

SCHOOL

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The school is also partnering with Community Counseling Solutions, and will have Jacki Miller available as a school counselor.

“We’re just excited to have the kids back, and we’re still committed to the idea of STEM,” Hedrick said, adding the idea is to allow students applied learning opportunities outside the classroom.

Monument School District

Monument School District welcomes new interim Superintendent Ron Friehe of Springfield.

The district has 47 enrolled students, down from 60 at the beginning of last school year.

The school also has a new math/science teacher, William Rosenburgh, and Jessica Hudson, who had been teaching preschool, now instructs grades 2-3.

Grant School District

Grant School District No. 3 Superintendent Curt Shelley said he’s eager for the new school year.

The district includes Grant Union Junior-Senior, Humbolt and Seneca schools.

“We are in an exciting time in education,” he said. “I am looking forward to concentrating on board priorities to include student achievement, communication with stakeholders and creating a sustainable budget. Specifically, I am eager to work with new and returning staff members.”



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Humbolt Elementary School teacher Georgia Boethin reads a book to her fifth-grade class as the students draw with colored pencils.

He added they’ll have a new challenge in working toward seismic grant upgrades at Humbolt and Seneca schools.

Overall district enrollment is at 614 this year, compared to about 610 at this time last year.

Enrollment at Grant Union is at 284. Principal Ryan Gerry said they have four new staff members joining the school, including two from within the school district.

Kristin Moore, a graduate of Dayville High School, is teaching English for grades 9-12, and Angela Smith will teach English for grades 7-9.

Gerry said two familiar faces from the district include Andrea Ferreira who will teach seventh-grade math and Eva Vaughan who will be a full-time special education teacher.

New elective classes this year include Introduction to Automotive, taught by Jason Miller, and Spanish III, a dual enrollment class offered

through Eastern Oregon University.

In an effort to increase communication with families, Gerry said they’ve created Twitter accounts (@PrincipalGerry and GU_Athletics) to send out updates and quick announcements through the school year.

There are 300 students enrolled at Humbolt Elementary, with possibly a few more students joining.

“I’m looking forward to working with a positive and professional staff focused on assisting students with reaching their highest potential both academically and socially,” said Principal Kim Smith. “The culture of our school has shifted, and the team we have is absolutely outstanding.”

She said there is a new curriculum for science and social skills.

New teachers include first-grade teachers Elsa Spence and Larne Sheehy, third/fourth blend teacher Brittany Doherty, along with Robyn Miller.

Ali Abrego is a new special education teacher, Justin Larson is the new PE teacher and Andrea Ferreira is teaching Title 1 math.

Other new hires include: educational assistants Rose Guzman, Vanessa Houpt and McKenzie Davis, and custodian Jordan Walker.

Smith added the student council will include one student from each of the grade 4-6 classrooms who will serve quarterly.

Seneca’s head teacher Andrea Combs said the school’s enrollment stands at 30 students.

Long Creek School District

Long Creek Superintendent/Principal Del Dykstra said, following a busy week with eclipse visitors, the staff was geared up for the first day of school.

There are 35 students enrolled at Long Creek. Last year, 34 students were enrolled at the start of the school year.

“We are all looking forward for the first day and all the opportunities that lie ahead,” Dykstra said late last week.

“Students will have many opportunities to participate in athletics, field trips, assemblies, and classroom activities,” he said. “Teachers are excited to meet their students.”

Prairie City School District

At Prairie City School District, Superintendent/Principal Julie Gurczynski said the vision is “Every student, every day.”

There are 135 students

enrolled in the K-12 school. Last year, there were about 145 students enrolled at this time.

New teachers include Emily Kokesh, K-12 art; Lindy Cruise, agricultural education; and Caroline Colson, middle and high school English.

Gurczynski said Prairie City was one of 11 schools to receive the Oregon RTI (response to instruction and intervention) grant.

The grant provides for technical assistance with the design, planning, training and implementation of Response to Instruction and Intervention systems for the K-6 teachers.

“This is a big feather in our cap,” Gurczynski said. “We have been working very hard for the past two years in the area of literacy in hopes we would receive this grant when it was available again.”

The school is partnering with Community Counseling Solutions in John Day for a two-day-per-week counseling program.

Maxine Day, who has many years of counseling experience, will provide services for the school.

Among other goals is helping students, beginning with kindergartners, develop a mindset to strive to miss fewer than five school days during the school year.

“When a student misses school for any reason, they miss important instruction and may fall behind their peers,” she said, adding, “Research proves a direct correlation between success in school and the number of days a student attends school.”



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

Lorna Moi-Masaki, left, and Annette Dong point to a partial eclipse at the John Day Industrial Park Aug. 21.

ECLIPSE

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“We did really good actually,” Turner said.

Despite the influx of customers, the station never ran completely out of fuel, according to Turner.

1188 Brewing Company owner Shannon Adair said the biggest problem the business had was turning customers away.

“We probably did a month’s worth of sales in four days,” Adair said.

