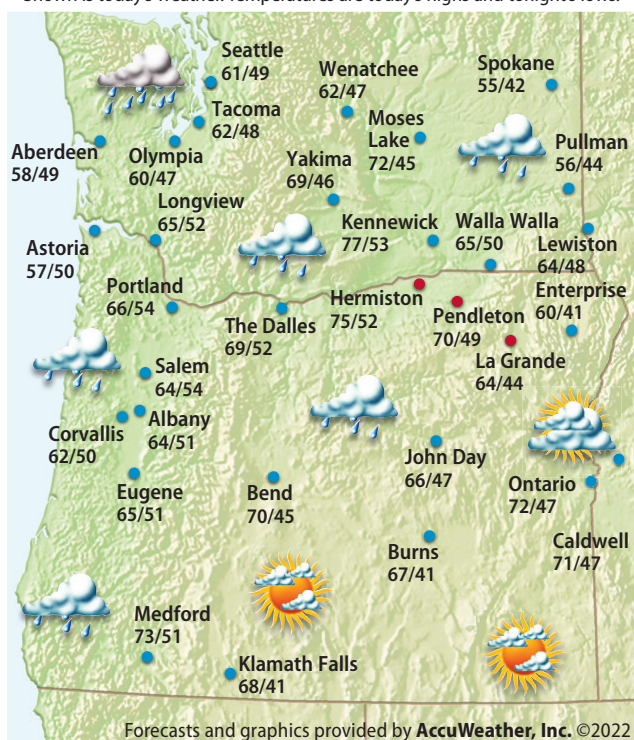
“I know students were disappointed about that, then COVID hit and took away those opportunities altogether,” Juarez said. “This is the first international trip students here have been able to take since then.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



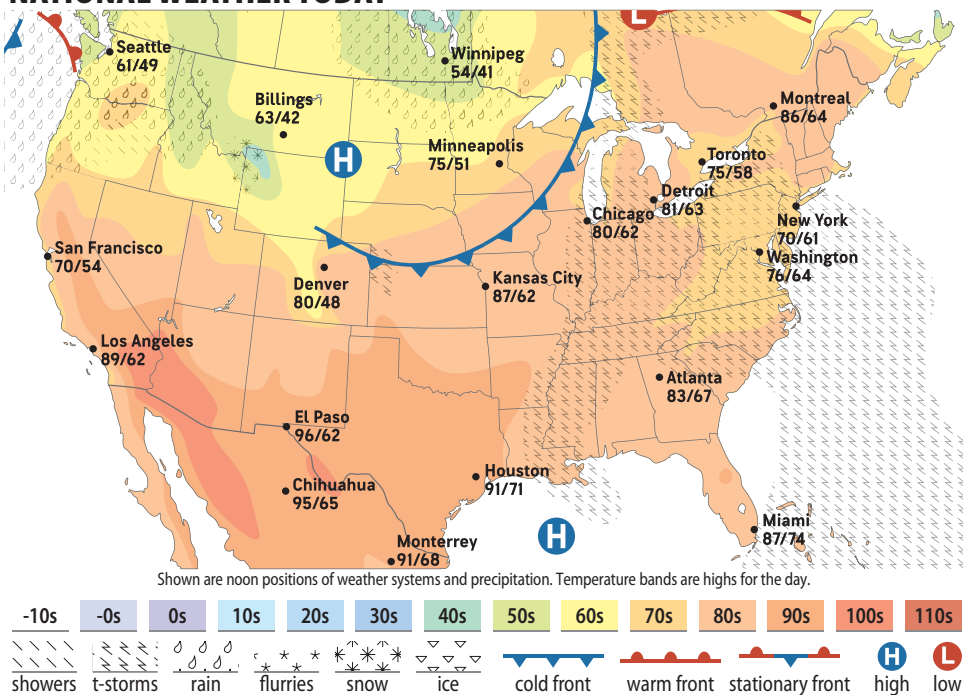
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	59°	36°
Normals	72°	46°
Records	96° (1931)	30° (1903)
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m.	
Month to date	0.17"	
Normal month to date	1.16"	
Year to date	0.56"	
Last year to date	6.78"	
Normal year to date	3.81"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	61°	39°
Normals	76°	46°
Records	100° (1993)	33° (2004)
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m.	
Month to date	0.13"	
Normal month to date	0.81"	
Year to date	0.32"	
Last year to date	4.70"	
Normal year to date	3.87"	
WINDS (in mph)	Today	Sun.
Boardman	WSW 6-12	N 4-8
Pendleton	WSW 7-14	N 6-12
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	5:25 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	8:18 p.m.	
Moonrise today	6:51 p.m.	
Moonset today	4:42 a.m.	
Full	Last	New
May 15	May 22	May 30
June 7		

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 103° in Zapata, Texas Low 16° in Angel Fire, N.M.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Community Connection of Northeast Oregon has new executive director

By **RONALD BOND**
Wallowa County Chieftain

LA GRANDE — Connie Guentert knows she has big shoes to fill as the new executive director of Community Connection of Northeast Oregon.

