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Solving the substitute shortage

Douglas ESD partners with private company to recruit, hire substitute teachers for local schools

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Douglas Education Service District has contracted with a private company to recruit and hire substitute teachers for local schools.

EduStaff, LLC, based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, will staff licensed substitute teachers in the 13 Douglas County school districts beginning Nov. 1.

Superintendent Michael Lasher said in an email there are normally 300 substitute teachers contracted in Douglas County at any given time.

But many substitutes have chosen not to teach during the pandemic, he said.

"COVID-19 has impacted education, which has required the education community to think of new ways to meet the needs

of students. Substitutes are a valued part of our community and integral to the daily operations of schools," Lasher said.

Turnover rates also tend to be high because many substitutes are hired directly by schools that are facing gaps due to a teacher shortage countywide and statewide, Lasher said.

Partnering with EduStaff is a cost-efficient and

effective way to provide the schools with substitute teachers, he said.

The company will recruit and hire the needed substitutes. Lasher hopes the streamlined service will attract new substitutes for the district.

He said the change will reduce the cost of hiring substitutes, saving the district money.

According to EduStaff's website, it is one of the

largest educational staffing companies in the nation.

The company was formed in 2010 to provide substitutes for Michigan school districts, and now provides 20,000 substitute teachers and support staff daily to schools across the country.

Reporter Carisa Cegavske can be reached at ccegovske@nrtoday.com or 541-957-4213.

Great pumpkin picking



From left, Aleah Burris, Danny Burris and Atlas Burris check out the offerings at the Kruse Farms pumpkin patch in Roseburg on Saturday.



MICHAEL SULLIVAN/NEWS-REVIEW PHOTOS

Jeremy Zernicke, of Roseburg, and his daughter Stormy Zernicke, 9, share a moment as they take a hay ride back from selecting pumpkins at the Kruse Farms pumpkin patch in Roseburg on Saturday.

Corn maze and pumpkin patch maintain popularity

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A gourd time was had by all at the Kruse Farms pumpkin patch Saturday afternoon.

Scarlet Ellis, 7, of Oakland, said she was looking for a really big pumpkin with green bumps so she could make a witch out of it.

"Me, my mom and my sister are being witches for Halloween, so we want to get some ones that look like witches," Scarlet said.

The three witches they planned to be

were the Sanderson sisters from the movie "Hocus Pocus."

Scarlet's sister Grace Ellis, 9, however, said she wanted a pumpkin with a squarish shape.

"I want to make one that looks kind of like a Frankenstein," she said.

The girls said their favorite thing about Halloween is the trick or treating.

"I also like doing costumes," Scarlet said. "I like how you get to have all different costumes every year and it's super fun for me because I get to pick out

PATCH, A3



Volunteer Craig Reed of Roseburg ferries guests to and from the Kruse Farms pumpkin patch in Roseburg on Saturday.

Deal struck to overhaul private forests

SALEM (AP) — An agreement has been reached between timber and environmental groups to overhaul management of 10 million acres of private forestlands in Oregon.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports the deal, announced Saturday by Gov. Kate Brown's

office, concludes more than a year of negotiations to develop a plan to boost protections for vulnerable fish and wildlife while shielding the timber industry's ability to log.

Friday was the deadline for both sides to either reach consensus, abandon the process or

move the deadline.

"Today's historic agreement is a perfect example of the Oregon Way -- coming together at the table to find common ground, to the mutual benefit of us all," Brown said in a statement. Jim James with the Oregon Small Woodlands Association similarly

praised the compromise.

"We were able to put down the contentious situations that we've had in the past and we had a continuous agreement to move forward," James said.

Speaking on behalf of the

MANAGEMENT, A3



INSIDE, A2
Watch your sweet tooth with these sugary facts

HIGH: 63
LOW: 49



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