



Contributed Photo

From left, Grant Union High School students Jupiter Stevens, Karly Van Loo and Benjamin Finley take a breather during the Future Business Leaders of America regional conference on Thursday, Feb. 4, 2022, at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande.

GU students advance in business competition

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

LA GRANDE — Five Grant Union students advanced to the state Future Business Leaders of America conference after taking top honors at the regional competition in La Grande on Thursday, Feb. 3.

The students will compete at the FBLA State Business Leadership Conference April 8-9 at Oregon Convention Center in Portland, according to Stacy Durych, Grant Union's computer technology education and business teacher.

About 200 students from 12 schools competed at the event, which was held at Eastern Oregon University.

Two students took home the first-place awards: Luke Jackson for business management and Heidi Jackson in business procedures. Madelyn Bailey finished second for impromptu speaking, and Morgan Walker and Alicie Archibald took third place for hospitality, event management and marketing.

Although only those who finished in the top third qualified for the state conference, Max Bailey and Katelyn Rigby earned an honorable mention in network design.

The competitive events at FBLA range from business-related presentations to objective tests, public speaking and problem-solving in a business management or technology scenario. Events are scored by a panel of judges.

FBLA is an organization for students in career and technical education that gives them the opportunity to take part in leadership activities, competitive events and learning programs.

The group has upwards of 190,000 members in 5,200 chapters across the country and abroad.

Durych, in her first year at the high school, said Grant Union has had an FBLA chapter for many years.

Thursday's event in La Grande had been the first in two years because of the pandemic.

Seventeen students attended the event, although not all of them competed. Some, Durych said, were there for the experience.

Not only did those students get to walk around the university campus and get a taste of college life, but they also learned about scholarships and financial aid that could help them get a post-secondary degree.

One of those students, Durych said, was her non-biological "heart daughter," Jupiter Stephens, who lives with Durych and her family. Stephens had not considered attending college before Thursday but became inspired after walking around the EOU campus.

"Her eyes just opened up," Durych said, "and she said, 'I want to go to college here.'"

Stephens' realization that a university degree is attainable illustrates how the FBLA conference can reach students.

"You're doing things you don't normally do every day," Durych said.

Students who participate in FBLA find their horizons being broadened as they interact with others, learn new skills and gain new life experiences, Durych said.

"Then," she said, "they begin to ask themselves: What is possible down the road?"

Grant super search moves ahead

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — Grant School Board members will interview four superintendent candidates on Thursday, Feb. 10, in a closed-door session with an eye to trimming the field to two finalists.

The board is pursuing a confidential search process to find a successor to Bret Uptmor, who will be retiring at the end of the school year in June.

Oregon law permits executive sessions — where the public is barred, and reporters are instructed not to report on the proceedings — in certain specific situations. In its meeting announcement, the school board cited ORS 192.660 (2)(a): "to consider the employment of an employee who works on



Uptmor

behalf of the district."

To select a new superintendent, the board must advertise to fill the open position, establish hiring procedures and allow public input, according to the Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual.

The board appears to have met those standards. During a meeting last Wednesday, Feb. 2, the board discussed the names of the candidates in executive session, but it made decisions around the interview process in open session.

Board members have agreed to keep the names of the top-tier candidates they

interview confidential.

On Tuesday, Feb. 15, a group of 23 people, selected by lottery to a confidential community stakeholder committee, will meet with the two finalists.

According to a document shared by the board's administrator, the committee is representative of each school in the district and includes parents, teachers, students, classified employees and one community member.

The community member is a resident in the school district, but is not currently a parent or guardian of a student in the district.

Additionally, there will also be two labor representatives, from the classified and teachers unions. Both were selected by their respective unions.

The Coalition of Oregon

School Administrators, which the board hired to recruit candidates for the supervisor position, will take the committee through an orientation to maintain the confidentiality of the candidates.

The committee's role in the process is to listen and ask questions of the two finalists.

The information from the committee will go to the board and is supposed to help frame the board's subsequent interviews with the finalists on Feb. 23.

Board members are scheduled to meet in executive session on March 1 to discuss the results of those interviews and then vote on their selection in an open session on March 9.

The new superintendent is scheduled to start work on July 1.

Pool appeal goes down for third time

By BENNETT HALL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — For the third time, the John Day City Council has upheld the conditional use permit for the proposed aquatic center at the Seventh Street Sports Complex.

The council voted 4-0 on Feb. 1 to uphold the permit, rejecting an appeal by John Morris. The council is down to six members since the resignation of Paul Smith. Mayor Ron Lundbom and Councilor Shannon Adair have recused themselves from voting on the appeal because they had spoken in favor of the project at the Nov. 9 meeting of the John Day Planning Commission, when the commission approved the permit.

In his appeal, Morris argued that the Planning Commission was biased in its decision to grant the permit because it did not give him the same opportunity to provide testimony as supporters of the project.

