Grant Union's automotive shop comes to fruition

Growth provides more opportunities to learn and work on vehicles

> By Rudy Diaz Blue Mountain Eagle

Automotive students Grant Union now have a shop where they can do more than ever before.

Grant Union teacher Jason Miller said the shop provides numerous benefits for students such as more space for more projects to pursue at the same

Prior to the new shop, the automotive class shared the indoor space with the metal shop class.

This benefits us by being able to pull cars in and work on vehicles and projects at anytime," Miller said. "When we shared a shop, we had to coordinate when I can have something in there with the metal shop teacher."

The extra space now allows the class to work on multiple cars at the same time or carry out longer projects that could take weeks to complete.

"I have space to work on small engines with the automotive one classes, the beginners, and still have automobiles in the shop to work on throughout the day," Miller said.

Senior Devon Stokes said he likes the move to the new building because it allows the automotive program to work on more projects and different



From left, Grant Union sophomore Wyatt Nolan, senior Noah Blood and senior Michael Dilley work on an engine at the new automotive shop.



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz Senior Devon Stokes points at the engine of the 1973 Ford F-250 he is working on and the fuel injection kit being in-

vehicles at a quicker rate.

"Being able to learn from different things from different vehicles and how to take them apart have been a benefit," Stokes said. "This class has been important for me personally because I learned a lot about my vehicle and other people's vehicles so I can feel comfortable when somebody asks me for something simple that I can help out with.'

Senior Logan McCluskey said this is his first year in the class, but it's nice to work on different vehicles and do more types of projects than when the program was in a shared space.

Stokes and McCluskey are helping refurbish a 1973 Ford F-250 owned by their friend Quinten Hallgarth.

"Quentin's deal is kind of a special deal," Miller said about the truck Stokes is working on. "It's something that he and I have been planning for a long time. It's a good opportunity for a lot of kids to see that come together and then for him to take a vehicle that's been in his family for years and refurbish it."

Miller said students can now set up appointments, so maintenance, such as changing oil or changing the transfer case, can be completed on their vehicles.

"It's good for kids to know about their own vehicles," Miller said. "I hope at some point in the near future we can start offering maintenance for teachers at first, and then once we get good at that, we can open it up for a car a day to get oil changed and give these kids experience with different

Sophomore Wyatt Nolan said the shop has been nice for students so they could save money by fixing some of the vehicle problems while learning how to do it.

Being able to fix our own vehicles and learning how to do it and having the tools available to us that we don't have at home have been some of the benefits." said Senior Noah

The funds for the new shop came from High School Success — funds from Measure 98.

GRANT UNION STUDENTS OFTHE MONTH



Seventh grade **Aaliyah Judd Parents: Jesse and Marci**



Eighth grade Cash Madden **Parents: Jesse and Michal** Madden



Ninth grade Lavina Kiser Parents: Pat and Jeanna



10th grade **Andrew Hunt Parents: Robert and Shana**



11th grade **Cooper Peterson Parents: Bob and Jennifer** Peterson



12th grade **Abby Lusco Parents: Andy and Angie**

CORRECTION

The Eagle misidentified Blue Mountain Hospital District board secretary Linda Ladd as board member Dotty Parsons in a photo caption regarding the hospital district's move to part ways with Health TechS3 in the Feb. 10 edition.

The Eagle regrets the error.

Homer Harrison

June 10, 1941 ~ February 8, 2021 Homer Harrison, 79, of Mt. Vernon, died Monday, February 8, 2021 at his home. A private family gathering will be held at a later date.

Homer L. Harrison was born on June 10, 1941 in Decatur, Iowa. The family moved to Columbia County in

1945 and Homer attended elementary school in Yankton, Oregon. Homer graduated from St. Helens High School in 1960.

Following high school, Homer was drafted into the Army serving in Germany from 1963 to 1965. Homer met and married Jeannette Huckins on June 22, 1968 in Drain, Oregon. They made their first home in Delena and had two sons, Bill and Scott. They later purchased a ranch and moved their family to Mt. Vernon in 1979.

Homer loved working with wood and building things. He was a 4-H leader and loved being involved with his boys activities. He was the hog barn and also the fruits and vegetable superintendent for several years. Homer was also a member of Mount Vernon Rural Fire Protection District and served as fire chief for a few years.

His favorite color was green, favorite season: Spring, favorite team: the Blazers. Homer enjoyed home grown foods and his good health. A few catch phrases "Huh!" or "he went to Drain and got caught in the trap." Homer would not answer a question with "yes" or "no," it was always

Memorable times in his life included the birth of his sons and his and Jeannette's 50th wedding anniversary. He was proud to have fulfilled his dream as a young boy of having a ranch of his own and raising cattle. He had a personality that never knew a stranger, they were all friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, a sister and 3 brothers-in-law. Homer is survived by his wife Jeannette; sons Bill Harrison and Scott Harrison; special niece, Patti McAndrew; special nephew. Melvin Vanderford: Sisters Iona (Don) Dworschak of St. Helens, OR, Lola Nichols of Portland area, Janice (Wm) Grady of Bend, OR, Sharon Chambers of Beaverton, OR; many nieces and nephews.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Homer, the family suggests the John Day Farmer's Market through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, PO Box 543 Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Paid for by the family of Homer Harrison

OBITUARIES Allan R. Olson

Sept. 7, 1935 – Feb. 3, 2021

Allan Robert Olson, age 85, passed away Feb. 3, 2021, at his residence in John Day, Oregon. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m. at the Grant County Regional Airport.

