

Prairie City kids celebrate Dr. Seuss Day

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

They did not eat them in a house. They did not eat them with a mouse. But the elementary students of Prairie City School did try green eggs and ham for breakfast March 1 in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday.

It was a daylong celebration with lessons incorporating Dr. Seuss and 100th day of school themes.

Superintendent/Principal Julie Gurczynski said all the elementary teachers and staff helped make the day special for the preschool through elementary students.

There were eight stations in the afternoon with games and crafts, and the day ended with over 100 balloons for the students to pop in the school gym.

Second-grader Colbie Howard said she had green eggs and ham for breakfast that morning, and the Dr. Seuss book "Green Eggs and Ham" is her favorite.

"It's fun to read," she said.

Fourth-grader Eric Rausch said it was a great day.

"I liked all the fun stuff we were doing," he said. "I liked the balloons and making snacks, and we read Dr. Seuss books."

His top pick for Dr. Seuss books was "Fox in Socks."

Rylee Workman said her favorite part of the day was popping balloons.

"It made a loud sound," Workman said.

Third-grader Colby Anderton said he enjoyed playing Dr. Seuss bingo.

His classmate Nick Perez said he especially liked making squishy, green "ooobleck" — a substance made of one part water and two parts cornstarch, based on the Seuss book "Bartholomew and the Oobleck."

Fourth-grader Tamara Judd said the celebration made the school day fun.

"It made it the best day ever," she said, "even though every day is awesome."



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Prairie City Elementary students walk through bubbles in the hallway March 1 during Dr. Seuss Day.



Sabrina Howard sweeps the 100th Day of School balloons to a spot for Prairie City students to pop. Howard, a Smart Reading and Title 1 teacher, helped organize the day's activities.



Prairie City School fifth-grader David Sharpe pops a balloon during the Dr. Seuss Day and 100th Day of School celebration. There were over 100 balloons, which the preschool through sixth-grade students popped in the school gym.



Prairie City Elementary students run out into a circle of balloons to celebrate Dr. Seuss Day and the 100th Day of School.



Prairie City School's Jill Brown helps Tanner Kinsey March 1 as he puts together a goodie bag. There were eight activity stations, which all the elementary students visited. Brown, a Title 1 and preschool teacher, helped organize the day's celebrations.

Former John Day doctors will Skype home from Africa

Rural healthcare challenging but rewarding

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

Two former John Day doctors now working in Ethiopia have planned a Skype visit to update the community on their work.

Drs. Andrew and Andrea Janssen will be calling in from Africa at 7:30 p.m. March 10 to the Corner Cup at 100 E. Main St. in John Day.

"Our community is proud to share with the world the opportunity to be updated directly by the Janssens via Skype," local pharmacist Greg Armstrong said in an email.

In a blog, the Janssens described the hospital at which they work as "another world." It has two delivery beds, six labor beds and 2,500 annual deliveries, staffed almost entirely by midwives and general practitioners.

They wrote, when people have seizures, sometimes family members think "it might be bad spirits."

Births are sometimes performed without anesthesia and are often complicated by scarring from female genital mutilation, they wrote.



Contributed photo

Drs. Andrew and Andrea Janssen with their three children.

They live in Addis Ababa, a city of more than 5 million. Over 80 percent of the 100 million people live in rural areas, according to the Janssens. Many come from farming backgrounds, and like Oregon, health care is concentrated in urban areas, they wrote.

"My two residents quickly became the senior providers. The one OB/gyn appears primarily for C-sections due to commitments at the main hospital and elsewhere," the Janssens wrote. "To quote a general practitioner, 'We have everything. In the rural areas, it is... difficult.' For the over 80 million rural Ethiopians it is difficult. This is another world."

The couple and their three children moved to Ethiopia in August 2015 after working as rural family physicians in John Day for 10 years. Both had worked in Africa prior to moving to Ethiopia. Two of their three children are adopted from Ethiopia, and all three were sad and apprehensive to leave friends, family and the comforts of rural Oregon.