He also argued that his right to appeal the decision to the City Council was impaired because Lundbom and Adair spoke in favor of the project before the Planning Commission. He raised a number of other objections to the project as well, which he expanded on in 15 pages of written testimony submitted to the council at his appeal hearing on Jan. 5.

The council voted to uphold the permit at that hearing, then reversed itself on Jan. 11 and voted to reopen the record for additional written testimony, with Morris being given the opportunity to provide a written rebuttal prior to the council's next meeting on Jan. 25.

At that meeting, having received no additional testimony, the council voted to uphold the permit. Afterwards, however, it was determined that Morris had submitted additional information a few hours before that meeting, but due to a miscommunication it was not presented to the council.

At a special meeting on Feb. 1, the council reviewed the 17 pages of written material submitted by Morris on Jan. 25. Morris raised objections to City Manager Nick Green's statement of findings regarding the earlier appeal hearing, repeated an earlier assertion that there was inadequate public notice for a neighborhood meeting about the pool project in August, complained that he was not given adequate time to submit rebuttal testimony and claimed that Green made a false statement to legislators to obtain grant funding for the pool.

Councilor Dave Holland addressed Morris' concerns one by one. In each instance, he said, his conclusion was either that the concerns were unfounded or that they were not relevant to the question of whether the conditional use permit was improperly granted.

After discussion, the council voted unanimously to uphold the permit and reject the appeal, with Lundbom and Adair recusing themselves from voting.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16

Grant County Republican Central Committee

• 3 to 5 p.m., The Outpost Pizza Pub and Grill, 201 W. Main St., John Day

Grant County Commissioner Sam Palmer, who is seeking the GOP nomination to run for the U.S. Senate seat held by Ron Wyden, will talk about his campaign and answer questions from voters. The public is welcome.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, FEB. 16 & 17

CyberMill open house

• 4 to 8 p.m., CyberMill, 300 Barnes Ave. (Highway 395), Seneca

Located in the heart of Seneca, the CyberMill is a free-to-use internet cafe with broadband access. With three computer terminals, big-screen video monitors, a conference room and other amenities, the facility is available for remote workers, entrepre-

neurs or anyone who needs a high-speed internet connection. Visitors can tour the CyberMill, learn what it has to offer and enjoy free refreshments. For more information, go to gcybermill.com.

SATURDAY, FEB. 26

Bingo night

• 5 p.m., John Day Elks Lodge, 140 NE Dayton St.

Fundraiser for the Grant Union High School Class of 2026 eight-grade class trip to the coast. Bingo \$5 a card. Pizza and snacks available for purchase. Raf-

fle draw for a gun safe, smoker and other prizes. For more information, call 541-390-5790.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

Lake Creek Youth Camp Gala

• 5 p.m., Trowbridge Pavilion, Grant County Fairgrounds, 411 NW Bridge St., John Day

This third annual benefit for the non-profit youth and family camp in Logan Valley features a tri-tip dinner, games, live music, drinks by Spitfire Cocktails and live, silent and dessert auctions. Tickets are \$25 at the door or \$20 in advance, available at several locations in John Day and Canyon City. For more information, call Aimee Rude at 541-206-2421.

Do you have a community event in Grant County you'd like to publicize? Email information to editor@bmeagle.com. The deadline is noon Friday for publication the following Wednesday.

Your Rural Family Health Clinic



Grant County HEALTH Department
528 E. Main, St. E.
John Day

Monday - Thursday
7am - 6pm
Friday 8am - 5pm

Appointments available

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or 541-575-0429

Grant County Health Department does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.







Robbins Farm Equipment

3850 10th St. Baker City 541-523-6377	62302 Pierce Rd. La Grande 541-963-6577	1160 S Egan Burns 541-573-6377	86812 Christmas Valley Hwy. Christmas Valley 541-576-2160
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Notice
Grant County Taxpayers

The second installment of the 2021-22 property tax is due Tuesday, February 15th, 2022 by 5:00 p. m.

Payments may be made at the Tax Collector's Office at the Grant County Courthouse in Canyon City, or the payment may be mailed and postmarked no later than February 15th, 2022. Please remember that delinquent taxes accrue interest at the rate of 16% per year. If you have any questions, please call the tax office at 541-575-0107.

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Benefit Dinner -
Spaghetti/Salad/Bread
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH
Mt. Vernon Community Center (on Ingall Street)
5:00pm to 7:30 pm
Silent Auction 5-7/Dinner 5:30-6:30/
Dessert Auction 7



Quilt & Rifle Raffle




Buy your Valentine a sweet dessert all for a GREAT CAUSE

NICHOLE (RUSTY) RULE

Nichole has ben diagnosed with bladder cancer and is receiving chemo treatments in Bend and eventually will have surgery to remove the bladder.

Contact
Patty Ross
541-620-4841
if you want to help or donate!



We can't make the cancer disappear but together WE CAN ease their FINANCIAL WORRIES and let them focus on getting better.