

MAY 19, 2025

GOOD NEWS

EDITION NEWSLETTER



Congratulations to SHHS Junior Payton Mauldin!

We are thrilled to share that **St. Helens High School** junior, **Payton Mauldin**, has been selected as one of Pamplin Media's 2025 Amazing Kids!

Pamplin Media honors exceptional youth from communities across Oregon. Students who shine not only in academics, athletics, or entrepreneurship, but also through their kindness, leadership, and service to others. Payton exemplifies these qualities, and we are proud to see their impact recognized on a statewide level.

Join us in celebrating Payton and all of this year's honorees by viewing the full Amazing Kids feature [HERE](#). You can find Payton on page 60.

Congratulations, Payton!

CLICK HERE

In this edition:

- **SHHS:** Amazing Kids
- **SHSD:** Welcomes Dr. Koreen Barreras-Brown as New Superintendent
- **SHHS:** Renovation and Remodeling students win Best In Show
- **Lewis & Clark:** 3rd Graders Set Sails on a STEM Challenge
- **SHMS:** 6th Graders Experience Outdoor Learning Adventure
- **SHHS:** Wind Ensemble Shines at State Championships
- **Columbia City:** Mystery Readers
- **SHHS:** Jazz Band Named OMEA 4A State Jazz Champions
- **Columbia City:** PTO Fun Run
- **SHHS:** Rotary Students of the Month
- **SHSD:** School Newsletters
- **SHSD:** Budget Committee Meeting
- **SHSD:** REAP Family Night
- **SHSD:** Multilingual Family Event
- **SHSD:** Summer Programming
- **SHSD:** Summer Academy
- **SHSD:** Summer Meals
- **SHSD:** Volunteer Application
- **SHSD:** Upcoming Dates & Stay Connected

District Mission:

Strengthening Our Community
Through Exceptional Schools

District Vision:

St. Helens School District inspires all students to learn, connect, and commit to a thriving future.

**LEARN
CONNECT
COMMIT**

St. Helens School District Welcomes Dr. Koreen Barreras-Brown as New Superintendent

"I am honored to join the St. Helens community and look forward to working alongside students, staff, and families to create exceptional environments where everyone feels valued, supported, and empowered," said Dr. Barreras-Brown. "Together, we will continue to build inclusive, equitable, and high-achieving schools for all."



Dr. Koreen Barreras-Brown

With over two decades of experience in education and 15 years in leadership roles, including five years as a superintendent, Dr. Barreras-Brown brings a strong record of innovation, equity, and student-centered leadership to the district.

Dr. Barreras-Brown began her educational career as a 7th-grade Language Arts teacher in the Cumberland County School District. Her dedication to inclusive learning and social-emotional support led her into leadership positions, beginning with her role as an Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) Supervisor in the Multnomah Early Childhood Program.

In 2016, Dr. Barreras-Brown was appointed Superintendent of the Colton School District, where she successfully implemented an equity-focused framework that supported multitiered systems of support (MTSS) for both academic growth and social-emotional learning. Under her leadership, graduation rates significantly increased across all student demographics.

Most recently, she served as Chief Academic Officer for Reynolds School District, overseeing all aspects of teaching and learning. There, she led professional development initiatives in the Science of Reading, Student-Centered Coaching, Sheltered Instruction, and Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Teaching, strategies that yielded measurable gains in student achievement and engagement.

Dr. Barreras-Brown holds a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership for Social Justice from Lewis & Clark College. She also earned a Master of Arts in Special Education from Fayetteville State University and a Master of Public Administration with a focus on Human Resources from City University of Seattle.

To read the full Press Release, click [HERE](#).

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ST. HELENS HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION AND REMODELING STUDENTS FOR WINNING BEST IN SHOW AT THE OREGON DESIGN BUILD COMPETITION!



Recognizing the need for a well-trained workforce in the construction industry, the Construction Industry Education Foundation (CIEF) sponsors the annual Design Build Competition®. Founded in 1986, the event is designed to promote career awareness and provide a fun, hands-on learning experience for high school students.

Over the course of two days, students construct their structures on-site at the competition. A panel of local architecture and construction professionals judges each project on criteria including planning and design, scheduling, overall project management, craftsmanship, teamwork, and safety.