During their time in the country the couple have been mentoring local medical personnel and working toward a curriculum for family medicine.

"We knew we would serve in Africa — it was only a matter of when, where and how," they wrote.

Lake Creek Youth Camp will close after season unless new members join board

Blue Mountain Eagle

Unless new members join the board of directors, Lake Creek Youth Camp will close after this summer.

Board member Vicki Heckman said, if people in the community do not step up to help to fill in for retiring members, the camp will be liquidated. The board has set a June 1 deadline for new members to join to allow for training and transition.

"The current board have been devoting every summer for years to insure the smooth running of Lake Creek," Heckman said. "Most of us are beyond retirement age by any measure and cannot continue."

The nonprofit organization manages the camp with cabins under a special use permit in Logan Valley on the Malheur National Forest near the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area. The site hosts annual youth camps,



Contributed photo

Youth gather around a bonfire during their stay at the 2016 Natural Resource Camp held at Lake Creek Youth Camp. Unless new community members volunteer to serve on the board of directors, this summer's camps will be the last.

such as natural resources, 4-H and FFA, as well as private gatherings.

People interested in learning more about the organization are encouraged to attend a board meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the Outpost Restaurant. Peo-

ple can also join Friends of Lake Creek, which assists the board.

For more information, contact Heckman, 541-575-0660, or RoseAnn Palmer, 541-575-2831, email lakecreekcamp@yahoo.com or visit lakecreekcamp.org.

Committee Volunteers Needed

Grant County is now recruiting volunteers to serve on active boards and committees.

Obtain an Application to Volunteer from County Court, 201 S. Humbolt, No. 280, Canyon City, OR 97820; (541-575-0059) wrightl@grantcounty-or.gov Applications are due by **Friday, March 31st**

Committees are formal public bodies required to comply with Oregon Public Meetings Law ORS 192.610.

College Advisory Board: ORS 341.019. Seven members plus three ex-officio members serve three year terms and meet monthly to promote local educational opportunities and identify educational needs within the local community.

Extension & 4-H Service District Advisory Council: Eleven members serve three year terms and meet semi-annually to provide guidance and assistance to local OSU Extension staff in planning, developing, and evaluating balanced educational programs directed to high priority needs of county residents. Membership is limited to one re-appointment.

Mental Health Advisory Board: Seven members (including two consumer representatives) serve three year terms and meet no less than quarterly to facilitate the provision of quality mental health services to county residents and enhance community knowledge of available programs and services. Acts as the Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Commission and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board.

Planning Commission: ORS 215.020. Nine members serve four year terms and two alternates serve two year terms, meeting as needed to review land use and zoning applications and discuss city and county growth issues and the siting of new facilities. Members must be residents of various geographic areas within the county and no more than two voting members shall be engaged in the same kind of business, occupation, trade or profession with agriculture designations of livestock / forage crop production and horticulture / specialty crop production. Commissioners serving in this capacity must file an Annual Verified Statement of Economic Interest with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission. Members must re-apply to the County Court before their term ends if they wish to be re-appointed.

Wildlife Advisory Board: Created by Resolution 1993-29. Nine members serve three year terms and meet as needed to discuss issues regarding big game management and make recommendations to Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, including tag allocation and hunting season structure as they relate to population and damage of property.

CANCER AWARENESS

March is
COLORECTAL CANCER
Awareness Month

Dr. Keith Thomas, board-certified general surgeon at Blue Mountain Hospital, is an experienced provider of screening and diagnostic colonoscopies.

Located in the Blue Mountain Hospital
170 Ford Road, John Day
541-575-1311
Office Hours by Appointment



IF YOU HAVE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- An age of 50 or older
- A family history of colon cancer
- Recent changes in your bowel habits

then talk to your primary care doctor to see if a colonoscopy referral is right for you.