

Quick reads

Missionary Baptist to host Vacation Bible School program next week

Vacation Bible School at Prineville Missionary Baptist Church, 1870 Riverland Loop, will be held Aug. 8-12, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. The event will feature Bible stories, games, puppets, crafts, bouncy house and prizes.

Register at mbcpvineville.org, select VBS 2021. Call 541-447-7260 with questions or for free transportation.

Local PEO chapter will host patio sale at First Interstate this Saturday

The community is invited to attend the annual patio sale of PEO Chapter AD to be held on Saturday, Aug. 7, at the First Interstate Bank parking lot, 555 NW Third St., Prineville.

The sale will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature many tables of treasures for everyone, including kitchenware, clothing, shoes, gardening, books, games, artwork, tools, sporting equipment, seasonal decor, jewelry, household items and more.

Local women are awarded scholarships from the proceeds of this patio sale and the annual PEO Holiday Bazaar held in December.

Latino Community Association urging youth to sign up for summer activities

The Latino Community Association (LCA) encourages parents of Latino youth under 18 to sign their kids up for any summer activity that will benefit their wellbeing.

Thanks to a special grant, LCA is offering to pay the fees for youth in Deschutes, Crook or Jefferson counties to take swim lessons, attend music, art or science classes, join a sports team or go to summer camp.

Any program is eligible if it is organized and gets youth outdoors or active or helps them get mentally prepared for school in the fall. Families can either have the fees paid to the activity provider up-front or get reimbursed by LCA.

The Oregon Community Foundation gave LCA a grant of \$31,992 for fee scholarships and another \$13,000 to hire a program assistant. Rotary Club of Greater Bend contributed \$2,500 and the Bend Education Association gave \$1,000.

To apply for funds to cover activity fees or to sign up for LCA's upcoming activities, call 541-728-4708 or 541-788-0473.

FROM HANDS-ON TRAINING TO THE WORKFORCE

The partnership between CCHS and BTI provides opportunities for students to gain real-world experience in heavy equipment operation that prepares them for life beyond high school

By Ramona McCallister
Reporter

Dust clouds could be seen off Lamonta Road Wednesday afternoon, as dirt was being moved by a dozer, excavator, wheel loader, min excavator and skid-steer.

This activity was being propagated by heavy equipment operators from Crook County High School, who were part of a heavy equipment training through Baker Technical Institute (BTI). Six students have spent a total of 120 hours learning both simulation classroom activities and hands-on field work, as they learn the operation, safety, and preventive maintenance for heavy equipment.

Baker Technical Institute is a leading provider of Career Technical Education programs focused on developing the next generation of skilled workers, technology innovators, entrepreneurs and community leaders in rural communities. Headquartered in Baker City, BTI offers cutting-edge education and training, leading to certification in high-wage,



Dawson Vanderwiele, instructor for the simulator training course held in the mobile trailer for Baker Technical Institute, demonstrates a large equipment training unit she teaches during the 80-minute course. She pointed out that when they finish the simulator training, students immediately get on the equipment and begin operating it efficiently. Vanderwiele noted that two-thirds of the training for the level one certification for heavy equipment is spent on the simulator.

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Kristi Persson joins the Central Oregonian family

■ She brings a strong marketing background and presence to the staff at the Central Oregonian, adding her positivity and enthusiasm

By Ramona McCallister
Reporter

Kristi Persson recently joined the Central Oregonian family and is serving as an advertising representative, along with senior advertising representative, Jennifer Grant.

Persson has lived in Prineville for eight

years and hails from the Portland area. She has lived in Tokyo, London, Zug, Gottenborg and other famous places, but Persson indicates that although she enjoyed those venues, “It was fun, but I was never home.”

“I am from Portland originally, and I have lived a lot of places. About eight years ago, I discovered Prineville, and I just fell in love with the people,” expressed Persson of her love of the Prineville area.

“The terrain is different, but the people were so authentic and good and kind — and it just attracted me, and in two or three weeks, I was living here. It was a big change, and I wake up thankful every morning that I am waking up in Prineville.”

She added that although some things look



Kristi Persson joined the Central Oregonian staff in June, and is a welcome addition to the Central Oregonian.

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Pioneer settler on Trout Creek near Ashwood

■ The name Ashwood is a combination of the family last name and nearby Ash Butte

Martha Jane Rush was born on Oct. 23, 1843, in Ohio. Her parents raised sheep in Ohio and later moved to a ranch in Nebraska. Martha grew up in Nebraska.

