

GROW Home, Garden & Outdoors

Community Garden: A growing interest

Prosperous project is in its seventh season

By Cheryl Hoefler
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — It's a place where gleeful gardeners gather.

The John Day Community Garden, located on the Third Street Extension across from the Grant County rodeo fairgrounds arena, comes alive with activity most Saturdays from March through October, and many other days during the week.

The agricultural enterprise, which was planted in 2010, sprouted quickly under the enthusiasm of local gardeners and seven seasons later, has grown into a prosperous project. The garden benefits not only those who rent and work plots there, but the entire community, with events, surplus produce, and a pumpkin patch in the fall.

The efforts of all involved help support shopping local and providing fresh produce for the community.

Several features have been added to the garden over the years including raised beds, a cob oven, tool shed, a kiosk message board and a banner sign.

All the garden's plots — about 40 — have been sold for the 2016 season, although more can be built if anyone needs one. Garden staff are looking into possibly building more beds for the future.

Other future plans include adding a stand pipe for irrigation purposes and a hand-capped accessible bed. The group also hopes to partner more closely with Oregon State University Extension.

Past president John La Liberte said they hope to create a strategic plan and "come up with a footprint on what we want it to be five years from now."

An orientation/community party kicks things off in March or April each year, with new and veteran gardeners meeting to spruce up the garden, make growing plans, share seeds and ideas and sharing a meal of soup and bread from the cob oven.

A harvest fest and pumpkin giveaway usually finish off the season in October.

Fees are \$25 for a 5x20 plot or \$15 for a 5x10 one, which includes use of the watering supply and garden shed of tools.

The John Day Community Garden is headed by president Susan Garner, treasurer Christy Sweet and secretary Becky Carey.



The John Day Community Garden, which sprouted in 2010, is a growing enterprise located on the 3rd Street Extension in John Day.



John La Liberte brings in a riding mower to help tackle springtime's overgrown grass and weeds around the garden.



Patty Ross fills her bed with a variety of vegetable seedlings.



Susan Garner waters her bed of freshly planted produce.



The message kiosk at the community garden helps relay information among gardeners.



Green onions are plentiful in this raised bed at the community garden.

Garden members will have a booth at the John Day Farmers Market "Spring Festival" on Saturday, June 18, with drawings for several prizes and gift baskets, many of which are donated by local businesses and individuals. This is the group's main fundraiser which helps purchase items needed to expand and improve the garden.

The group will also have a booth at the Grant County Health Fair the day before,

selling tickets for the drawings.

For information about the drawings or to donate a prize, call La Liberte at 541-620-0719.

For more information about the garden, email johndaycommunitygarden@gmail.com or visit the John Day Community Garden on Facebook.

Great Course. Great Rates!

Public Course & Practice Range
executive course • snack bar • on-site pro shop

Green Fees Play all year-round on great fairways and greens.
as low as **\$12** For 9 holes

JOHN DAY GOLF COURSE
Golf Club Rd on County Rd. 81
541-575-0170

Back-to-Spring Savings for the Home

Refresh, renew and renovate with storewide savings on spring home improvement essentials.

ACE Hardware
The helpful place.

652 W Main St. • John Day
541-575-0549
Open Mon-Sat 8-6 • Sun 10-3

TIDEWATER
CONTRACTORS, INC.

Asphalt • Redi-Mix • Gravel • Excavation • Driveways

541-932-4888
JOHN DAY, OREGON

Make sure you know your noxious weeds so that you can fight back! These weeds can be harmful to crops, livestock, habitats or humans. Do your part and know how to prevent them from spreading.

Perennial Pepperweed

Yellow Flag Iris

For more information call Grant SWCD Weed Control
541-575-1554

BAKER CITY CARPET EXPRESS
Your Professional Floor Store

Come in and see our great selection of: Carpet ~ Vinyl ~ Tile ~ Hardwood ~ Luxury Vinyl Flooring and Window Coverings

Now Available: Waterproof Carpet
Come in and talk to Cowboy Jimmy, Kris, or Anne for your new flooring.

Low Prices • 12 Month Same as Cash O.A.C. • Discount Prices
"Remember, you walk on our reputation!"

541-523-7360
2080 3rd Street, Baker City
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30 • Saturday Noon-4pm

HURRY IN! **DO NOT MISS OUT!**