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New school leaders for Dayville, Prairie City

Longtime educator eager to connect with Dayville community

By Cheryl Hoefler
Blue Mountain Eagle



Kathryn Hedrick

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

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

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Prairie City educator once worked in the Bering Sea area

By Cheryl Hoefler
Blue Mountain Eagle



Julie Gurczynski

PRAIRIE CITY — The new superintendent/principal at Prairie City School is well-acquainted 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 position 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.

She has a bachelor's degree 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 careers. It was while there that she learned to love small communities and small schools.

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FAIR PARADE GOES COUNTRY

Entrants, volunteers make parade a 'success'

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN 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 carriages. 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. Reitza 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 hand-made 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 end."



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

Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter



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.

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- 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 Softball
 - 3rd, Grant Union volleyball team
 - Horse Drawn**
 - 1st, Grant County Ranch & Rodeo Museum
 - Mounted 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 Court**
 - 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
 - Other**
 - 1st, Fair Office Staff
 - 2nd, Malheur National Forest
 - Special Awards**
 - Sweepstakes: Chester's Thriftway
 - 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 water-rescue 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,



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

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

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

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 staff, 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,

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