She met Whitfield Wood, who had moved from Illinois to Nebraska to farm. Whitfield was born in Illinois on Dec. 29, 1830. They became enamored with each other and were married in Nebraska in 1861. Their son, James, was born while they farmed in Nebraska.

The family moved to California in 1863. They farmed in California for nine years. Two more sons were born in California. Martha and Whitfield decided to move to the Willamette Valley in Oregon in 1872. They again farmed for several years in the Willamette Valley.

Whitfield heard of ranching possibilities in Central Oregon. The family moved to Trout Creek near present Ashwood in 1878. At the time, there were very few settlers, and it was a very isolated region. The nearest town was Prineville.

Martha found it necessary to stock up on



Tales from the Past
Steve Lent

household goods as supplies had to be brought in from The Dalles or Prineville. The Wood family began to raise sheep along the lush grasslands of Trout Creek. Other neighbors were also sheep ranchers.

Martha was widely known for her hospitality, particularly when wagon roads came from Antelope to Trout Creek and then on to Prineville. It was truly a pioneer existence in the early settlement of Trout Creek.

James Wood established a post office named Ashwood near their ranch in 1898. The name was a combination the family last name and for nearby Ash Butte. Martha now had more centralized supply opportunities. The community began to grow as gold was discovered at nearby locations.

Whitfield passed away on Dec. 24, 1923. Martha continued living at the family ranch for several years.

The short mining boom began to decline, and the region became somewhat quiet again.

Martha passed away on Nov. 15, 1934. Both she and Whitfield are buried in the Woods Cemetery near their original ranch in Ashwood.

Steve Lent is a local historian and assistant director of the Bowman Museum. He can be reached at: 541-447-3715.

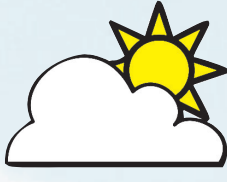


Martha Jane Rush Wood was widely known for her hospitality, particularly when wagon roads came from Antelope to Trout Creek and then on to Prineville.

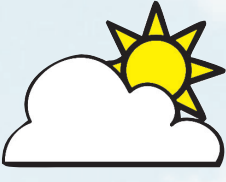
CENTRAL OREGON WEATHER FORECAST



Wednesday
High: 97°
Low: 63°



Thursday
High: 78°
Low: 54°



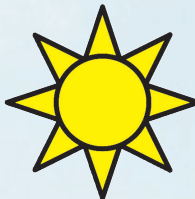
Friday
High: 79°
Low: 53°



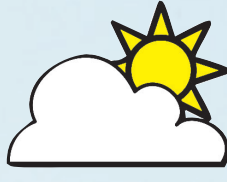
Saturday
High: 82°
Low: 49°



Sunday
High: 85°
Low: 53°



Monday
High: 86°
Low: 56°



Tuesday
High: 90°
Low: 59°

Last week's temperatures

DAY	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.
MON	90°	54°	0.0
TUES	72°	57°	0.05
WED	88°	57°	0.0
THURS	97°	55°	0.0
FRI	93°	64°	0.0
SAT	81°	64°	0.01
SUN	93°	55°	0.0

BTI:

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high-demand careers, such as agricultural sciences, building trades, natural resources/environmental sciences, engineering, health services, welding, heavy equipment operation, truck driving, and manufacturing.

Baker Technical Institute is pleased to announce a partnership with Crook County School District to provide specialized training for local students. Over the previous few weeks, high school students in Prineville learned to operate heavy equipment and became more familiar with the workforce needs of a thriving industry.

“We are thrilled to be able to provide this opportunity for the students at Crook County High School,” says Doug Dalton, BTI president. “Students have lost so much this past year and a half, especially when it comes to hands-on learning like career and technical courses. Crook County did better than most when it comes to keeping students involved, but it still was far from a normal learning environment.”

He went on to say, “The goal of this training is to get these students a valuable certification and position them to enter the construction workforce in a high-wage career. This is a career path that so many students from our rural communities want to pursue versus an expensive traditional college route. The trades are an outstanding option right now with wages and benefits higher than ever, and the least amount of people entering the field.”

Sandy Mitchell, program coordinator for BTI, commented that in addition to heavy equipment, they offer trucking, welding and nursing through the institute. They articulated and trained in 11 high schools in Oregon during the past year.