The pub prepared for the eclipse by stockpiling beer and contracting with Sunriver Brewing Company to brew extra beer in preparation for the event. The business opened up extra seating and had employees working overtime, Adair said.

Chester’s Thriftway manager Bill Wyllie said his store was more than prepared and now has extra inventory to sell off. While they didn’t do quite as much business as anticipated, the store had record sales, according to Wyllie.

“We had a roughly 13 percent increase in business across the board,” he said.

The only thing Chester’s ran out of was eclipse glasses. Beyond that, the store didn’t run into any sizable problems.

The Rainbow Gathering acted as a good practice run for the eclipse, Wyllie said, though this time around people were a bit friendlier.

Grant County Judge Scott Myers said he expects to see many tourists returning to Grant County after experiencing it during the eclipse. He said the event may even lead some visitors to retire here.

Grant County Commissioner Boyd Britton praised county staff at the fairgrounds and airport for their hard work during the solar event.

Malheur National Forest Deputy Supervisor Ryan Nehl said minimal damage had been done to the county’s natural resources, and despite congestion at Magone Lake and Strawberry Campground, people had left with a favorable view of Grant County. The peak of Strawberry Mountain was a popular viewing spot with roughly 300 people viewing the solar event, according to Malheur National Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin.

DISPUTE

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to Malheur National Forest Supervisor Beverlin asking the Forest Service not to do business with the collaborative. However, she said she wanted to join in good faith after attending meetings.

“I’ve learned a lot about

the organization,” she said. “I’ve learned they worked collaboratively, that there’s a lot of open discussion, that it is pretty important to be a voting member. As a voting member, you help carry things forward as a group, rather than being an individual. Once you become a member, you have to be respectful of their rules.”

The collaborative operations manual details rules and protocols intended to allow members of the group to work through disagreements toward a consensus. Among the rules are respecting each other, not attacking people personally and respecting the meeting facilitator and agenda.

Collaborative board member Dave Hannibal said it was “bizarre” at the meeting when each of the people stood up at the meeting requesting membership, each saying something similar. After being denied, one person stood up and started calling people liars.

“Several of those folks had openly talked about getting voted on and voting the current board out, essentially talking about overthrowing the BMFP or not wanting it to exist anymore,” he said. “Some have openly said they want nothing to do with the collaborative, and it should have no power.”

Hannibal said the collaborative has been open and inclusive with representatives with diverse viewpoints, which is what allowed it to work through difficult issues to improve forest health and increase timber harvests. He said everyone who wanted to join was encouraged to keep attending the meetings and would be granted voting membership if it was believed they wanted to be active members in the group.

Dave Traylor, who was denied membership, said he believed the collaborative was acting against its bylaws by denying members. He pointed out the collaborative also has a protocol for

removing members who are disruptive.

“They’re just going opposite of what they say,” he said. “Why they don’t want people to join the organization and officially have a vote is surprising to me. They shouldn’t have anything to hide at all, and as a voting member, you’ll be able to vote on some of these issues.”

Traylor said he was a member of the collaborative when it first began but became inactive when he became involved with the Grant County Public Forest Commission, an elected board created by a citizen initiative that was struck down by a judge last year for conflicting with paramount state and federal laws. He said he wanted to join the collaborative again to have a say in what is happening in the county, which is largely impacted by Forest Service actions.

“The collaboratives have a very important voice here in the county, and as citizens, we just wanted to be a part of it,” he said.

The collaborative bylaws state membership will be automatically approved once a person has satisfied all the qualifications for membership. However, the bylaws

also state the board clarifies the criteria for the qualifications.

Webb said the membership denials followed the bylaws, and the process used — meeting with the individuals and inviting them back to continue in the discussions — followed the intent of the collaborative: bringing people together to work through disagreements. Even nonvoting members can participate fully in the discussions, he said.

The organization has 27 voting members, five of which reside outside of Grant County, Webb said. Voting members elect board members and vote on zones of agreement and individual projects.

Traylor and Preston both said they planned to continue attending the meetings and might be granted voting status in the future.

“I’ll go there. I’ll be around the table. I’ll be listening,” Preston said. “This is a good-faith effort. This is a person who cares.”

Hannibal said, if the people requesting membership exhibited “good behavior” and were believed to be acting in good faith, they would be granted voting status.

“Help us trust that fact,” he said. “Help us believe that you have good intentions.”

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 TUES - THURS 7:00
 ANNABELLE: CREATION R A dollmaker welcomes a nun and several girls from an orphanage into their home, becoming the target of the dollmaker's creation, Annabelle.
 FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:20 9:50
 SUNDAY (4:10) 7:20
 MON - THURS 7:20
 THE BIG SICK R Pakistan-born comedian Kumail Nanjiani and grad student Emily Gardner fall in love but struggle as their cultures clash.
 FRI & SAT 7:10 9:45
 SUN - THURS 7:10
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