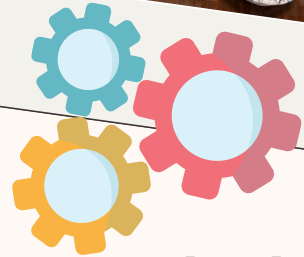


Our St. Helens High School students stood out among the competition, earning them the Best In Show award, a testament to their hard work, collaboration, and skilled craftsmanship. We're proud of their outstanding achievement!



3rd Graders Set Sails on a STEM Challenge

Lewis & Clark Elementary 3rd graders took on a hands-on engineering challenge: building tinfoil boats designed to float and hold as many marbles as possible. Students experimented with shape, surface area, and buoyancy, then put their creations to the test, adding marbles one by one until their boats sank. Along the way, they explored key science concepts like mass, volume, and density in a fun and splash-filled lesson. It was a great mix of creativity, problem-solving, and scientific discovery!



CAMP ARRAH WANNA & CAMP CEDAR RIDGE



SHMS 6TH GRADERS EXPERIENCE OUTDOOR LEARNING ADVENTURE

Sixth-grade students from St. Helens Middle School recently participated in an unforgettable Outdoor School experience at two scenic Oregon locations.

The students departed on Tuesday morning and spent four days immersed in hands-on learning, returning Friday afternoon with new knowledge, lasting memories, and stronger connections with their classmates.

During the week, students explored outdoor sciences, including earth science and biology, through engaging lessons and activities set in nature's classroom. From hiking forest trails and studying local ecosystems to participating in team-building exercises and campfire traditions, the experience blended education, adventure, and personal growth.

Outdoor School is a time-honored tradition in Oregon that helps students develop a deeper understanding of the natural world while fostering independence, teamwork, and curiosity.





St. Helens High School Wind Ensemble Shines at State Championships

We are thrilled to share that the **St. Helens High School Wind Ensemble** earned 2nd place at the OSAA State Band Championships held in Corvallis. In addition to this incredible achievement, the ensemble received the highest sight-reading score, a true testament to their skill, discipline, and musicality.

This remarkable accomplishment is the culmination of 4-7 years of dedication, growth, and hard work from these talented young musicians. Their journey has been nothing short of inspiring, and their performance at State reflects their commitment and perseverance.

Congratulations to the SHHS Wind Ensemble!

MYSTERY READER FUN IN PRESCHOOL



Columbia City, McBride, and Lewis & Clark Elementary preschools created a mystery readers program where a surprise guest from the community visits our preschools to read the students stories.

The goal? To show our students that adults in our community love reading just as much as they do! Teachers provide fun clues before the guest arrives, and the students love trying to guess who the Mystery Reader might be.

This week, at **Columbia City Elementary**, our Mystery Readers were local firefighters from the Columbia River Fire & Rescue. After reading a story to the students, our guests gave students a chance to ask questions about fire safety and their work. We're so grateful to our local fire department for taking the time to inspire and educate our youngest learners!

BUBBLES AND BIG SMILES AT COLUMBIA CITY ELEMENTARY ANNUAL FUN RUN!



HOSTED BY COLUMBIA CITY PTO.



For the third year in a row, students raced through clouds of bubbles, filling the air with laughter and joy.



The bubbles have become a favorite part of the event, adding an extra layer of fun to this energetic school tradition.



THANK YOU, COLUMBIA CITY PTO!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ST. HELENS HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND!

St. Helens High School Jazz Band students were named the OMEA 4A State Jazz Champions, for the third consecutive year! This remarkable achievement reflects the talent, dedication, and hard work of our student musicians and directors.

Well done, SHHS Jazz Band!



APRIL ROTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH



NICK MCCALLUM

Nick is a dedicated senior at St. Helens High School whose passion for learning, leadership, and community involvement truly sets him apart. Throughout his high school career, Nick has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to excellence through a wide range of activities that showcase his talents, work ethic, and character.

A devoted musician, Nick has spent four years honing his skills in both the marching band and wind ensemble. His involvement in these groups has not only developed his musical abilities but also deepened his appreciation for teamwork and perseverance. In the realm of student leadership, Nick has made a significant impact, serving as class secretary and currently holding the role of Associated Student Body secretary. He is also a dedicated member of the National Honor Society and has served as an officer in the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) for the past two years.

Nick is equally committed to athletics. As a four-year member and captain of the boys' tennis team, he has demonstrated leadership, discipline, and a competitive spirit. His ability to successfully balance academics, extracurricular activities, and sports speaks to his exceptional time management, one of his greatest strengths.

