

School district employees receive Crystal Apple awards



Katie Burton



Michelle Gale



Lori McCabe



Laura Winters



Tracey Johnson



Stephanie McElligott

Morrow County and Ione School District employees recently received IMESD 2022 Crystal Apple awards. Ione School District employees being honored were Ione Elementary principal Tracey Johnson and preschool/instructional aide Stephanie McElligott. Morrow County School District employees who were honored included Sam Boardman Elementary counselor Katie Burton, AC Houghton special education assistant Michelle Gale, Heppner Jr/Sr High head cook/assistant custodian Lori McCabe and Windy River 6th grade teacher Laura Win-

ters. The winners of the 2022 Crystal Apple "Excellence in Education" Awards were presented with their awards at an event held at the Pendleton Convention Center on Monday, May 9. The event included receptions where winner's families, friends and school district staff were invited.

Each year, the IMESD partners with its school districts to recognize outstanding administrators, teachers, educational assistants and office and building staff for their dedication and commitment to students and for their

willingness to go above and beyond their regular duties. Nominations are submitted over a two-month period by administrators, coworkers, parents, students and community members. Winners are selected from these nominations by school district administration.

"Celebrating the hard work that school district employees do each and every day in our region is always exciting during the Crystal Apple Awards. But it's especially wonderful this year, since we can return to in-person award events," said Dr. Mark Mulvihill, IMESD Superintendent.

Ione bond committee to host meet and greet

The Ione Bond Committee will be hosting a meet and greet on May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Ione Community School.

The committee invites all who are interested to come meet the project

managers, Doug Carl and Earl Eastman from Alliance Management and Construction Services. Also, the recently selected architect firm, Architect West, will be present for this community event.



Pictured (L-R): Earl Eastman and Doug Carl.

-Contributed photo.

Mahoney takes on MCHD leadership role

Morrow County Health District (MCHD) CEO, Emily Reynolds Roberts, announced that Nicole Mahoney has taken on the role of the district's Chief Operations Officer (COO), a new leadership position filled previously by Troy Soenen earlier in 2022.

Those familiar with MCHD know that Nicole has worked for the district for 25 years, with over a decade serving as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Roberts shared that Nicole's wealth of knowledge and experience will be invaluable moving forward. "As CFO, she helped the district preserve and expand services even when the healthcare landscape was rocky. Her strong sense of responsibility to Morrow County and the district, combined with her business and financial background, make her an excellent fit for the position," she said.

Soenen, another person familiar with the district, took on the role of



Nicole Mahoney

COO after many years of working to help advance healthcare and wellness in the county. When asked about his departure and the transition, he offered, "Working in Morrow County has been a real pleasure for me because of the willingness of community members to work collaboratively. In addition, my time with the district has been a fantastic experience." Soenen shared that the travel involved with the position has proven to be a challenge in creating work-life balance; something Roberts supports by saying, "For as much as we hate to see Troy go,

the board and I understand how important it is for every member of the team to honor their needs. We wish him all the best," she added. When asked what she is most excited about, Mahoney said, "I am excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for this operations position and will strive to meet the diverse health needs of our entire service area with an emphasis on excellence in everything we do. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to focus on strategic goals for service and infrastructure development and hope to strengthen our community partnerships across the county." Mahoney will assume the position at the start of June. MCHD is currently working with WIPFLI, CPAs, the district's long-time accounting firm with special expertise in Public Hospital Districts, during the recruitment phase and onboarding of a new person for the opportunity.

Local students earn place on EOU dean's list

Morrow County students have been named to the dean's list for the 2022 winter term at Eastern Oregon University. Qualifying students achieve and maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while completing a minimum of 12 hours of graded EOU coursework.

Students who have

earned the distinction are Veronica Alvarez Frias, Bianca Avalos, Ana Barajas, Alyssa Luna, Daniel Puerta, Jose Puerta, Lily-Ann Rockwell and Johanna Sepulveda Vieyra from Boardman; Hunter Nichols, Heppner; Ashley Aguilera and Kimberly Renteria Montes, Irrigon and Eva Martin, Lexington. EOU congratulates

each of these high-achieving students and acknowledges their dedication to academic excellence. As Oregon's Rural University, EOU serves as a center for education, culture, and scholarship. Students receive personal attention from their professors while building strong relationships with peers and mentors.

Controlled, premium hunt deadline May 15

Don't wait until the last minute to apply for a controlled or premium hunt as the May 15 deadline falls on a Sunday this year, says ODFW.

Apply online at ODFW's Licensing System (which accepts applications until 11:59 p.m. on May 15) or at a license sale agent during store hours. Applications are \$8 per hunt series (buck deer, antlerless deer, elk, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goat) and an annual hunting license is also required.

Remember there are changes to archery elk hunting this year. New for

2022, archery elk hunting is controlled in 13 units and three subunits in eastern Oregon's Blue Mountains (see the regulations for a map). For the second year, all archery deer hunting in eastern Oregon is controlled. These controlled deer and elk archery tags are not valid during general archery seasons. For a list of other major changes see the 2022 Regulations and What's New for 2022.

Here are some tips for applying for a controlled hunt, see how-to for step-by-step instructions to apply online.

- Use group purchase. One person can apply for an entire hunting party and for their family and friends. Directions on how to use Group Purchase.

- Double-check regulations before applying. Even if you've applied for the same hunt for years, check your hunt number and be sure the hunt hasn't

changed.

- Don't wait until the last minute. ODFW offices are closed so staff will not be available to help customers by phone or email during the weekend. If you wait until the last weekend and have problems with your online account, ODFW recommends you visit a license agent to make your purchase.

- Be sure to apply for a Premium Hunt—deer, elk and pronghorn antelope tags with a four-month season (Aug. 1-Nov. 30) and any-sex bag limit. Everyone has an equal chance to draw these tags (including non-residents). Premium tags are additional meaning you can also hunt a controlled or general season.

- Change your mind after applying? You have until June 1 to change your hunt choice through your account or license sale agent.

As of May 1, 164,706

controlled hunt applications have been sold. Last year (2021), a total of 526,361 controlled hunt applications were received with most applications coming in the last week before the deadline.

"We again urge hunters to not wait until the last minute this year," said Jeanine Smith, ODFW licensing services manager. "The majority of applications come in during the last few days before the deadline and our hold and email response times peak."

Big game herds fared well over the winter, as the mild weather resulted in little over-winter mortality. But severe drought conditions are exacerbating poor habitat conditions for mule deer resulting in some emergency tag reductions.

If you have problems with your online account, call Licensing at (503) 947-6101 or email websales@odfw.oregon.gov.

Killion appointed to planning commission

Mary Killion of Boardman has been appointed to the Morrow County Planning Commission. The appointment was made last week by the county commission.

In her letter of interest for the position, Killion said she and her husband moved to Morrow County in 2002. She currently serves on the school board and is president of the

Boardman Food Pantry.

Her term will run until December 32, 2025. She replaces Miff Devin who did not request to be reappointed.

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