

# EO Media Group to purchase La Grande, Baker City papers

## EO Media Group

EO Media Group's presence in Oregon is set to get even stronger.

Pending court approval, the Eagle's parent company will be adding two more newspapers to the fold with the expected additions of the La Grande Observer and the Baker City Herald, Heidi Wright, chief operating officer of the EO Media Group, announced last week.

"We're excited to welcome the La Grande Observer and Baker City Herald into the EO Media Group family," Wright said. "Our family-held company has deep roots in Eastern Oregon since 1908."

The reported purchase price was \$775,000 for the two papers. Fourth-generation EO Media Group owner Kathryn Brown of Pendleton said she is excited about the purchase.

"My cousins and I are committed to keeping local journalism alive in the rural communities we serve," she said. "We look forward to providing credible and relevant news to Union and Baker counties for many years to come."

Wright said that if all goes well, the sale will be completed July 1.

Western Communications Inc. owns the two Eastern Oregon newspapers, along with the Bend Bulletin and a few other



EO Media Group photo

**Pending court approval, EO Media Group will be adding two more newspapers to the fold with the expected additions of the La Grande Observer and the Baker City Herald, Heidi Wright, chief operating officer of the EO Media Group, announced last week.**

publications in Oregon and California. The corporation filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in Jan-

uary. Lawyers for Western Communications told the bankruptcy court the plan was to sell property and buildings, according to court records, and in a hearing last week said all the newspapers had offers.

"A few weeks ago, the (EOMG) put in a bid to take over ownership of the papers in La Grande and Baker City," Wright said. "These towns are in close proximity to the company's other publications on the east side of Oregon, which makes this a great opportunity to strengthen news coverage for all of Eastern Oregon."

The bankruptcy court has the final say in accepting EOMG's offer. Wright

said the expectation is the court is going to give the approval.

Western Communications previously filed for Chapter 11 protection in August 2011, following a three-year dispute with the Bank of America, the company's largest creditor at the time. The company emerged from Chapter 11 protection in April 2012.

Earlier this year, the motor failed on the 53-year-old press that had long printed the La Grande Observer and the Baker City Herald. Since then, the two newspapers have been printed on the East Oregonian's press in Pendleton.

## Aviation Day introduces sixth-graders to field of flight

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Aviation Day at the Grant County Regional Airport in John Day introduced over 62 fifth- and sixth-grade students to the facets of flight, including exploring the field as a possible future occupation.

"It's about exposing the students to a variety of career paths in aviation," said airport manager Haley Walker, who organized the event with Didgette McCracken, Oregon State University Open Campus coordinator.

Students from Humbolt Elementary, Dayville School, Prairie City School and four homeschooled students attended five morning and five afternoon sessions.

McCracken said besides the classes, Aviation Day also introduces students to the facility.

"We want kids to see what a great airport we have," she said.

Volunteers from the Grant County Airport Commission, Oregon Department of Aviation and local pilots lent a hand instructing the students.

Local pilots assisting included Kathy Stinnett, who taught about general aviation and the labeling on runways, and Bob Bag-



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

**Kristal Hansen, right, is one of many volunteers helping at the May 16 Aviation Day at the Grant County Regional Airport in John Day. Prairie City senior Jake McHatton, also standing, assisted the group of sixth-graders at the fun paper-airplane segment.**



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

**Humbolt Elementary sixth-graders Hannah Vaughan and Mallory Lusco earn their wings during the May 16 Aviation Day at the Grant County Regional Airport in John Day.**

gett and Doug Ferguson, who talked about Grant County Air Search with a discussion on safety — students in their session earned "wings" (small pins to wear).

Stinnett, Baggett and Fer-

guson are all members of Air Search, Ferguson as chairperson. Baggett and Ferguson are also members of the Grant County Airport Commission, and Ferguson is on the board for the Ore-

gon Department of Aviation.

A total of 20 volunteers were present, including Ashley Armichardy of Blue Mountain Community College, who spoke about college and career readiness, and a Southwest Airlines flight attendant. Some volunteers traveled from Salem, Bend and Boise to share their expertise.

The event was a collaborative effort between the airport, Oregon State University Open Campus and the Grant County school districts.

"The goal of the day is to showcase the variety of careers aviation can provide through hands-on, interactive learning," Walker said.

## May slightly colder than normal

Blue Mountain Eagle

Temperatures in John Day averaged slightly colder than normal during the month of May, according to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton.

The average temperature was 52.4 degrees, which was 1.9 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 66.9 degrees, which was 1.9 degrees below normal. The highest was 82 degrees on May 12. Low temperatures averaged 37.8 degrees, which was 1.9 degrees below normal. The lowest was 21 degrees on May 1.

There were four days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.86 inches during May, which

was 0.04 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation was received on 11 days with the heaviest, 0.63 inches, reported on May 20.

Precipitation this year has reached 6.63 inches, which is 0.34 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at John Day has been 9.70 inches, which is 0.17 inches below normal.

The outlook for June from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above-normal temperatures and near-normal precipitation. Normal highs for John Day rise from 73 degrees at the start of June to 83 degrees at the end of June. Normal lows rise from 43 degrees to 48 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.43 inches.

## OBITUARIES

### James T. Mael

James T. Mael, 77, of Monument died Nov. 4, 2018. A military service will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 22, at the Monument Cemetery, followed by a potluck luncheon at noon at the Monument Senior Center. Memorial donations may be made to either Silent Wave Horse Rescue, Kimberly, or Hope 4 Paws, John Day, through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, 541-575-0529.

### Norman DeJong

Norman DeJong, 77, of Prairie City passed away June 1 at his residence. If desired, memorial contributions may be made to the Blue Mountain Hospice through Driskill Memorial Chapel at 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97814. To leave an online condolence, visit [driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://driskillmemorialchapel.com).

### Theodora Marie Richardson

Theodora Marie Richardson, 81, of Prairie City passed away June 1 at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend. Arrangements have been entrusted to Driskill Memorial Chapel of John Day. To leave an online condolence, visit [driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://driskillmemorialchapel.com).

#### About Obituaries

News obituaries of 300 words or less are a free service of the Blue Mountain Eagle. The paper accepts obituaries from the family or funeral home. Information submitted is subject to editing. Obituaries submitted to the Eagle with incorrect information may be corrected and republished as paid memorials. Obituaries longer than 300 words may be published as paid memorials. Send obituaries by email, [office@bmeagle.com](mailto:office@bmeagle.com); fax, 541-575-1244; or mail, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845. For more information, or to inquire about a paid memorial, call 541-575-0710.

# Wherever this Summer takes you, take Us Along.

Contact us if you're  
traveling to another  
state or out of the  
country. We'll make  
sure you're all set.  
541.676.0201

Download  
**BEO MOBILE**  
for Apple & Android.

## Bank of Eastern Oregon

LENDER  
Member FDIC

## Father's Day on the Train!

Gold Rush Bandits to Rob Train!  
Saturday, June 15  
& Sunday, June 16

Summer Solstice  
Dinner Train  
Saturday, June 22

Tickets online or  
call 800.323.7330

Schedule & Descriptions [www.eaglecaptrainrides.com](http://www.eaglecaptrainrides.com)

### Last Week's Temps

Day	HI/LO
John Day	78/46
Tuesday	84/49
Wednesday	58/45
Thursday	55/39
Friday	63/40
Saturday	74/41
Sunday	83/48

24/7 FORECAST  
AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM  
NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY  
162.500 MHZ

### WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 12-18

Day	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Weather							
High	90	84	82	83	82	83	86
Low	58	54	52	53	49	47	44