Beyond school, Nick is passionate about giving back to his community. He has volunteered his time to plan and host two successful blood drives and has played a key role in welcoming new students on their first day of school, helping them feel supported and connected.

Looking ahead, Nick plans to attend the University of Oregon to major in Neuroscience. He also hopes to study abroad in Spain to further his Spanish language skills. After college, his goal is to attend medical school and pursue a career in oncology. With a deep love of science and a strong desire to help others, Nick is excited to continue his educational journey and make meaningful contributions to the field of medicine.

**The Columbia County
Rotary Club and St.
Helens High School
are proud to
recognize Nick
McCallum as the April
Rotary Student of the
Month.**



Congratulations, Nick!

MAY

ROTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

ZACK EDWARDS

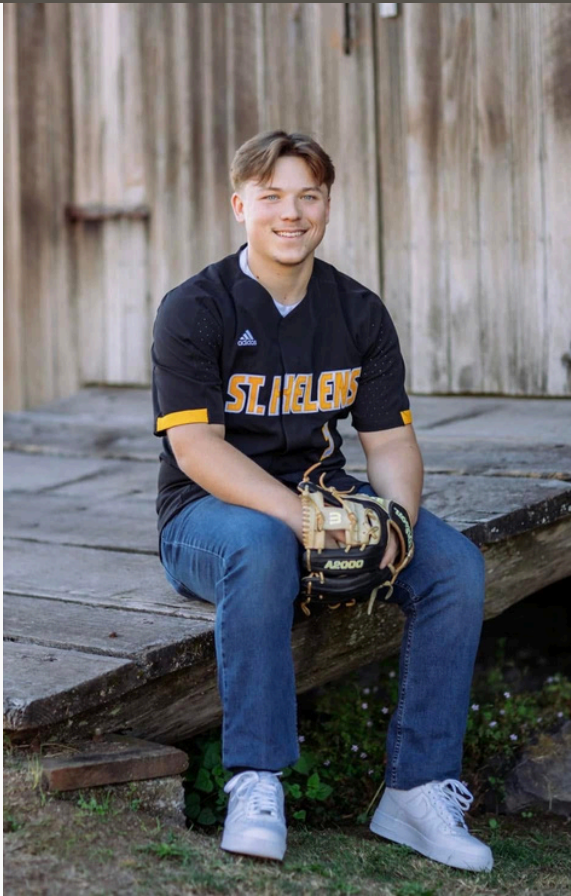
Zack is a dedicated senior who has made a meaningful impact on his school and community through his leadership, work ethic, and passion for helping others. As captain of both the varsity baseball and soccer teams, Zack leads with confidence and integrity, motivating his teammates through his example and commitment to excellence. His baseball coach, Mr. Lokken, states, "Zack's discipline off the field has led to discipline on the field, and he has had a lot of success. Zack is a great example of what it means to be a Lion at SHHS." His efforts on the field have earned him multiple All-League honors in both sports, reflecting his talent and determination.

Beyond athletics, Zack is a strong leader in his community. He works at Safeway, where he takes on a variety of responsibilities that range from customer service to store maintenance and stocking. In addition, he volunteers with St. Helens Little League, assisting with youth baseball camps each fall and serving as an umpire in the spring, helping younger athletes learn not only the game but important life skills.

Zack is also a dedicated student, with a particular interest in economics. He enjoys exploring how financial decisions impact both local and global economies. After graduation, Zack plans to continue his academic and athletic journey at a community college in the Pacific Northwest. He hopes to earn an associate degree in business before joining a local electrician apprenticeship, with the long-term goal of starting a family-owned electrical business.

Outside of school and sports, Zack enjoys lifting weights, golfing, traveling, and spending time outdoors. His favorite high school memory is helping lead the SHHS baseball team to the playoffs for the first time in over a decade, a moment that marked a cultural shift for the team and left a legacy he's proud to be part of.

Congratulations, Zack!



