

New Parks and Rec manager plans to expand programs

Youth basketball registration due Oct. 14

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Jeff Meyerholz spends a lot of time chasing soccer balls, volleyballs and footballs — at work.

He came on board as the new John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation program manager on Sept. 1, working alongside director Art Thunell, office manager Kimberly Ward and other staff.

Meyerholz organizes and assists with the sporting programs — helping coach and officiate, when needed — and he's aiming to increase the agency's visibility and create new programs.

"I'm working on building a better online presence through Facebook and building a new website," he said, adding they plan to streamline the process to include online payments for registration.

He's also planning programs for adults, including volleyball, basketball and pickle ball.



John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation program manager Jeff Meyerholz coaches soccer at Seventh Street Complex.



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation program manager Jeff Meyerholz coaches a soccer game at Seventh Street Complex. Soccer players, from left are: Eli Speth, Isaiah Adams (back), Maleah Archibald, Jasmine Hazelett, Trey Hall and Maddie Bailey is goalie.

"Part of our mission is providing recreational opportunities to the community, and the board has asked us to grow not only youth programs, but adult programs, too," he said. "We want to build better communication with the community and gather feedback on building future programs."

Meyerholz worked for the local Parks and Rec several years prior to starting the new position, doing maintenance and landscaping.

He's a retired Forest Service rappel manager, and still owns MeyWow Photography.

Currently, 136 children are involved in Parks and Rec sporting programs. There are 55 kids enrolled in soccer, which has two teams of 5- to 6-year-olds and two teams of 7- to 11-year-olds.

Volleyball has 41 kids with teams for grades 3-4 and grade 5-6.

The football teams are usually on the road to com-

pete, but hosted a jamboree on Saturday, Sept. 24, in John Day with out-of-town teams invited. There are 40 players participating in football teams for grades 3-4 and grades 5-6.

Registration is currently open for youth basketball teams for grades 4-6 with boys and girls leagues running Oct. 17 through Dec. 15.

The popular Daddy/Daughter Dance is on the schedule for February 2017,

Parks and Rec youth basketball starts this month

Registration forms for John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation youth basketball are available at Humbolt Elementary School and the Parks and Rec office.

The program is for boys and girls in grades 4-6.

The deadline for registration is Oct. 14.

Boys start practice at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17, at Humbolt Elementary.

Girls, also playing at Humbolt, start practice at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18.

The fee for registering early is \$35 for players who live within the John Day/Canyon City taxing district, and \$45 for those who are out of district.

After Oct. 14, an additional fee of \$5 will be charged.

Forms, with the money enclosed, can be returned to the school; Parks and Rec office; or mailed to JDCC Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 762, John Day, OR 97845.

For more information, call 541-575-0110.

and a mother/son activity is in the planning stages.

"We'll also potentially add other non-sporting, educational programs," he said.

Ideas surfacing include photography, day hikes and youth tumbling. Running events, bike races and softball tournaments for adults are also among the possibilities, which they hope will draw visitors to the area.

"You can see, I have my

work cut out for me," Meyerholz said. "I took the job because I knew it was going to be a challenge and look forward to it."

For more information, call the Parks and Rec office at 541-575-0110 or visit jdccparksandrec.weebly.com. The office is located on the west side of the Seventh Street Complex at 845 1/2 NW Bridge St. in John Day.

District attorney asks law enforcement associations to request Porter reconsideration

Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter has asked law enforcement associations to request the Oregon Supreme Court to reconsider the Oregon Court of Appeals decision to reinstate Sidney Dean Porter's 2013 release date.

Carpenter said Friday he has sent letters to the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and the Oregon District Attorneys Association.

In the letter he urges them to contact the Oregon Department of Justice and Oregon Attorney General asking them to request that the Oregon Supreme Court reconsider the imminent release of Porter, who killed John Day



Jim Carpenter

Police Officer Frank Ward in 1992.

After Carpenter's testimony before the Board of Parole in 2015, the board ruled

Porter was a danger to the community and ordered him to remain in custody until at least 2020.

That decision, however, will be preempted unless the Supreme Court overturns a recent ruling from the appeals court, which reinstated a 2013 release date due to legal errors.

The appeals court ruled the parole board should not have postponed a 2013 release date without a timely hearing.

A June 2013 release date was issued when no evidence except a psychological evaluation was presented at an exit interview earlier that year.

Although more evidence was provided after that interview, the parole board did not hold a hearing with Porter until September 2013, after

postponing the June release date.

The appeals court ruled evidence presented after the postponement of the release date could not be used to justify the postponement that already occurred.



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