

School days — in days gone by

Students' early education marked by tin pails, chalkboards and a tough tr...

By Cheryl Hedder For the Blue Mountain Eagle

Today's students have a pretty easy way to get an education. A computer screen is making up early in the day or has step on line, click on the screen and you're done. Even those who probably have a short...

But for students trying to get an education a century ago, the school day was a long, hard day. They had to walk to school and...

After the gold rush in the 1850s, teachers traveled from other parts of Eastern Oregon...

Riverdale School students, top row, from left, Walter McLeod, Chester Reynolds, Chester Brown, Dave Lawrence and teacher Anna Williams; next row, from left, Corbie...

Rebel Schoolhouse, Canyon City, date unknown

lengthy one — on foot or animal-powered, and in all types of weather conditions.

Many of the schools served rural families in that area, each having its own teacher.

According to Jan 27, 2003, article by Nelda Jensen in the paper, "Early school days in Grant County," the schoolhouse was usually located at the...



The Blue Mountain EAGLE

Grant County's newspaper since 1868



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Andrew Copenhaver, left, and Melissa Hale lead 2-year-old Tye in the Color Me Free Run along with Debbie Hale, right.

COLOR RUN

A RAINBOW OF FUN FOR FAMILIES

Kickoff event raises domestic violence awareness

By Angel Carpenter Blue Mountain Eagle

About 50 participants braced themselves as brilliant hues of powders were thrown at them during Heart of Grant County's Color Me Free Run on Saturday.

Those lacing up for the fun run and walk at the John Day industrial park, started with a white T-shirt and ended with a rainbow of colors on their shirt, pants, hair and face — the powders, made with cornstarch, are nontoxic and wash out.

"It's an event for our community to kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October," said Heart's executive director and victims advocate Shelley Whale-Murphy.



Kim Hernandez of John Day leads her children Milo, 5, and Emily, 2, in the Color Me Free Run.

She organized the event with victims advocate Cindy Kalin and office coordinator Tammy Larkin.

"It's a team effort — we all did our part," Whale-Murphy said.

She lauded the volunteers who helped during the event, about 15 in all.

"I can't thank them enough," Whale-Murphy said. "It's really fun, and they always have a blast when they participate in the throwing."

High school students Sierra Cates and Morgan Dethman helped man a red paint powder station.

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Annabelle Raschio, 6, of John Day makes a run for it as Morgan Dethman throws powder paint. In back is 9-year-old Joseph Burns of Hines.

Where's Walden?

Congressman addresses lack of in-person town halls

By Jade McDowell EO Media Group

Rep. Greg Walden was in Eastern Oregon on Thursday, but most residents were likely unaware.

Oregon's lone Republican Congressman gave an update to the Hermiston Rotary Club on legislation he was working on and took questions from club members before heading to another event in The Dalles. Such semi-private,



EO Media Group/E.J. Harris

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden talks with attendees after a contentious town hall meeting about health care May 8, 2017, in Baker City.

under-the-radar appearances have become a popular line of attack for his critics.

"Where's Walden?" they ask.

The activist group Indivisible even held a "Where's Walden?" caravan in late

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McLean sentenced to 75 months for sexual abuse

Case involved a minor and an adult victim

Blue Mountain Eagle

A homeless John Day man charged with sex crimes against multiple victims pleaded guilty to two charges Thursday.

George Earl McLean, 43, pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree sexual abuse and one count of strangulation, both felonies, in a plea agreement in which 16 other charges were dismissed, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual penetration, strangulation, ha-



George Earl McLean

arrassment and menacing.

Grant County Circuit Court Judge William D. Cramer Jr. sentenced McLean to 75 months in prison for the sex abuse charge, the mandatory minimum for the Measure 11 crime, which prevents McLean from being eligible for sentence reductions.

McLean was required to register as a sex offender and lost the right to possess firearms.

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