**The Columbia County
Rotary Club and St.
Helens High School
are proud to
recognize Zack
Edwards as the May
Rotary Student of the
Month.**



SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS



[CLICK HERE](#)



Plymouth
High School
Panthers

[CLICK HERE](#)

St. Helens
Virtual
Academy

[CLICK HERE](#)



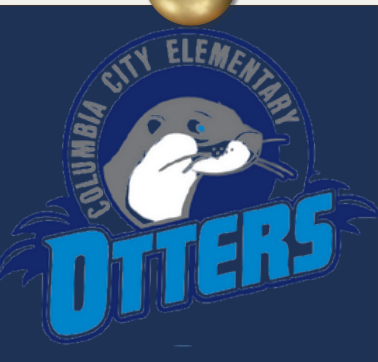
[CLICK HERE](#)

We're excited to share that we've added each school's newsletter to our Good News Edition!

Now, families can easily see what's happening across all of our schools, from classroom highlights and student achievements to upcoming community events and celebrations.

It's never been easier to stay connected and celebrate the amazing things that happen every day in our district.

Check it out and discover the amazing stories unfolding in our schools, one big update at a time!



[CLICK HERE](#)



[CLICK HERE](#)



[CLICK HERE](#)



BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING



BUDGET MEETING

The St. Helens School District will hold a **Budget Committee Meeting** on **Wednesday, May 21, 2025**. The meeting will begin at 6:00 pm and take place at Plymouth High School, located at 470 North 16th Street.

This meeting is open to the public and will include an opportunity for public comment. Those who wish to address the budget committee via a remote option may arrange to do so by emailing Tracie Taylor at traciet@sthelens.k12.or.us no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 21, 2025. The meeting will also be available for viewing on the district's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@shsdvideo6360/streams>.

Additional details and supporting documents can be found on the [SHSD Budget Home Page](#) and the [2025-2026 Budget Page](#).

Thank you for staying engaged and supporting our students and staff.



REAP

the next wave of leaders

FAMILY *night*

YOU'RE INVITED!

ST. HELENS MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

THURSDAY MAY, 29TH

5:30PM – 7:30PM

Event Highlights

EXCITING GAMES & ACTIVITIES

FOOD & REFRESHMENTS

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

RAFFLE (GRAND PRIZE)

SCAN QR CODE TO RSVP



WWW.REAPUSA.ORG






ST. HELENS SCHOOL DISTRICT **Multilingual** **Family Event**

Please join us for...

-  **Games & Activities**
-  **Summer Resources**
-  **Community Partners**
-  **FOOD & CELEBRATION!**

May 29th – 4-6pm
Family Resource Center /
Plymouth High School
474 N. 16th

REACH OUT TO KIRSTEN HUMBIRD
AT 503-366-7238
WITH ANY QUESTIONS





SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Registration is open!

bit.ly/shrecprograms



SPORTS! PAINTING! BAKING! OH MY!

We are now accepting registrations for a wide range of summer camps, programs, and classes on our RecDesk page!

Whether your littles are growing artists, future business bigwigs, ready to hit their first home run, or just want to have FUN, now is your chance to get signed up for these exciting opportunities all summer long. Visit bit.ly/shrecprograms to get started.



SUMMER *ACADEMY*

July
7 - 31

Are you looking for an exciting opportunity to support your child with a love for school this summer? We want to help!

WHEN: JULY 7-31
DAYS: MONDAY-THURSDAY
TIME: 8:30 AM-12:00 PM
WHERE: LEWIS & CLARK ELEMENTARY

Apply Now



MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Helens School District's Summer Academy is an enrichment program for students who are working on content grade level standards to students entering 1st through 3rd grade, plus a limited number of students entering 4th grade, the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through a variety of hands-on activities and experiences.



AGES 18 &
UNDER EAT
FREE

St. Helens School District

SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM

JUNE 23, 2025 - AUGUST 15, 2025

No meal service: July 3 & July 4



LOCATION:

Lewis & Clark Elementary
111 South 9th Street
St. Helens, OR 97051



CONTACT:

Angela Hileman
503-366-7609



TIMES:

Breakfast - 8:00 am - 9:30 am
Lunch - 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Served - Monday - Friday



ADULT COST:

Breakfast \$3.50
Lunch \$5.00

St. Helens School District

Volunteer Application



*Make a Difference in Your
School Community*

**APPLY
NOW!**



Volunteers can really make a big difference in the educational experience for our students. Whether you're interested in a one-time, one-hour project, or an ongoing opportunity, we can find something for you!

UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES

- May 26 - Holiday - NO SCHOOL

Stay **CONNECTED!**

St. Helens School District Media Platforms:

St. Helens Schol District Website

Facebook Page

Instagram Page

X Page

YouTube Channel

LinkedIn Page

