

Harrison crew is made up of Cottage Grove natives

BY GARRETT BRIDGENS
SLSO Communications Coordinator

South Lane School District Project Manager Matt Allen estimates that around 250 workers are involved in the construction of the new Harrison Elementary School. Many of those workers live in the area and some live right here in Cottage Grove. Allen who grew up in Cottage Grove, graduated from Cottage Grove High School, and still lives in Cottage Grove, has seen the positive impact of having so many locals working on this project.

"You see them go the extra mile. You just see it. Everywhere you go you see it and they're happy. It's not just showing up to go to work...and now you are starting to see the fruit's of their labor in the finished product," said Allen.

The foreman for OEG, the main electrical contractor, Jason Berry who also grew up in Cottage Grove, graduated from CGHS and still lives Cottage Grove, says that it's a bit strange building a new school on the place where he went to high school.

"It's weird, I remember standing up there (Currin Field) and going to football games, and my kids went to the old high school, all my aunts and uncles, my mom went to the old high school," said Berry.

But Berry also feels a greater sense of pride about working on this job in his hometown.

"Absolutely (I do), I might even have grandkids who go to this very elementary school someday and it makes me want to do a better job and to make sure it's safe and looks good. Yeah, there's definitely a lot of pride working on a local project like this," said Berry.

Cottage Grove resident, Michael Cordin, who also works for OEG, says that he has enjoyed working on a local job.

"It's great. I wish we had more projects like this down here, and it's really special because it's a school, and helping out the community," said Cordin.

Cordin grew up in Cottage Grove, and lives here with his wife and three kids, and says that it's been great to work on a job that will impact the community he lives in and he hopes they will see all the hard work that has gone into building it.

"Well I hope they see all the new technology that we have put inside here, smart boards, nice new gyms...yeah, I just hope they see how nice of a project this is when we are done. Every job has it's own special unique things to it, but this one, my family all went to school here, my wife went to school here. It's real nostalgic, coming up here and building it," said Cordin.

One of the special aspects of this project and the new school is that it is bringing the community together. It is clear the work being done on the school has come with local people putting in extra effort to make sure it's done right.

"It's a cool feeling to know that it is more than them just showing up to do the work. That they are actually there because it's something that is going to benefit the whole community," said Allen.

From the early design phase, to being on site everyday during construction, Allen has been involved in the entire process for building the school. His days typically start in the pre-dawn hours and end long after most of us are home. When you hear him talk about the school, you can hear the pride and excitement he has to finish the school and open it next fall.

"What I look forward to the most is the first group of kids that gets to go through that school. When those kids go in and see it for the first time or go running through that gym, or their reaction when they go into the library, or sitting and eating in the cafeteria, a

cafeteria that doesn't have to be torn down as soon as they are done eating so they can have PE, I can't wait for that."



South Lane School District Project Manager Matt Allen (left) jokes around at the end of the work day with Michael Cordin, a Cottage Grove resident and electrician for the new Harrison Elementary School.

March Students of the Month

YONCALLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



ALIYAH JOHNSON

Aliyah is a 1st Grader in Mrs. Johnson's class at Yoncalla Elementary. Her family includes Mom and Dad, Rocksi and Dustin Johnson, and her brother Levi. At home Aliyah likes to play board games, pick flowers and watch TV. She was nominated by her teacher for her "outstanding" math reasoning skills. She excels in doing four step problem solving. She really listens and thinks hard about each problem. She also displays great citizenship. She is always polite and has a great smile and positive attitude. Her future goals are to become a dog trainer, because her dog minds her very well at home.

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NORTH DOUGLAS MIDDLE SCHOOL

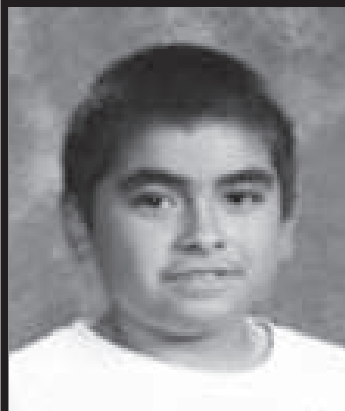


LILIAN CHRISTENSEN

Lilian Christensen is an 8th grade student at North Douglas Middle School. Lilian is very respectful, responsible with her class time, contributes creative ideas, and is an engaged learner.

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NORTH DOUGLAS ELEMENTARY



MIGUEL ALCANTAR

Miguel Alcantar is a 4th grade student at North Douglas Elementary School. Miguel is well organized, very responsible, always turns in his work, puts out excellent effort, and achieves fantastic grades.



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531 South Cedar St.
Drain, OR 97435

LATHAM ELEMENTARY



ABBIGALE HEMENWAY

As a 5th grader at Latham, Abbigale Hemenway is a hard worker who has a positive attitude. She is helpful to her classmates and her teacher by making good choices. Abbi has a fun sense of humor. We are proud to have Abbi represent Latham as our Student of the Month.



541-746-1583
epud.org

BOHEMIA ELEMENTARY



VINCENT GAQUIT

He is a 5th grade student in Mrs. Olsen's class. He is an all around amazing student and kid! He's always willing to help a peer or staff member, works extremely hard on everything he does and always has a smile. He is a leader in the classroom and the school and a great role model for his peers and younger kids. Vincent constantly shows GRIT and will take on any task in class putting forth his best effort. His positive attitude and kind actions are contagious!

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YONCALLA MIDDLE SCHOOL



BOBBY HORNE

Robert is a friendly young man who likes school. He works hard and has been doing extra work lately to improve his grades. His favorite classes are shop and band. He likes that in shop he can be creative and in band he can play music and he enjoys playing music. His Hobbies are: Riding his bike, sports (baseball, football and track). His future goals are: go to college and be a forensics specialist and also learn how to be a mechanic.

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COTTAGE GROVE HIGH SCHOOL



MIRANDA MCCASLINE

This month Cottage Grove High School nominates Miranda McCasline. Sarah Cunningham states that Miranda is dedicated to understanding the material, completes all her work and helps others. Sarah appreciates Miranda's participation in class discussion where she always has an answer and is willing to contribute. Congratulations Miranda!



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233 Harrison Ave • 541-942-4439
southlanefire.org

NORTH DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL



ADRIANNA BARRONE

Adrianna is an honor roll student, enrolled in college classes, involved in FBLA, and is the National Honor Society president. She also is a volunteer fire fighter for the North Douglas County Fire Department. Adrianna plans to attend UCC next year to finish her associate's degree and become a forensic psychologist.



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YONCALLA HIGH SCHOOL



ELIJAH ALLEN

Consistently has a great attitude in and out of class Works hard and puts his best effort into everything he does. Embodies our core values. Great example and model of school behavior Someone you can trust to do the right thing at the right time. Hobbies: Sports, Weight lifting, Video games Future Plans: Go to college and get a master's degree in athletic training.

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