

## OH, WHAT A VIEW



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

A column of smoke from the Rail fire near Unity and High Lake are seen Saturday, Aug. 27, from a ridgetop in the Strawberry Wilderness Area.

# John Day council looks to future

Blue Mountain Eagle

The John Day City Council discussed plans to update the city website at the regular meeting Aug. 13.

Aha Consulting will provide the update, and the new website would be “substantially different than what we currently have,” City Manager Nick Green said.

Green said the update to the site cost approximately \$5,000 and is

planned to go live on Jan. 1, 2017.

In other council news:

- The council declined to rezone the downtown district per a request from Dan Graikowski, a citizen who wished to build a residence within the district.

- The council received an endorsement request from the Save Outdoor School for All campaign. The campaign is dedicated to providing every Oregon fifth- and

sixth-graders a week of hands-on, science-based, outdoor learning. The council made the decision to acquire more information before providing an endorsement.

The council also reviewed goals for the 2016-17 fiscal year, including:

- Encouraging the state Legislature to increase the state 911 tax revenue or find another revenue source to keep local emergency dis-

patch centers open.

- Begin plans on a sidewalk improvement project from Southwest Sixth Avenue to Grant Union High School.

- Move forward on the Main Street Beautification Project if the city’s grant application is approved.

- Continue to market the industrial park and the city of John Day.

- Continue to build financial reserves for the new Wastewater

Treatment Plant Replacement Project by raising sewer rates each year as well as research other options for new facilities and continue to research upgrades for the current plant.

- Continue to support Secure Rural Schools funding.

- Promote city volunteerism through city newsletters, the local paper and community outreach.

## SCHOOL

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Student enrollment, as of last week, was 145, which she said is about the same as last year.

This is Gureczynski’s second year leading the school.

“Last year was a wonderful year, and I can’t wait for this year to begin,” she said. “We have a great town, great kids and a great staff.”

### Dayville School District

Also in her second year as superintendent/principal, Kathryn Hedrick of Dayville School said two new teachers have joined them, including Shilo Fretwell, for grades kindergarten through 2, and Kerri Latshaw, who teaches grades 6 through 8 and is the school’s art teacher.

Enrollment is 48-50, similar to last year, she said.

New at the school this year are elective classes for junior high students, such as shop and career technical.

They’ve also separated the junior high students from the younger and older grades.

Hedrick said the reason for the change is to help them, socially as well as academically, as they transition from grade school to high school.

Grades 6 through 12 had a field trip the first week of school to the North Fork John Day River to see staff from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife perform a salmon sampling count.

“We’re calling ourselves an experiential school, giving our kids giving more experiences and using the campus as a laboratory ... so classroom learning



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Rhys Nehl, front right, is ready for his first day of first grade at Humbolt Elementary School, as his teacher, Mandy Ipson, shows Angie Stansbury to her desk.

has a relevancy to how it applies,” Hedrick said.

She added they’re focusing on STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — as well as art.

“I feel like we got a shot in the arm in our energy level, and we just want to keep that going,” she said.

### Long Creek School District

Del Dykstra was getting his feet wet as the new superintendent/principal of Long Creek School District when school started Monday.

He’s been in the education field for 27 years, including the past 17 years in Sunnyside, Washington, working for both private and public schools.

“It’s a new area, a new challenge, and I’m looking forward to it,” he said of his new position at Long Creek School. “It’s the first day with kids — the kids are the best part of the job.”

Enrollment at the school is



Fifth-graders arriving at Humbolt Elementary School in Canyon City gather to walk together to class, including, from left, Bailey McCracken, Sydnie Brandon, Abbie Justice and Morganne Wyllie.

expected to be down slightly; last year, there were 36 students, and this year there are 34.

### Monument School District

Monument School has a new school secretary, Shawnah Schafer.

The enrollment was 60 as of last week; last year ended with 62.

After a week and a half of school in session, Superintendent/Principal Earl Pettit said he was happy to see the speech team in full swing with an as-

sociated course in public speaking, a relatively new offering at the school.

“I am most looking forward to increased participation in co-curricular activities,” he said, “especially FFA, music and speech where the participation rates are growing significantly.”

### Grant School District No. 3

Grant School District No. 3 Superintendent Curt Shelley said they were projecting 610 students attending Grant Union Junior-Senior High School (grades 7-12), Humbolt Elementary School (kindergarten-6) and Seneca School (kindergarten-6).

Grant Union Principal Ryan Gerry is welcoming two new teachers, Derek Lamson, who will teach eighth-grade English and English I, IA and communications; and Katherine Sherwood, who is teaching Spanish I and II, as well as seventh-grade English.

Gerry said they’re thankful to have Mary Ann Vidourek, who retired as head of the music department for Grant Union

and Humbolt, returning to the district on a temporary basis until the position is filled.

Humbolt Principal Kim Smith said Amy Hittle, who has worked in the special education department for the district, is now teaching fifth grade at Humbolt.

Andrea Combs is adding to her duties in the district as the head teacher of Seneca School.

She will also teach special education at both Humbolt and Grant Union.

New teachers at Seneca School include Andrea Ashley for grades 4 through 6 and Dana McLean for grades kindergarten through third.

Shelley said he and the district staff are excited to welcome back the students. He said they strive to “engage all students in meaningful programs which meet the highest educational and ethical standards with a caring and collaborative learning community.”

He added they work to ensure each student excels personally and academically, becomes a lifelong learner and is a responsible citizen.

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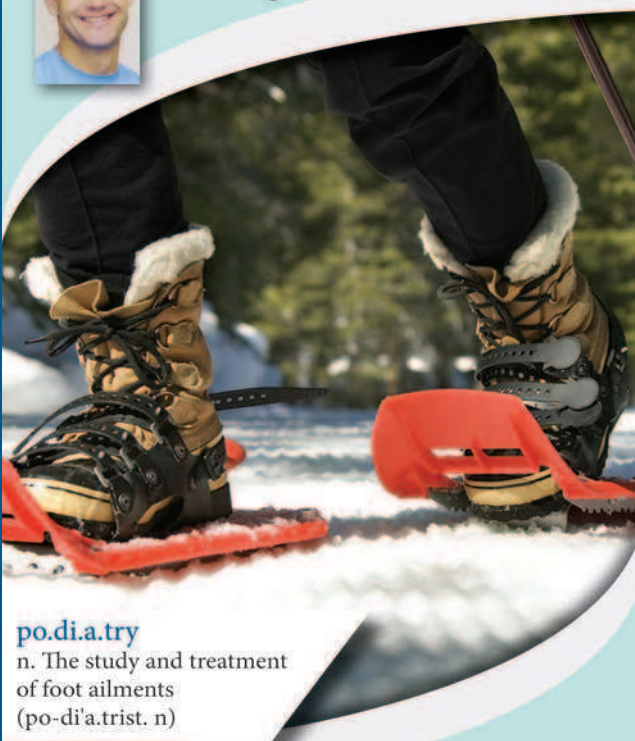
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