

# New books for Grant County students spell fun

Auxiliary, Grange ladies deliver dictionaries

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — Students in Joan Walczyk's third-grade class at Humbolt Elementary are learning to spell g-r-a-t-i-t-u-d-e, and many other words, with new dictionaries they received.

American Legion Auxiliary and Mt. Vernon Grange members handed Webster's dictionaries out in October to third-grade students at Humbolt, Seneca, Dayville, Long Creek and Monument schools.

Jessie Lewis of Canyon City, an auxiliary member, said she presented the idea to the Humbolt PTA about 10 years ago when two of her grandsons attended Humbolt after learning about the project in an Arkansas newspaper. Her grandsons, who now



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

**Joan Walczyk's third grade class at Humbolt Elementary School, above, show the new dictionaries they received from American Legion Auxiliary and the Mt. Vernon Grange representatives. Walczyk is at back on the right. Caroline Colson's third-grade class at Humbolt also received the books, as well as other students in Grant County.**

serve in the Marines, received their dictionaries in third grade, and the tradition con-

tinues. The Grange and Auxiliary split the cost of the dictionar-

ies for Humbolt and Seneca third-graders, and the Grange covers all that expense for

Dayville, Long Creek and Monument third-graders.

Prairie City students receive their dictionaries through their local Auxiliary.

Among the volunteers passing out the books were Lewis, Mary Ellen Brooks of the Grange and Joyce Nodine of the Auxiliary.

"I love to be there when we give them out and see their faces," Lewis said. "They're very excited about getting their own book."

She was especially happy to receive a manila envelope full of thank-you letters from the students.

One student wrote: "Dear Mt. Vernon Grange Hall and American Legion Auxiliary,

Thank you for the dictionary, and my grandma Mary Ellen Brooks, because she is awesome because she makes great cookies like her monster cookies. The dictionaries are awesome because we can pass them to our children, and they can pass them to their chil-

dren. ... I really, really, really like them because they show you kinds of words you do not know about like aggressive or some other word you do not know about. There are different words or different pictures like zebras or giraffes or your brain or something else.

Thank you Mt. Vernon for everything! The end!

Thank you so much!  
Sincerely,  
Emma Helmick"

Walczyk said her students were putting the dictionaries to good use.

She said she received a hardback dictionary, which she still uses, from her local American Legion Auxiliary in Montana when she was in eighth grade.

Caroline Colson, whose Humbolt third-graders also received the dictionaries, said the students use the books at school and take them home in June.

"We really appreciate it," she said, "and the kids get really excited about getting them."

# Your chance to light up the holidays

Blue Mountain Eagle

People in Mt. Vernon and Dayville have a chance to make the season merry and bright in their communities — and may be win a prize too.

Both towns are holding Christmas decorating contests, open to all residents and businesses within the city limits of each. In the Mt. Vernon con-

test, there will be two categories: business and residential. Prizes in each category are \$100 for first place and \$50 for second.

Judging will take place the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 22, and winners will be announced at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23.

Applications are available at Mt. Vernon City Hall, 199 W. Main St. They must be returned

to City Hall by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 22. Call Mt. Vernon City Hall at 541-932-4688 for more information.

In Dayville, all homes and businesses within sight of Highway 26 or a city street, and up to five miles outside the city limits, will automatically be entered into the contest.

Judging will be from Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 10-12.

Participants should have their lights on until 8:30 p.m.

Winners will be announced at the Dayville Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the City Hall area, and will choose prizes according to their placing. Those in attendance at the tree lighting will get first priority.

Call Dayville City Hall at 541-987-2188 for more info.

# Piecemakers Quilt Guild eager to give to fire victims

Blue Mountain Eagle

MT. VERNON — The Grant County Piecemak-

ers Quilt Guild still has several quilts to give away to people affected by last summer's Canyon Creek

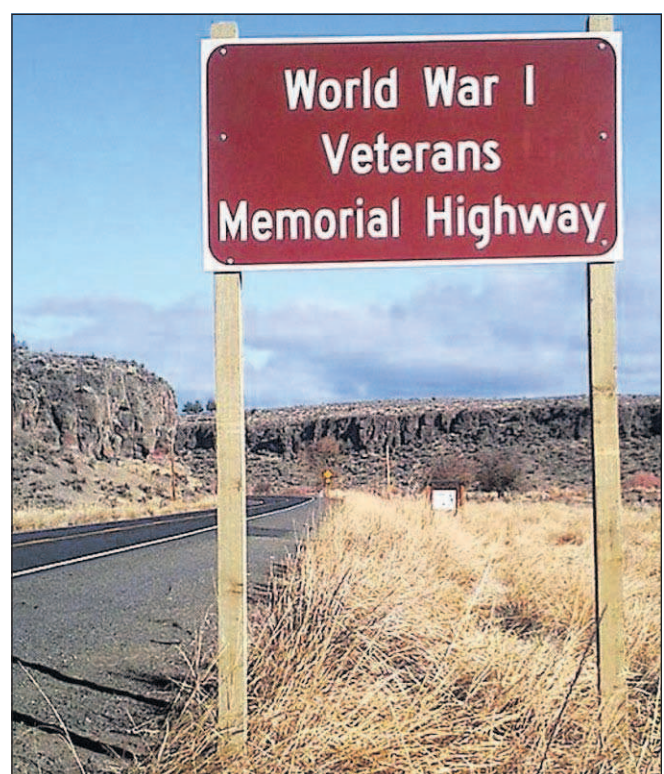
Complex Fire.

