

Farm to School funding hangs in the balance

Program: Kids eat, learn about local food

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden program, which gives local students an inside look at the area agricultural industry and brings local produce to school cafeterias, is competing with other spending bills in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

Rep. Brian Clem championed House Bill 2038 to save the Farm to School program after it was removed from Gov. Kate Brown's proposed 2017-19 draft budget.

Clem is also moving to expand grant funding for the program from the current \$4.5 million to \$5.6 million for the coming two-year budget cycle.

There are 144 schools districts receiving Farm to School funds, which bring Oregon produce, meat, fish and dairy products to students.

Students who eat breakfast and lunch at Grant School District No. 3 schools — Grant Union Junior-Senior High School in John Day, Humbolt Elementary in Canyon City and Seneca School — have been served local food through the program.

Head cook Natalie Weaver said the funding she receives through the Farm to School grant is determined by the number of students and how



Contributed photo

Students participating in Humbolt Elementary's Farm to School Academy enjoyed a field trip last fall to Thomas Orchards in Kimberly.

many of them receive reduced-price or free meals.

"You can order anything local, Oregon products or products that are processed here," she said.

Some purchases she's made for the school have included fruit from Kimberly and lettuce from Bend.

The grant funding also pays for the cut and wrap fees for beef that is donated to the school district.

"It is beneficial," she said. "We're on a budget crunch, so the extra funding helps."

Some favorites for the stu-

dents are the pears and apples grown in Kimberly.

"The kids absolutely love it," she said. "They devour it faster than I can put it out there."

Another part of the program involves teaching Oregon kids how food gets from the farm and ranch to the table.

The Farm to School Academy, coordinated by Elise Delgado of the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, receives funding through a Farm to School competitive grant.

Each month, Delgado and volunteers teach 20-30 Humbolt Elementary School fifth- and sixth-graders hands-on lessons, including field trips, about where their food comes from and the work involved to produce it.

The group will travel to Seneca April 21 to plant four varieties of apple trees with lessons from Julia Justice whose family owns Better Blooms and Gardens in Prairie City.

The students visited Thomas Orchards in Kimberly last fall to see how Jeff

Thomas and his family operate their business. Sixth-grader Destiny Pelayo said she enjoyed the field trip.

"My favorite part has been being with friends and learning so many things with them in a fun way," she said.

In an interview last week, Delgado said the students learn how food is produced on the field trips. Their last trip was a visit in February to Stiner Ranch in Mt. Vernon.

"It gives context to the information that is actually applicable to student's lives," she said. "They can see how

that applies to their world, and they're not just memorizing (from a textbook). It gives them the opportunity to get out to the land and see all that goes into it, not just the land and how it's being worked and managed but the culture and energy that has to go into operations in Grant County."

She said natural resources are a foundation of local communities.

"Here, not only do we eat the food, but we drive by the fields where food is being produced, and our friends come from natural resource families, and it needs to be understood by our students," she said. "The Farm to School funding is allowing us to do that in this community."

Jeff Thomas traveled to Salem in February for a hearing on Farm to School funding.

Megan Kemple of Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network said in a press release Thomas testified at the hearing that selling to schools has helped his family orchard stay afloat, and how he values these programs both for the sales and the educational components.

"He emphasized that buying locally helps keep money circulating in Oregon communities, and said that investing in farm to school and school gardens is 'one of the best ways you can spend your dollar,'" she said.

Capital Bureau reporter Mateusz Perkowski contributed to this report.

The Road to Resurrection

Local churches host Spring Roundup

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Local churches brought the story of Jesus' resurrection to life Saturday.

Fourteen churches hosted the Spring Roundup last week, featuring three nights of religious concerts and worship as well as the Road to Resurrection, where attendees walked in the footsteps of Jesus through the last week of his life presented by local volunteers clad in period attire.

About 200 people attended the evening musical performances, said John Day Church of the Nazarene Pastor and one of the event's organizers Bob Douglas. About as many experienced the story of Jesus' triumphant entry and the Passover meal to prison, the cross and the Resurrection.

Torie Coalwell, 16, Heather Mosley, 18, and Carle Wright, 16, presented the Passover meal to the groups of attendees as they made their way through decorated path inside Trowbridge Pavillion at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

"It's cool for the people to be able to experience this," Wright said.

Mosley said she hoped people would better understand the meaning of the events after experiencing them.

Coalwell said the Spring Roundup was great for the community by bringing different churches together.

After making their own cross necklaces at the end of the Road to Resurrection, attendees said it was a great experience.

John Day resident Alma Joslin said it was a "blessing."

Crish Hamilton of Mt. Vernon said it was a great way to get to know the story.

"I loved to see the youth involvement," she said. "They took it so seriously and did well."

Francis Kocis, an elder at Redeemer Lutheran Church in John Day, said the event was well attended from the local musicians kicking off the event Thursday through Saturday's finale. He said it was great to see so many come together.

"There's been a lot of support," he said.



Heather Mosley, left, and Carle Wright present the Passover meal to attendees of the Road to Resurrection Saturday during the Spring Roundup at the Grant County Fairgrounds, hosted by 14 local churches.

Eagle photos
Sean Hart



Spring Roundup attendees enjoy a meal after being led on a walk through the story of the Resurrection Saturday as part of the Spring Roundup organized by local churches.



Torie Coalwell, left, passes out a course of the Passover meal to Road to Resurrection attendees at the Spring Roundup Saturday in John Day.

ACADEMIC REPORT

Prairie City third-quarter honor roll

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Caleb Madsen and Lindsay Wall.

Honor roll (3.5-3.99): Brogan McKrola, Sarah Ennis and Devin Packard.

Honorable mention (3.0-3.49): Taci Perrenoud, Wyatt Williams, MaKenzie Jones, and Nathan Maloy.

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Dorrان Wilson and Brianna Zwegardt.

Honor roll (3.5-4.0): Josiah Hoeffner, Megan Camarena, Mariah McClung and Cassie Hire.

Honorable mention (3.0-3.49): Danner Davis and Aitor Ansotegui.

Sophomores

Honor roll (3.5-3.99): Haley Pfeifferkorn.

Honorable mention (3.0-3.49): Joseph Zellner, Raven Maloy, Lane Williams, Gabriela Arias, Levi Burke,

Adolfo Ceja, Deja Amsden and Jonathan Lawrence.

Freshman

4.0 GPA: Shaelynn Bice.

Honor roll (3.5-3.99): JoLynne Ashley, Jessica Reames and Johna Long.

Honorable mention (3.0-3.49): Aleah Johns.

Eighth grade

4.0 GPA: Aries Bice and Declan Zwegardt.

Honor roll (3.5-3.99): Caitlin Willet, Katie Hire and Samantha Workman.

Honorable mention (3.0-3.49): Jayden Winegar, Camry Milesi and Kevin Duvall.

Seventh grade

Honor roll (3.5-3.99): Marcus Judd, Riley Reames and Dylan Clark.

Honorable mention (3.0-3.49): Austin McKrola and Seth Moore.



Help is available for victims of sexual assault in Grant County.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual assault, please call:

Heart of Grant County
541-620-1342

Grant County Victim Assistance Program
541-575-4026

Remember: sex without consent = sexual assault

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