



Dean Guernsey/Bulletin photos

ABOVE: Second graders drop paper helicopters they designed over a target on the ground Tuesday at Summer Blast, a STEM-themed camp at Barnes Butte Elementary School in Prineville. **LEFT:** Third grader Zeke Oelkers, right, participates with classmates in daily Squad Games designed to build sportsmanship and have fun.



School

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She hired 25 high school students to be “squad leaders” and assist classes, along with more than 60 teachers and instructional assistants from around the school district.

“When you have students saying that they don’t want this to end, they wish they could

live like this, that’s pretty awesome,” Zistel said. “In education, I really believe that when you can capture their excitement about what they’re learning and it’s purposeful ... then you connect the dots with the children.”

Jennifer Hancock, the curriculum coordinator for Summer Blast, said the program is based off acknowledging stu-

dents virtues and creativity by leaving directions open ended.

“So here’s the constraints that you’re going to work under, here’s your equipment and here’s the criteria of what we’d like you to create,” she said. “So it’s very purposeful to build in the reading and the art and the science and the mathematics that go with creating something with engineering and design.”

Ruby Snider, a Crook County freshman who was hired to work at the program, said elementary school students often tell her the program is the best kind of school.

“They say that they love us, they love it, and that they don’t want to go back to regular school because they love summer school so much,” Snider said.

Zistel argues that the school district does not need to stop giving kids an opportunity to learn like this, and that it could help improve student proficiency in math, writing and reading, which is where elementary students have struggled the most.

The school district said Summer Blast was geared toward helping students catch up in reading, writing and math, especially after the learning lost during the pandemic.

During a July school board meeting, the district reported that only 51% of students in K-8 are proficient in reading. Although there has been small improvements over the years,

math and writing also still remain a struggle with 63% proficient in math and 53% proficient in writing.

Scott Cooper, the chairman of the school board, said during the July meeting that he was disturbed by the reading percentage.

“While that is actually probably continuing to trend upward a little bit, I don’t want to be board chair of a district that can only get half of its kids across the line at the end of the year,” he said.

The school district said there will continue to be a strong emphasis on improving reading, writing and math in the upcoming school year.

Crook County Superintendent Sara Johnson said the impact the pandemic had on learning and classroom structure resulted in schools not being able to make the same progress as in a normal year.

“For some kids, it was great and they excelled,” Johnson told *The Bulletin*. “But there’s a group of kids who school doesn’t necessarily come nat-

urally to them, and so those students always suffer the most when you have irregular years.”

Melissa Dunagan was picking up her kindergartener and first grader from Summer Blast on Wednesday afternoon, on the second to last day of the program.

She said her children, who attend Crooked River Elementary School, were behind before starting the summer program. Now, they have not only caught up, but they learned to have fun while reading and learning, she said.

Dunagan said the experience has given her more hope for the upcoming school year.

“They rave about the science and the math and what they get to do,” Dunagan said. “They both want to read. They’re definitely more enthusiastic about learning, whereas when everything was distance learning, nobody wanted to do anything. I think this was a great opportunity for everyone.”

■ Reporter: 541-617-7854, nbales@bendbulletin.com

Fraud

Continued from A1

McClellan was first licensed with the state Construction Contractors Board in 1999. After his license was revoked in 2014, McClellan Brothers Construction continued operating under his brother’s license.

Glen McClellan’s contractor certification is no longer active, though he has not been charged with a crime.

Prosecutor Marc Miller, who took over the case this year, outlined the state’s accusations against John McClellan. But before he did, Miller acknowledged victim concerns with the state’s handling of the case.

“I think they are understandably a little bit shocked, dissatisfied and unhappy with this work that was done,” Miller said. “I accept that. Nevertheless, that work was done.”

According to Miller, McClellan would often ask clients for draws of thousands of dollars once they were under contract. He transferred money around various accounts and spun stories to his business partners to explain missing funds. When he would fail to pay subcontractors, they would respond by attaching liens on the homes of his clients.

In one instance, McClellan submitted a \$7,750 draw request from client Haydon Conroy to purchase and install cabinets for Conroy’s new home. But McClellan didn’t order the cabinets, nor did he transmit the funds to his vendor for the order, Miller told the court.