The outgoing director, Margaret Davidson, was right alongside Guentert as she made the transition into the lead role in the company, a move that became official May 1.

“Margaret has just been a fantastic leader and teacher,” Guentert said. “To be able to follow in those large shoes is a challenge, but also the foundation of having her for all this time, she’s imbued in me those same values and goals that we strive for in our agency.”

Guentert has been a part of Community Connection for 15 years, the last eight as the county manager in Wallowa County.

“Matter of fact, it’s like eight years exactly. May 1 eight years ago I took over as county manager — eight years later, the new executive director,” she said.

Guentert said she has been “inspired” by Davidson, and repeatedly praised her effort fronting the agency, calling her an “invaluable teacher” and a person who leads by example.

Guentert began as a front office assistant in 2007. She also spent time in transportation before moving into her



Contributed Photo

Margaret Davidson, left, outgoing executive director for Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, stands next to Connie Guentert, right, the new director. Guentert served for eight years as the manager in Wallowa County prior to stepping into her new role May 1, 2022.

county manager role in 2014. Knowing as many of the ins and outs of CCNO is valuable, she said.

“Learning the program from the ground up and growing up within the agency, it has given me such a well rounded perspective of what this agency does for all the communities that we operate in,” she said. “It is so diverse.”

Guentert said the decision to step into the executive director role is one that required a deep internal look.

“I loved my job as the county manager,” she said. “Did I want to drive to La Grande everyday? Yea, it was a lot of inner reflection. Did I want to take that step and continue on in the wonderful culture and leadership that Margaret has (not only) led by example, but ... really infused through our entire

agency. It inspired me to step up and have the opportunity to continue the culture, the foundation of our agency, (and) the family of it.”

Guentert will continue to live in Wallowa County, staying in an area she has grown to love, and will make the commute on a daily basis.

Guentert said she doesn’t plan to make any alterations to the way Davidson operated CCNO, instead wanting to continue the legacy the long-time executive director built.

“I am definitely going to operate it the same way she has,” she said. “Being present in the future, what our counties need, that is why we’re here. We’re here to serve people.”

Guentert also said she hopes Community Connection Wallowa County names her by mid-May.

IN BRIEF

Baker City man hurt in motorcycle crash improves

BAKER CITY — A Baker City man who was seriously hurt in a motorcycle crash May 4 is improving in a Boise hospital.

Terris Blain Webb, 50, who was in critical condition after being brought to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise, had improved to fair condition as of Monday, May 9, hospital spokesman Mark Snider said.

Webb was hurt when the motorcycle he was riding went off Highway 86 along the

Powder River and plunged down a 25-foot embankment on the afternoon of May 4.

Webb was riding east on the highway through the Powder River Canyon, about 27 miles east of Baker City and 13 miles west of Richland. He rode off the highway on a curve, according to an Oregon State Police report.

Police found Webb a short distance from the Honda motorcycle.

An emergency helicopter brought Webb to the Boise hospital.

—EO Media Group

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

EastOregonian.com

In the App Store:



East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801.

Copyright © 2022, EO Media Group

Circulation Dept.

For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops or delivery concerns call 800-781-3214

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Local home delivery	Savings (cover price)
EZPay	\$10.75/month	50 percent
52 weeks	\$135	42 percent
26 weeks	\$71	39 percent
13 weeks	\$37	36 percent

Single copy price:

\$1.50 Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

ADVERTISING

Regional Sales Director (Eastside) EO Media Group:

• Karrine Brogotti
541-963-3161 • kbrogotti@eomediagroup.com

Multimedia Consultants:

• Angel Aguilar
541-564-4531 • aaguilar@hermistonherald.com
• Melissa Barnes
541-966-0827 • mbarnes@eastoregonian.com
• Audra Workman
541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com

Business Office

• Dayle Stinson
541-966-0824 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com

Classified & Legal Advertising

Classified advertising: 541-564-4538
Legal advertising: 541-966-0824
classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legals@eastoregonian.com

NEWS

• To submit news tips and press releases: call 541-966-0818 or email news@eastoregonian.com
• To submit community events, calendar items, engagements, weddings and anniversaries: email community@eastoregonian.com, call 541-966-0818 or visit eastoregonian.com/community/announcements.
• To submit sports or outdoors information or tips, email sports@eastoregonian.com.

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Commercial Print Manager: Holly Rouska
541-617-7839 • hrouska@eomediagroup.com