

New school leaders for Dayville, Prairie City

Longtime educator eager to connect with Dayville community

Bv Chervl Hoefler Blue Mountain Eagle

DAYVILLE - A longtime educator and Oregon native now calls Dayville home.

Kathryn Hedrick, a fifth-generation Oregonian who grew up in Winston, is the new superintendent/principal at Dayville School.

Denise Folston held the position for the past two school years.

Hedrick attended Willamette University in Salem, where she majored in history and speech. She earned her master's degree in rhetoric and her education credentials from the University of Oregon.

Because her first teaching job was in Detroit, where there were only 33 high school



Kathryn Hedrick

students, Hedrick said she understands the problems facing small schools.

Hedrick is no stranger to Eastern Oregon, either. She taught high school social studies, language arts and speech - mostly in La Grande — and also worked summers for the U.S. Forest Service during that

time from John Day. Administrative positions followed for Hedrick after she obtained her administrator license from the University of Oregon. She worked as the assistant principal for curriculum

See DAYVILLE, Page A18

Prairie City educator once worked in the Bering Sea area

By Cheryl Hoefler Blue Mountain Eagle

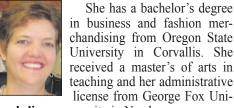
PRAIRIE CITY — The new superintendent/principal at Prairie City School is well-accustomed to small town schools.

Julie Gurczynski's career in education has included small schools on both sides of her home state of Oregon, as well as remote Gambell, Alaska, in the Bering Sea. Gurczynski takes on the Prairie City posi-

tion previously held by Ryan Gerry the past three years.

Gerry is now the principal at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School in John Day.

Gurczynski was born and raised in Portland, graduating from Beaverton High School.



Julie Gurczynski

in business and fashion merchandising from Oregon State University in Corvallis. She received a master's of arts in teaching and her administrative license from George Fox University in Newberg. Gurczynski began her

teaching career at Kennedy High School in Mt. Angel, where she taught family and consumer sciences, health and ca-

It was while there that she learned to love small communities and small schools.

See PC, Page A18

FAIR PARADE GOES COUNTRY

Entrants, volunteers make parade a 'success'

By Angel Carpenter Blue Mountain Eagle

OHN DAY — In perfect parade-day weather Saturday, Grant County Fair participants and others marched down Main Street, displaying this year's fair theme, "Blue Jeans and Country Dreams," on their wagons, horses, trucks and carraiges.

Forty entries participated in the parade, including several dozen children and teens, 4-H youth, sports teams and horse riders.

Grand Marshals Art and Marge Walton waved to the crowd from a wagon. Reitta Wyllie, Grant County's 2015 fair and rodeo queen, also participated.

Chester's Thriftway won the sweepstakes award with a large country-themed float featuring a big handmade bull and a larger-than-life pair of

blue jeans. Brenda Mosier, who organized the event with several volunteers, said parade day was a fun and memorable experience. She was impressed with the 4-H kids.

"I think every single one of them came," she said.

The day wouldn't have been as successful without volunteers working behind the scenes, she added.

'We all had a blast preparing it," she said. "We worked so hard on this, and everyone was so enthusiastic to be there. You can't do it without a ton of people — it was so fun, from beginning to



Katrina Page and her daughter Kathlyne (center) and niece Isabella Mountain represent the Grant County Ranch and Rodeo Museum at the fair parade.







Left: Tymbre Townsend rides horseback in Saturday's parade. Above left: Maisie and Grace Taylor ride in style. Above right: The fair board staff waves to the crowd, including fair manager Mary Weaver (back) and Dusty Williams.

See more parade photos on Page A18

Parade results: Floats Commercial

1st, Chester's Thriftway 2nd, Quilts and Beyond 3rd, Family Tree Service

Schools and Organizations 1st, Grant County 4-H 2nd, Grant County Little League

3rd, Grant Union volleyball team

1st, Grant County Ranch & Rodeo

Museum

nted Female Junior 1st, Tymbre Townsend 2nd, Savannah Watterson 3rd, Maisie and Grace Taylor

Riding Organization or Family 1st, Nodine Marciel Family 2nd, Rocky Top Riders 3rd. Robertson Family

Visiting Royalty: Harney County Fair Antique Vehicle: Ron Phillips **Custom Vehicle: Mobil Glass**

Classic Vehicle: Sherry Dowdy Walking Individual

1st, Pioneer Feed **Decorated Vehicle**

1st, Team National 2nd, Burn's Paiute Tribal Police

Decorated ATV 1st. Credit Union

2nd, John Day Polaris

1st, Fair Office Staff 2nd. Malheur National Forest

Special Awards Sweepstakes: Chester's Thiftway Commercial: Quilts and Beyond Horse Drawn: Ranch & Rodeo Museum

School or Organization: Grant County 4-H Youth Miscellaneous: Rocky Top Riders

Sheriff's office acquires vehicle, training

Monthly waterrescue trainings on tap for SO

By Angel Carpenter Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — Training, experience and equipment can make a difference in search and rescue situations, and this summer, the Grant County Sheriff's Department made gains in each area.

The department acquired a new search and rescue vehicle, a 2015 Ford F350, last month with donations from the public and capital outlay and Title III funds.

"It's long overdue," said Sheriff Glenn Palmer.

He said the department's old vehicle, a 1984 Dodge, portable command post when



Sheriff Glenn Palmer said the new Grant County Search and Rescue vehicle will help with emergency response time.

wasn't dependable anymore, even though it received regular maintenance. The new vehicle can be a

responding to manmade or natural disasters, including fires, floods, chemical spills and search and rescue.

The pickup has a pull-

out desk, inside and outside, and compartments to hold the needed equipment — including an inflatable boat for swiftwater rescues - for a quick response.

Earlier this summer, the sheriff's office sponsored a two-day swiftwater rescue training with instructor Nate Ostis of Wilderness Rescue International.

The class was held at Seventh Street Complex in John Day with practical skills taught at the main stem and North Fork John Day River

near Kimberly. The group learned how to read the river's water flow and "how to enter the river and get yourself or others back to safety," Palmer said. "One thing this course gives is a

trust in your safety equipment

and a confidence builder for

staff and other rescuers."

Sheriff's office search and rescue members and three people from the general public, Ted, Adam and Cody Claussen, of Dayville, took the class.

Palmer added that the Claussens paid for the course out of their own pocket.

A short time before the water rescue course, in May, Palmer and Deputy Zach Mobley worked with Deschutes, Crook and Wheeler county agencies for three days attempting to locate a drowning victim in the John Day River south of Spray.

We "swam for two days, working with Deschutes County Sheriff dive and river rescuers, as well as the Crook County Team," Palmer said,

See TRUCK, Page A18