Allan was born Sept. 7, 1935, in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Sidney and Beulah (Beeson) Olson. He attended Boise High School and Northwest Nazarene College and graduated with a master's degree from the University of Idaho. He served



Thomas James Bronson Sr.

July 20, 1936 — Feb. 1, 2021

Thomas James Bronson Sr. was born on July 20, 1936, in Ontario, Oregon, to Otto and Loise (Domby) Bronson. He passed away in Boise, Idaho, due to heart complications on Feb.

Tom grew up on the family ranch, northeast of Ironside, Oregon, He and his little sister, Lavelle, attended grade school in Malhuer City and Grouse Creek. He graduated high school in Ontario, Oregon, in 1955.

In 1958, he joined the Air National Guard, as a fuel supply specialist. He was honorably discharged in 1964.

Tom met the love of his life, Lois Affeld, in Ironside at a neighbor's ranch

where she was babysitting, when he went to gather up some stray cows. The two were wed on May 20, 1959, in John Day, Oregon. Tom and Lois spent the rest of their lives on the Ironside fam-

ily ranch raising their four children, along with hay and cows. Tom was a hard worker who loved to ranch. He was an excel-

lent equipment operator and a hay truck driver. He was very generous in helping others and loved to play practical jokes on friends and family. He enjoyed hunting elk and fishing, if you could get him off the ranch.

He was a member of the Burnt River School Board and a member of the Ironside Road District for many years.

Tom was preceded and death by his parents, sister and wife. Tom is survived by his children, TJ (Joann) Bronson of Ontario, Oregon, Eric (Rhonda) Bronson of Huntington, Oregon, Peter (Terri) Bronson of Prineville, Oregon, and April Bronson of Burns, Oregon; grandchildren, James Bronson, Kyle Bronson, Robert Bronson, Wade Bronson, Aaron Langley, Audryonna Langley, Adrian Langley, Kathrine (Lee) Butler, Jesse (Wendy) Bronson and Danielle Bronson; and great-grandchildren, Tanner Harp, Stark Langley and Beorn Butler.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Umatilla National Forest selects new deputy forest supervisor

EO Media Group

The Umatilla National Forest will soon have a new deputy forest supervisor.

Heidi McRoberts will step into the new role, according to a press release, effective March 14. McRoberts currently serves as a fish biologist on the Nez-Perce Clearwater National Forest.

"The Umatilla is fortunate to have such a highly qualified individual who is so familiar with our communities and landscape join the Forest in this leadership role," said Umatilla National Forest Supervisor Eric Watrud. "Her skills and background are an outstanding complement to the priority work the Forest has underway and the interests of the communities and partners that we serve."

McRoberts brings a variety of experience to the Umatilla National Forest, including a strong natural resources background and experience working with a variety of Tribal governments, County Commissioners, partners, public stakeholders and several National Forests.

Since 2019. McRoberts has worked as a fish biologist on the Forest Plan Revision team for the Nez-Perce Clearwater National Forest, helping to develop and write the plan. This position also requires her to coordinate with other federal agencies and a variety of external stakeholders to understand differing interests



Heidi McRoberts

the plan components to meet multiple needs.

Prior to this position, McRobspent erts

22 years working for the Nez Perce Tribe, including 10 years as deputy director for the Department of Fisheries Resource Management/ Watershed Division. During her time with the Nez Perce Tribe, McRoberts was responsible for leading a large and geographically dispersed department, managing a complex budget and working with a variety of federal agencies, including 13 national forests, tribes, state and local government and private interest groups. She said the position provided extensive experience in collaboration and partnership development, and a thorough understanding of forest

management. McRoberts has a master's degree in fisheries resources from the University of Idaho and is currently working toward a doctorate in natural resources and society from the University of Idaho.

"I look forward to serving as the Umatilla National Forest's deputy forest supervisor," McRoberts said. "I am eager to meet the forest staff and build relationships with the communities and our partners throughout the area in this new role.'

Tuesday

Mostly

cloudy

Monday

Partly

sunny

Last Week's Temps

S231403-1

John Day	HI/LO			
Tuesday	41/22			
Wednesday	45/20			
Thursday	37/20			
Friday	22/16			
Saturday	26/15			
Sunday	34/20			
Monday	45/33			

AUTOMATED: **541-575-1122** ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY 162.500 MHz

24/7 Forecast

Weather Forecast for the week of Feb. 17-23

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		3333333		40, 13, 14, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10
Chance of snow	Snow	Chance of rain/snow	Slight chance of snow	Chance of rain/snow
	4.4	4 -	4.0	4