“We will go in and train heavy equipment operators at the high school level,” she added. “It’s been great to partner with Crook County High School and to be able to bring this as a summer program to their students. They have been a great partner.”

The students spent the first two weeks (80 hours) with the simulator with a simulator instructor. They do their last 40 hours on the equipment doing their hands-on training. When they complete the training, they receive a certificate



RAMONA MCCALLISTER/CENTRAL OREGONIAN

A Crook County High School student works on a backhoe during the first day of his 40-minute hands-on training for the Heavy Equipment level one training certification through Baker Technical Institute. The training was held on private property off of Lamonta Road last week. The students began their training in the mobile trailer for simulation training weeks before, and spent 80 hours in the simulator before being allowed to run the heavy equipment.

of completion. It is a level one training for the students. Instructors evaluate the tasks the students are doing to determine their proficiency. There is also an introductory level and a level two certification.

“Anyone that goes to any operator training school or anything (similar), you get a certificate of completion, and it tells everything that you have done, your hours that you have completed, and how well you did on every piece of equipment,” added Mitchell.

BTI focuses on getting people industry certifications and getting back into the workforce. She indicated that in Baker High School, they have a full-time high school course in the construction trades, including the BTI heavy equipment course.

Dawson Vanderwiele teaches the simulator training for the mobile trailer. Vanderwiele noted that two-thirds of the training for the level one certification for heavy equipment is spent on the simulator.

Her family has had an excavation

and sand and gravel company business for 32 years in Baker. BTI came into Baker City when she was a junior in high school in Baker. She was the youngest person and first female trained to be a cat simulator instructor for operators. She has been doing this for four-and-a-half years, while finishing high school and college.

“They say the time spent on a simulator is equal to two times that length of time on the real equipment,” said Vanderwiele. “So, the two weeks that they spend here on the simulator is an equivalent to four weeks on the actual equipment.”

She added that when they finish the simulator training, they immediately get on the equipment and begin operating it efficiently. She gave the example of a loader.

“They get in and they know exactly what to do and they go to pick up dirt. They are getting full scoops immediately, and we watch and barely even have to critique most of their operations, because they learn it all properly and efficiently

in here. They get to move dirt and enjoy it, and we challenge them and try to help them learn more.”

She went on to say, “The best part is when you know you have provided a student with a new opportunity in life, because most all of our students otherwise would never have gone into the heavy equipment industry at all.”

Vanderwiele emphasized that they also partner with Department of Humans Services (DHS) and correctional facilities for youth. The mobile trailer is on the road all year long.

Jake Huffman, CCHS assistant principal, also commented that not all students choose to go to college, and this impacts their entire life – and this is a career choice.

“The thing that is most impressive for me, is they go right from this class, and they can join the workforce right away with the proper qualifications. The employers have confidence to know that they have done the right things to be ready for the job,” said Huffman. “A lot of the kids who are doing this

have commented how impactful this was, and how useful and relevant it was. That is the thing I like the most about it—is it is an immediate transition from taking a class, to getting credit, to getting certifications and joining the workforce right away. BTI has been amazing to work with,” Huffman concluded.

“Crook County School District is committed to growing our Career and Technical Education programs and providing opportunities for students to gain real-world experience that prepares them for life beyond high school. We are excited about the partnership with BTI and look forward to taking our CTE offerings to the next level,” said Crook County School District Superintendent Dr. Sara Johnson.

The next heavy equipment operator course for the public is scheduled for September, and registration is now open. For more information about BTI courses or to enroll in one of the various other programs, visit bakerti.org or call 541-524-2651 and talk to an enrollment specialist or student success coach.

#MYWHY

“To spend Mother’s Day with my mom, my grandmother, my daughter and my niece.”
— Gwen Carr

We all have a “why.” What’s yours?
Schedule your vaccine today at
CentralOregonCovidVaccine.com

201616-1

Change a child’s life Become a CASA volunteer

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer is an ordinary person who does extraordinary things for a child in foster care.

You can make a difference in the life of an abused or neglected child. CASA of Central Oregon is looking for volunteers to become Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to help local children in foster care.

Register today for our training sessions.
August 30th — Virtual Training
September 3rd — Prineville

Register or learn more at
casaofcentraloregon.org/volunteer
or email
Training@casaofcentraloregon.org

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