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# Four vie for three council seats in John Day

### Three incumbents, one challenger

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Three of the four candidates vying this year for three four-year positions on the John Day City Council are incumbents, while the

challenger is a former mayor.

Councilors Gregg Haberly, Paul C. Smith and Shannon Adair and former mayor Chris Labhart will be on the ballot for the three seats. Mayor Ron Lundbom is running

unopposed for re-election to a two-year term.

The city is busier than ever with numerous projects aimed at promoting economic development, from a new sewer treatment plant that will produce merchantable reclaimed water and a broadband network to an In-

novation Gateway project at the former Oregon Pine mill and perhaps a new aquatic facility.

The council candidates described their qualifications and why they are running.

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Gregg Haberly



Chris Labhart



Paul C. Smith



Shannon Adair



Contributed photo

Visiting Gov. Kate Brown's ceremonial office are Prevent Child Abuse Oregon Executive Director and chaperone Tracey Blood, at the desk, and, in back, Grant Union student Tanner Elliott, volunteer/chaperone Wade Cates and Grant Union students Tyler Blood and McKeely Miller. The students visited the Oregon Capitol during their trip to the Oct. 2 gubernatorial debate.

## Grant Union student questions gubernatorial candidates

### Three students attend debate, tour Capitol

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

A John Day high school student was in the spotlight Oct. 2 along with several other youths asking questions of Oregon's three gubernatorial candidates in a televised debate.

Democrat Gov. Kate Brown, Republican Rep. Knute Buehler and Independent Patrick Starnes debated questions asked by students ages 12-19 at Roosevelt High School in Portland.

Students peppered the candidates with questions with a range of topics, including gun safety, teen suicide, the foster care system and child homelessness.

Grant Union High School senior McKeely Miller put rural Grant County's internet access issue at center stage.

Describing how the lack of reliable, high-speed internet "sets a barrier in the classroom and the workforce," she asked the candidates how they would approach the problem.

Buehler, who had a turn to speak first, said it's a topic he's heard about while traveling through Eastern Oregon and that he understands the impor-

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# SURVIVING BREAST CANCER

## 'The sooner they detect it, the better'

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

**B**reast cancer survivor Janet Hill of John Day said she compares her ordeal to a car accident.

"You don't think it will ever happen to you," she said. "You don't get in your car and think, 'I'm going to get in a wreck today.'"

Hill was diagnosed with stage 3A breast cancer in early October last year and had a mastectomy two weeks later, just before Halloween, she said.



Janet Hill

Ten years prior to her diagnosis, Hill had a cyst on her breast drained and was told it may need to be drained in the future.

When she detected a lump, she didn't worry.

Mammograms and ultrasounds didn't pick up her cancer, possibly due to dense breast tissue, she said.

After a routine check up, her doctor asked if she had any other concerns, and Hill mentioned the lump she found.

From there, biopsies were performed, and a surgery was scheduled soon after.

Because the tumor was 8 centimeters in size, doctors think she may have had the tumor for five years before the diagnosis.

Cancer spread to a few of Hill's lymph

nodes — 36 were removed — but not to distant organs.

Hill owns and operates two local businesses, Java Jungle & Tropical Tan and The Floor Store.

Before her diagnosis, she had been feeling tired, but she thought it was just due to her busy life, helping customers and making orders, doing inventory and paperwork.

All of that slowed down.

Once she recovered from the mastectomy, Hill received 20 chemotherapy treatments, then 30 rounds of radiation.

"I lost all my hair around Thanksgiving time," she said, adding she also experienced brain fog from chemo.

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The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Event organizer Kimberly Ward, left, and Janet Hill decorate their team's cart. Other members of the 'Miss Piggy' team were Jeanette Hueckman, Jonna Bishop and Gail Burton, who is Ward's mother.