The cabinet vendor, Level Best Cabinets, and several others placed liens on the home and, ultimately, Conroy and his wife lost their “dream home” to foreclosure before it was completed.

Tommy and Alverta King also lost their entire nest egg to McClellan, who they said is adept at spinning stories and playing the victim.

“Really, he’s the ultimate conman,” Tommy King told the court. “I’ve never had a more dishonest or dishonestable man in my home.”

Though the Kings were frustrated with a lack of buy-in from authorities, they said they were motivated to stick with the case because of Faye Every and Smith, two elderly women whose finances were ravaged as a result of trusting McClellan.

Around 2014, Smith was suffering from terminal cancer. McClellan had promised that her home would be done by the time she completed chemotherapy, King told the court. But when the time came, Smith’s house was nowhere near finished and McClellan was unreachable to Smith.

“That’s the lowest thing I’ve honestly ever heard of,” Tommy King said.

Most of the victims addressed Ashby without notes, totally familiar with the facts of the case. Every’s son read a

letter she wrote as she sat beside him and wept.

In summer 2012, Every’s husband had recently died, so she bought property in Redmond so she could live closer to family. John McClellan convinced her he was the one who should build her new home, she wrote to the court.

“Since that time, my life has been a horrible nightmare,” she said. “I wouldn’t be here today if I had listened to my family, who begged me to fire him. But I was a trusting soul, and afraid too.”

McClellan incorporated used materials into Every’s home, which was supposed to be all-new construction. He forged documents, performed shoddy work and allowed “one delay after another,” until workers ultimately walked off the job, Every wrote.

Finally, in late 2014, a different contractor completed the home. Shortly after, Every’s neighbor, Janelle Smith, asked if she would like to attend a meeting Smith was organizing with McClellan’s victims.

“The heartache and stress from dealing with this has caused a large rapid decline in health,” she wrote. “Now and

then there are times when I wish my lord would take me to my heavenly home.”

At this, Every’s adult son glared at McClellan and remarked, “Makes you feel good, don’t it?”

McClellan’s eyes stayed staring forward.

McClellan was joined in court by several members of his family. Upon conclusion of the hearing, he removed his sport coat and was led away by a deputy to begin serving his jail term.

“I had agreed to build those homes,” he said in a

brief statement to the court. “I tried to offset some of the cost by doing the work myself. I ended up failing. For that, I’ll always be regretful and sorry.”

A factor in McClellan’s sentence was his lack of a prior criminal record. Several victims expressed frustration with Oregon’s sentencing guidelines, which were devised to ensure uniformity in sentencing, but which in this case led to an unequal outcome, they said.



McClellan

In addition to jail, McClellan was ordered to serve three years probation. A condition of his probation will be paying restitution to his victims, which Ashby said he would hold McClellan to.

Ashby thanked the group for recognizing Smith’s contributions to the case and “dignifying her memory.”

“The bottom line is you did not treat people right,” Ashby told the defendant.

■ Reporter: 541-383-0325, gandrews@bendbulletin.com

OBITUARY



FLOYD DOMINICK JR.

April 03, 1941 - August 18, 2020

Floyd Dominick Jr. graduated from North Marion HS in 1958, studied engineering at OSU, married Judy Elgin, and settled in Quartz Hill, California. They have 2 children. He was a contracted flight test engineer for the US Army in the aero-space programs.

After retirement, he relocated to Bates Butte outside of Bend, Oregon and married Jane Traglio, of Chico California. He contributed to the local paper the Bend Bulletin, followed politics and developed the property.

Floyd passed peacefully, at his mountain top home, on August 18, 2020. He is preceded in death by his parents Floyd and Mary Dominick of Hubbard Oregon and his sister Marilyn Wells.

Floyd is survived by his children Michael Dominick of Texas (Landine) and Molly Patrick of Pittsburgh PA and 4 grandchildren. Randy Dominick, Rose Dominick, Amanda Patrick, Russell Patrick as well as his brother Richard Dominick (Julia) and his sister Patricia Johnson.

A memorial will be held on July 31st, 2021 at his home 12-3 pm.

A donation to the Humane Society of Central Oregon or Judicial Watch in lieu of flowers, please.

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