

SLSD TEACHER AWARDED GRANT



One Cottage Grove educator has been awarded a mini-grant from Northwest Community Credit Union. The winners were selected from 273 submissions the credit union received as part of its annual Project Community program.

"Education is crucial for strong local communities. We're committed to helping teachers and students throughout Oregon," said Northwest Community Credit Union President and CEO John Iglesias. "Part of our mission at Northwest Community Credit Union is giving back and supporting the people that make up our local communities."

Peter Bowers from Latham Elementary School received a \$1,000 grant to purchase "Reading Counts!" licenses for a motivational reading program for all students in their school.

"These mini-grants are designed to help educators create meaningful learning experiences for kids that might not otherwise be funded by school budgets," said Northwest Community Credit Union Community Relations Coordinator Kim Clark. "We can't think of a better way to invest in Oregon than helping teachers with technology and resources that help their students."

This year's Project Community program recognized a total of 64 teachers at 54 schools throughout Oregon with over \$58,000 in grants. A full list of winners is on the blog at nwc.com.

This is the third year of the Project Community mini-grant program. To date 187 educators have been awarded over \$164,000 in funding. The next application period for grants will begin in Fall 2018.

Harrison construction continues

By Zach Silva
zsilva@cgsentinel.com

As workers are moving in and out of soon-to-be classrooms, the new Harrison Elementary begins to resemble the shape of a school. What was in recent memory a hole in the ground now has walls, windows and identifiable rooms that will serve the new school.

Funded by a \$36 million bond that passed in May of 2016, the new Harrison, located on Taylor St. just a few blocks from its predecessor on 10th St., won't be filled with students until next fall but at the moment is under the steady occupation of up to 85 workers getting it prepared.

Buoyed by an unusually dry stretch of weather in December, the crew was able to ramp up the pace of construction and work on the roof of the school. The roof, that exceeds energy code, has a foam that while being installed, cannot get wet.

"That two weeks of dry weather, they went gang busters. And they worked Saturdays. We all worked Saturdays. A lot of these guys, when the weather is good, are going to make hay when the sun shines and just go," said South Lane School District maintenance and facilities supervisor Matt Allen.

With the roof complete, it allows for other jobs, such as electricians, to be able to come in and get started on their part of the job. One area in particular that has come together are some of the "pods." The pods are classroom spaces that are attached to a shared open space. At each grade level, there is an open area of space that the grade will share and directly attached are the individual classrooms, or pods, that the teachers will have.

"Right now I think we're probably still a week behind but as soon as that dries in we'll be able to catch up again," said Allen who noted that those working on the site are not bothered by cold weather. "We wear warm gear and we go to work. Plus if you're working hard, you're warm. That's what my grandpa used to say: if you're cold you're not working hard enough."

As the building comes together, there is a growing excitement, and nervousness, that accompanies a multi-million dollar project.

"For so long I've looked at 2D paper drawings of this building but to be inside of the structure is awesome and overwhelming. Just wow, we're really doing it," said Harrison principal Heidi Brown earlier this year.

Former Harrison teacher and current school board member Jerry Settelmeier, has feelings of excitement and trepidation as the reality of the new school approaches.

"[The new Harrison is] going to be beautiful and people will be proud of the new building. Personally, I think it's too gaudy but I grew up in North Dakota. I grew up in a one room school house," said Settelmeier.

"I think that, that building, Harrison Elementary will be a wonderful showcase as long as it isn't a showcase. If it's an elementary school with a family personality, then it will be absolutely gorgeous to everyone that walks in the door."

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