

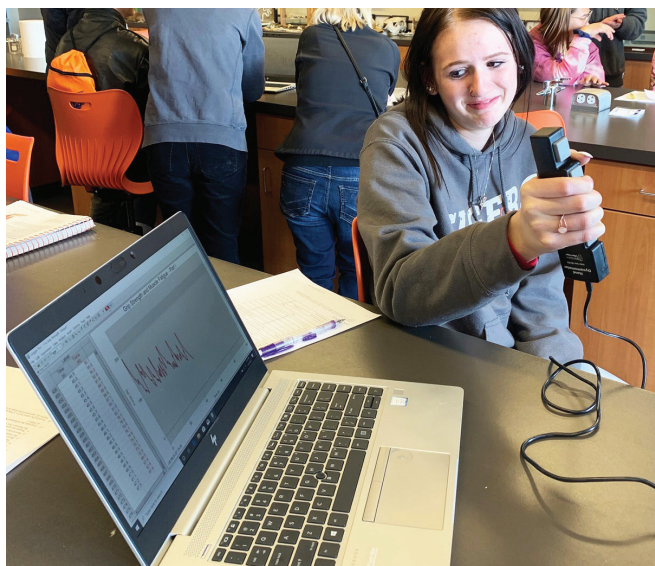
Students explore careers in science, law enforcement and IT

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Twenty-six students from each district in Grant County toured two college campuses and attended a career fair March 2 in a first-time collaboration between the Oregon State University Extension Office and the Youth Transition Program.

The transition program, a mainstay in the Grant School District for several years, gives students opportunities to explore job interests, gain workplace skills and build interpersonal relationships and customer service skills.

Tami Sasser, the YTP specialist, heads up Grant Union, and Christi Dehaven is the specialist for the ser-



Contributed photo
A student takes a stress test at a career fair in Meridian, Idaho, March 2.

vice district in Prairie City, Monument, Dayville and Long Creek.

Dehaven said the trip could not have worked out better, and the stu-



Contributed photo
Students were introduced a wide array of occupations at career fair in Meridian, Idaho.

dents showed a genuine interest. Didgette McCracken, the

Open Campus Coordinator at OSU, who helps people earn online degrees through

the Open Campus and adults earn high school diplomas, said the students were visualizing themselves in an academic setting and out of Grant County.

McCracken said it is hard for students to leave Grant County.

"It is overwhelming for many of them," said McCracken.

DeHaven said Sasser was instrumental in making the trip happen, as was Michele Engle, Monument teacher, Mark McKay, chaparrone, Jeff Schafer, bus driver and chaperone, and Robert Waltenburg, superintendent of the Grant County Education Service District.

"I hope we can make this an annual event," said McCracken.

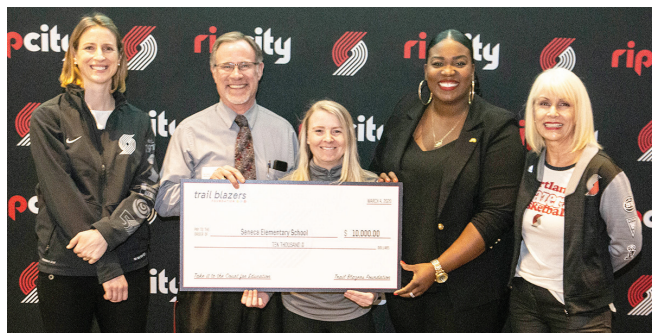
Seneca school awarded grant money to help fund a new sign

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant School district officials traveled to Portland March 3 to pick up a \$10,000 check before a Blazers game at the Moda Center to help pay for a new sign at Seneca Elementary School.

The Portland Trail Blazers Foundation awards \$150,000 in grant money each year to schools across Oregon and Clark County in Washington. Schools can apply for up to \$10,000 in funding for in support of their academic, art, athletic and community programs.

Grant School District Superintendent Brett Upt-



Contributed photo/Bruce Ely
Grant School District Superintendent Bret Uptmor and Seneca School Head Teacher Dana McLean receive a \$10,000 check from the the Portland Trailblazers Foundation's 'Take it to the Court for Education' program. The money will go toward a new sign for Seneca Elementary.

mor said they applied for the grant in late December and received a call on Feb. 17 that Seneca Elementary was among 25 2019-2020 finalists.

"In our application, we highlighted the importance the rural school has in a community and the ability

to communicate with the residents," Uptmor said.

Uptmor said the school sign is one way people stay informed.

"Giving the community access to the area events and information is essential and needed," Uptmor said.

Uptmor said the funding

could not have come at a better time.

"The previous sign had lived its life and had to be removed," Uptmor said.

Uptmor said that Seneca Elementary is the town's central location for information and activities.

"Driving past it on Highway 395, you will notice the school immediately," Uptmor said. "The sign is the means to communicate with the community."

Uptmor said that he and his staff, when filling out the grant application, emphasized the significance of schools in rural areas when it comes to communicating with people.

"The school sign is one way people stay informed," Uptmor said. "Giving the community access to the area events and information is important and needed."

Apply for conditionally available forage

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Burns District of the Bureau of Land Management announced the opportunity to apply for livestock grazing preference on conditionally available forage on public lands in the Bridge Creek area of Steens Mountain. The forage is considered conditionally available because there is a pending appeal before the Department of the Interior for grazing in the Bridge Creek area allotments. Grazing, which was one of the earliest uses of public lands when the West was settled, continues to be an important use of those same lands today.

The Bridge Creek area is

divided into four allotments, each with multiple pastures. Applicants may apply for all or part of the available forage in these areas:

Hammond Allotment (11,009 BLM-managed acres, 2,077 privately owned acres and 635 other federally managed acres for a total of 13,721 acres across 12 pastures);

Mud Creek Allotment (8,245 BLM-managed acres within two pastures);

Hardie Summer Allotment (6,008 BLM-managed acres and 3,775 privately owned acres for a total of 9,783 acres across 4 pastures); and,

Hammond Fenced Federal Range (FFR) (1,158 BLM-managed acres, 6,145 privately owned acres, and 13 state-owned acres across 4 pastures).

Any U.S. citizen or validly licensed business in Oregon can apply for grazing privileges. Applicants must own or control "base property" (private land capable of serving as a base operation for livestock use) and have a satisfactory record of performance. If you've never had a grazing permit or lease, you must not be barred from holding one by a court of law. See 43 CFR 4110.1 (2005).

If the appeal continues,

the BLM will suspend processing competing applications until resolution of the appeal. If the appeal is resolved in a way that allows for processing multiple applications, the BLM will consider the competing application factors in 43 CFR 4130.1-2 (2005).

Following any BLM decision to award preference, the BLM expects to prepare an Allotment Management Plan for the Bridge Creek area supported by an analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act. This will include analysis of issuing a 10-year livestock grazing permit(s), increasing active AUMs within the Hammond Allotment, construction and maintenance of rangeland improvements, nonrenewable forage, adjusting allotment and pasture boundaries, and livestock management measures that will be consistent with meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health.

Applications are due by April 14, 2020, to the BLM's Burns District Office at 28910 Highway 20 W, Hines, OR 97738.


For more specific information, an application package, maps, and other details, visit <http://ow.ly/5FGp50yR63a> or call 541-573-4400.

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We would like to recognize our great team of professionals. Thank you for your compassion, dedication, and quality of care you provide our patients.


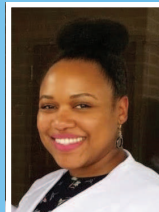
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