



Contributed photo

McDonald's employees Ashley Armendarez and Ashley Pompa ham it up in costume on Halloween for their final day of work at the restaurant.

McDonald's soon to be demolished

Several former employees find local jobs

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – The Oct. 31 closure of McDonald's restaurant in John Day saddened many in the community, including the owner, 18 employees and the patrons.

Jorge Ribeiro of Burns, who owned the restaurant, said he doesn't know when it will be torn down.

"They asked us to be out within two weeks of closing," he said, adding they just finished dismantling everything, inside and out.

He expects the building to be demolished sometime this month.

Ribeiro said corporate officials made the decision to close the restaurant, although he tried to talk them out of it, based on the "low economics of the situation," and because they are reaching the end of a 20-year lease on the property owned by the D.R. Johnson family.

"The biggest thing – I'm going to miss all the regular customers I've had over the past 15 years that I've owned the restaurant, and all my great employees," Ribeiro said.

"I was very happy to see that several found jobs elsewhere," he added.

Ashley Pompa was a crew trainer and worked at McDonald's for over nine years.

"There were a bunch of people who were totally devastated that we were closing," she said.

This includes a group of regulars they nicknamed the "morning breakfast club," she said. "They would show up at 6 a.m., and they all wanted coffee right at 6."

She said the adjustment to the layoff and closure was difficult.

"It's very sad," she said. "I have two little ones, and I was really worried about finding a job and how to support my kids – it's been rough."

She said she's kept busy staying involved at church.

With help from WorkSource Oregon she found a job at Chester's Thriftway.

Several McDonald's employees livened up their last day of work, dressing up for Halloween.

Pompa had ghost makeup, another was "Jason" (from the horror movies) and another made light of their situation, wearing a cardboard "Will work for food" sign around his neck.

The restaurant closed early that night to allow workers to take kids trick-or-treating.

"It's going to be missed," Pompa said of her former workplace.

Still, she said she has a positive outlook with her new job.

"I feel confident," she



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Marines meet to observe Corps 240th birthday

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Sixteen local Marines and their wives met at the Outpost Restaurant in John Day on Nov. 10 to observe the 240th birthday of the Marine Corps.

Those attending served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq from 1943 to the present.

The Marines included Dave Saxton, Bud Salsbury, Dave Traylor, Dennis Smith, Gary Langenfeld, Jim Clark,

Gary Whitmore, Bill Sexton, Ken Evans, Gary Daake, Walt Kight, Harry Stangel, Marc "Doc" O'Dell, Bob Stewart, Tom Baum and Dale Doby.

After introductions were made, a general reminiscence of wars served in and duty stations visited was the order of the gathering.

According to Traylor, not all Grant County Marines were able to attend, but they and all Marines who served were fondly remembered by those present.

Sixteen Marines and their wives met at the Outpost Restaurant in John Day on Nov. 10 to observe the 240th Marine Corps birthday. Back row, from left: Gary Daake, Walt Kight, Harry Stangel, Marc "Doc" O'Dell, Bob Stewart, Tom Baum and Dale Doby. Middle row, from left: Dave Traylor, Dennis Smith, Gary Langenfeld, Jim Clark, Gary Whitmore, Bill Sexton and Ken Evans. Seated, from left: Dave and Eileen Saxton, Bud Salsbury, Francis Fannin and Claudia Evans.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

The Golden Arches from the John Day McDonald's now lean against the trash bin area in the restaurant parking lot.

said. "I've worked for McDonald's for nine years, and I'm experienced with customer service."

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Please bring donations to the Blue Mountain Eagle office by Wednesday, December 16th at 5pm.

The drawing will be held December 17th and the WINNER will be notified that day. All participants will be highlighted in the December 23rd issue of the Eagle.

Thank you for supporting our community!

If you have any questions, please call Lindsay at 541-575-0710.

