

## Wallowa's Tanzey ties for fifth place

By RONALD BOND  
For the Wallowa County  
Chieftain

HILLSBORO — La Grande claimed an individual state championship in the 2A division of the Oregon State High School Clay Target League State Tournament Sunday, June 26, in Hillsboro.

Makenna Shorts hit 97 targets in 100 attempts in trap shooting, with two nearly flawless runs, to claim the female varsity state championship. Shorts connected on 49 out of 50 shots in the morning session, and followed with 48 out of 50 in the afternoon session.

Her score was not only the top varsity girls score, but was tied with Canby's Tyler Schweitzer for the top 2A varsity score, regardless of gender. In fact, for the entire two-day event (including the 1A teams on June 25) only Rainier's Tyler Borders, who shot a perfect 100, and Crook County's Clayton Dill, with 98, had a better score than Shorts.

Shorts wasn't the only winner for La Grande, as Marissa Lane posted a score of 82 to win the girls junior varsity division.

All told, La Grande had nine different shooters break into the top 10 in their respective divisions. In the varsity girls division, Dakota Shorts tied for fifth, Kendra Hensley placed ninth with a score

of 86, and Kendra Counsell tied for 10th with a score of 85. On the varsity boys side, Austin Higgins turned in a score of 93 to tie for seventh.

In the novice girls division, Keira Counsell placed fifth with a score of 63, and for the novice boys, Dalton Sweet placed fifth with a score of 72, and Hunter DeCoteau was seventh with a score of 68.

In the 1A ranks, Wallowa's Lane Tanzey tied for fifth place in the varsity boys division. Tanzey had a perfect score of 50 in the first session, and followed with 46 in the second session. In fact, Tanzey was perfect in his first three runs with 25 out of 25 targets in each before hitting 21 in the final run.

Tanzey was the only Wallowa shooter to reach the top 10, though Liam Wolfe also broke 90, posting a score of 91 in the varsity boys division to tie for 26th. Kellan Knifong added an 89 to tie for 34th, and Lucas Hulse and Cash Tanzey both had 87 to tie for 44th.

For Union, Gage Martens, like Lane Tanzey, had a perfect first session and, like Tanzey, had a score of 96 to tie for fifth in the varsity boys division. James Anderson was close on his heels with a score of 93 to tie for 13th in the varsity boys division, and Dawson Miller placed second in the novice boys with an 84.

## Northeast Oregon food processors, dairy, offer to pay for water testing

By ALEX BAUMHARDT  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

MORROW COUNTY — In response to the groundwater nitrate emergency in Morrow County, several food processors, an industrial farm and an Amazon data center have stepped up to pay for drinking water testing and water distribution for people who rely on wells drawing from a contaminated aquifer.

Amazon Web Services, Boardman Foods, Lamb Weston, Calbee North America, Tillamook County Creamery Association and Threemile Canyon Farms are creating a business coalition to help the Morrow County Health Department with its work addressing clean drinking water needs, according to a Monday press release from the Boardman Chamber of Commerce.

The move comes after Jim Doherty, Morrow County commissioner, launched an effort to step up testing and provide water to residents living atop the polluted aquifer.

He has been seeking money from state and federal authorities to address the emergency.

Nearly all of the businesses in the newly-announced coalition operate from the industrial complex managed by the Port of Morrow.

The government agency was recently found to have pumped 260 tons of excess nitrogen onto area farms, violating state restrictions. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality fined the port \$1.3 million in January, then last week increased the fine by \$800,000 after concluding that the port continued to pump illegal amounts of nitrogen onto area farms even after the January enforcement action was taken.

That excess nitrogen is "likely to cause additional adverse impacts" to the groundwater nitrate levels, according to the revised penalty from DEQ.

Port officials were contesting the original penalty. Morrow County well

users draw on water from the Lower Umatilla Basin, which has become increasingly contaminated by nitrate during the last 30 years from farm fertilizers, animal manure and wastewater from the port and area food processors. There are about 1,300 private domestic wells drawing water from that basin in Morrow County. Many who rely on those wells for their drinking water are low income and Latino.

Water high in nitrates consumed over long periods can lead to stomach, bladder and intestinal cancers, according to the National Cancer Institute, as well as miscarriages and "blue baby syndrome," inhibiting oxygen from moving through an infant's bloodstream.

An investigation earlier this year by the Capital Chronicle found the port's contamination had persisted far longer than three years, and with little enforcement from DEQ until recently.

Many of the companies that have stepped up to help

with water testing and with clean water distribution are also sources of nitrate contamination in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Area. The Groundwater Management Area Committee responsible for tackling the nitrate problem estimates that about 70% of the contamination is from farms, about 20% from dairy and cattle operations and about 5% is from food processors and the port.

One of the partners in the new collaboration is Threemile Canyon Farms, a large dairy that supplies the Tillamook County Creamery Association. The dairy, located in Boardman, operates outside the port complex.

Boardman Foods started giving away water test kits starting next Monday, June 27 at its onion processing plant at the Port of Morrow. The giveaway will continue each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The company will accept water samples to send off for testing.

The Boardman chamber provides testing at its offices.

## Eastern Oregon colleges aim to close equity gaps

The Observer

LA GRANDE — A collaboration between three Eastern Oregon schools aims to close equity gaps for Eastern Oregon students at two- and four-year colleges and universities by 2030.

Gov. Kate Brown announced Monday, June 27, an investment of \$1.6 million for Eastern Oregon University, Treasure Valley Community College and Blue Mountain Community College to launch an initiative called "Moon Shot for Equity." The three schools will work together as part of a five-year, student-centered comprehensive strategic plan to identify and remove systemic barriers that are

preventing access and attainment to a post-secondary education degree.

"Every student in Oregon, no matter who they are or where they come from, deserves equitable access to higher education. We must invest and innovate to break down the barriers that have kept too many Oregonians from succeeding in higher education," Brown said in a press release announcing the initiative. "This initial investment is just the start of a program to deliver lasting and meaningful change this year and in years to come. Every person in Eastern Oregon — and throughout the state — should be able to attend college and earn a degree."

The initiative is part of Brown's work with public universities and community colleges to embrace innovation and focus on working smarter across education sectors to support students through every stage of education. The \$1.6 million will

be funded with federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund dollars, which are reserved for allocations by governors through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.

"This initial investment is a critical first step to launching this five-year initiative," Eastern Oregon University President Tom Insko said. "Together, I believe we can reshape the future of post-secondary education in eastern Oregon, which means eliminating the equity gap and making sure all students reach their attainment goals in less time and money and set the path to better career outcomes."

The Eastern Oregon University Board of Trustees convened via Zoom for a special meeting on June 27 to authorize Insko to enter into a contract with educational consulting firm EAB Global, Inc. Board authorization is required because

the contract exceeds \$1 million.

EAB Global launched the Moon Shot project in the fall of 2020 with a focus on removing systemic barriers to graduation among first-generation students as well as students of color.

"Our work with this new cohort of institutions in Eastern Oregon adds a new focus around bridging the rural versus urban divide that too often leaves students from more remote areas with reduced access to higher education and all of the opportunities that go along with that," EAB Vice President of Partnerships Tom Sugar said.

Blue Mountain Community College President Mark Browning said open and equitable access is what the Pendleton based institution strives for.

"We are excited about how Moonshot for Equity can help us reach those goals and deliver even greater success for students," he said.

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