The guild received more quilts from seamstresses in the Nyssa area; they also have blankets, towels and washcloths to give.

Maudean Brown of Mt. Vernon said the items are free to those who experienced loss in the fire.

"We want to make sure that everyone affected by the fire — either by loss of home, an outbuilding, other property or smoke damage — receives quilts," she said.

For more information, call Brown at 541-932-4503.



Contributed photo

**This sign on Highway 395, just north of the Highway 20/395 intersection outside Burns, is one of two in Harney County dedicating the highway's 383-mile stretch through Oregon in memory of World War I veterans.**

# Highway 395 dedicated to WWI veterans

Blue Mountain Eagle

BURNS — The 383-mile stretch of Highway 395 that traverses through Oregon has been named "World War I Veterans Memorial Highway."

Two signs, built by the Oregon Department of Transportation, are being installed in Harney County. Eight more signs will be installed near Lakeview, John Day, Pendleton and Umatilla, once the Bend Heroes Foundation receives the \$900 in donations needed for each sign. They are or-

dered from ODOT, which installs them as payments are made. Donations are tax deductible.

Tentative locations for the signs in Grant County are just south of Canyon City and just north of Mt. Vernon.

A dedication ceremony was held Nov. 9 at the Harney County Courthouse in Burns. Harney County Veterans Services Officer Guy McKay and several veterans offered presentations at the event. Closing speakers included Sen. Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day); Charlie Schmidt, from the American Legion National Executive Committee; and Joel McCarroll, ODOT Region 4 traffic manager.

The Harney County signs were funded by Mary Jane Tobiason, daughter of WWI Army veteran Arthur H. Moody, Burns American Legion post No. 63, Burns Band of Brothers and the Burns Elks Lodge.

The newest Veterans Memorial Highway in Oregon honors the 44,200 Oregonians who served, the 1,000 who died and the 1,800 who were wounded during the 1917-1918 war.

To make a donation, contact John Day Elks Lodge No. 1824 at 541-575-1824. Donations may also be made to the Bend Heroes Foundation, 1900 N.E. 3rd St., Suite 106, No. 205, Bend, OR, 97701, or visit [www.bendheroes.org](http://www.bendheroes.org).



**Balance Today with Retiring Tomorrow**

No matter where you're starting from, COUNTRY can help you achieve financial security in retirement. It starts with listening to your situation. Then we help you build a straightforward plan with step-by-step guidance. Call me to get started today.



**Debbie Ausmus**  
245 South Canyon Blvd.  
John Day, OR 97845  
**OPEN WED. & THUR.**  
9 am - 5 pm  
**541-575-1113**  
24 hrs/7 days wk

[debbie.ausmus@countryfinancial.com](mailto:debbie.ausmus@countryfinancial.com)



**Winter Stock-Up Sale**

Take advantage of our low prices on winter car care essentials and accessories

**Mossy Oak and Realtree**  
camo seat covers and floor mats

**\$19.99**

**NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS**

721 W Main St., John Day  
541-575-1850  
Open Mon-Fri 7am-6pm  
Sat 8am-5pm, close Sun

**GOURMET & GADGETS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12**  
*Christmas Jamboree & Parade Day*

15% discount storewide on regular prices products (excludes small appliances, gift certificates, hand crafted wood products, & already discounted merchandise). Many new product lines have been added to enhance your gift buying. Come to participate in the Harney County Christmas Giveaway - Over \$1000!

**340 N BROADWAY • BURNS • 541-573-1725**

**DARK HORSE GROUP**  
Wonderful Booths  
Chock-full of treasures!

Collectibles: Linens, Glassware, Silverware  
The Boutique Furniture  
Jewelry Pictures, Prints

Major Credit Cards accepted

Open 10 am - 4 pm • Closed Sunday & Wednesday  
600 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day • (541) 575-2404

**MILLER COORS BREWING**  
Make your holidays festive this year with ...

**Echanis Distributing Company**  
Your local Beer & Wine Wholesale for 45 Years

Miller, Smirnoff, Franzia, Deschutes, Root Beer, Coors, Coors Light, Ste. Chapelle

...and other fine beers and wines

Call Bob Blake anytime at  
**541-575-1170**

**Christmas in Mt. Vernon Bazaar**  
Dec. 11th-12th • 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Crafters are having a special "Christmas in Mt. Vernon." Opening our homes and businesses to give you the opportunity to continue to shop for those special gifts.

**Door prizes and refreshments.**

Look for ads, red & green posters and balloons outside our shops and businesses.

Maudean's - 1/2 mile N of Hwy. 395 on left  
Lou's Heartfelt Quilting - 1/4 mile N of Hwy. 395 on right  
Shiny Thimble - Corner of 26 & 395  
Racer's (formerly Silver Spur) - Corner of 26 & 395  
Patricia's Art Studios - 311 Ingle St.

**FACEBOOKERS:**  
Become an Eagle fan today!

Go to:  
[facebook.com/MyEagleNews](http://facebook.com/MyEagleNews)