

Local volunteers share Words for Thirds

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

What is black and white and “read” all over? Dictionaries! A total of 52 local third-graders received Merriam-Webster dictionaries this month in the Words for Thirds program, the books donated by members of the Mt. Vernon Grange and American Legion Auxiliary Ellis Tracy Unit 77.

Students from Humbolt Elementary in Canyon City were gifted the books Oct. 1, and elementary students from Long Creek, Monument and Dayville received their books on Oct. 8. Third-graders at Seneca School had books delivered, and area homeschool students also



Contributed photo

Humbolt third-graders received dictionaries Oct. 1 from members of the Mt. Vernon Grange and American Legion Auxiliary Ellis Tracy Unit 77. Front from left: Dominik Sagaser, Rhyanna Wyllie, and Ivy Laframboise; back, Joyce Nodine, Mary Ellen Brooks and Frances Preston.

received the dictionaries at the District in John Day. Grant County Education Service Grange member Jo Stiner, who

is a retired Humbolt Elementary administrative assistant, said she and the other volunteers asked the third-grade teachers if dictionaries are still needed, since technology is readily available.

All concluded that it's important students know how to use a dictionary, Stiner said, adding that several children don't have access to a computer at home. The books are also kept in the students' desks at school for classroom assignments.

Stiner and grange treasurer Mary Ellen Brooks, grange secretary Frances Preston and auxiliary member Joyce Nodine all helped distribute the dictionaries.

Costs for the books are split between the grange and auxiliary.

Prairie City students also receive dictionaries through their

local American Legion Auxiliary.

The goal is to increase children's literacy with an opportunity for greater success in education and life.

“Every third-grader in the county is able to receive a dictionary,” Brooks said, adding it's an expensive but important project. “At the end of the year they can take them home. It's been going for quite a while.”

Three days after receiving her dictionary, a third-grade girl ran up to Nodine while she was at a dinner and said, “I know you. You gave me a dictionary!”

“The kids were so excited, and they really appreciated it,” Stiner said. “The third-graders are so respectful. That kind of makes it all worthwhile.”



Contributed photo

More students were treated through the Healthy, Happy Smiles school-based oral health program than last school year.

Healthy, Happy Smiles sees an increase in student participation

School-based oral health program provides free care

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County students received another year of Healthy, Happy Smiles and had higher participation over the previous year.

The school-based oral health program provides free dental screenings, fluoride, sealants and follow-up care for students, administered by Eastern Oregon Healthy Living Alliance in partnership with Advantage Dental in Grant, Harney, Baker and Malheur counties.

The increase in student participation can be attributed to the higher return of consent forms, according to an EOHLA report on the 2018-2019 school year. In 2018, the consent form returns for Grant County was 48%, while 2019 saw a return rate of 67%.

“The higher student participation rate can be attributed to schools growing more familiar with the program and a strong relationship with the Advantage Dental from DentaQuest's Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist,” according to the report.

While Grant County saw an increase in consent forms returned, the other three counties saw a decrease.

Out of the 966 students

screened in Grant County, 292 of them received sealants, 404 received silver diamine fluoride and 164 had fluoride applied.

Children who received silver diamine fluoride are treated with fluoride with silver that is powerful enough to stop cavities that are hard to see.

“It is painted on the teeth and can heal early tooth decay. Fillings may not be needed for the cavities that are treated with silver diamine fluoride,” according to the report.

Funding for this project is provided in part by the Oregon Community Foundation. Eastern Oregon Healthy Living Alliance received a \$60,000 grant by the Oregon Children's Dental Health Initiative to make the program available for the 2019-2020 school year.

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FRI & SAT	(4:00)	6:50	9:30
SUNDAY	(4:00)	6:50	
MON-THURS		6:50	
ZOMBIELAND: DOUBLE TAP (R)			
A snarky makeshift family faces off against evolved zombies and fellow survivors in the American heartland.			
FRI & SAT	(4:20)	7:10	9:40
SUNDAY	(4:20)	7:10	
MON-THURS		7:10	
MALEFICENT (PG)			
Maleficent and her goddaughter Aurora begin to question the complex family ties that bind them.			
FRI & SAT	(4:10)	7:00	9:35
SUNDAY	(4:10)	7:00	
MON-THURS		7:00	
\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth			

EAGLE ON VACATION Flying Tigers visit Taj Mahal



Contributed photo

The Monument Flying Tigers travel club took the Eagle on a trip to the Taj Mahal. Take a picture with the Eagle while on vacation and send it to editor@bmeagle.com or 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.

Monument School staff member is also an alum

Blue Mountain Eagle



Rebecca Grassl

Six Monument School staff members were highlighted in the Sept. 18 article “Several Monument School staff members return to their roots.”

After the article went to print, school officials discovered one more staff member, Rebecca Grassl, is also a Monument School graduate. She was recently hired by the school district as an instructional assistant.

Grassl graduated from Monument in 1996 and moved back to Monument in 2011 with her three children.

Before she was recently hired, Grassl volunteered at the school and was a substitute teacher in the preschool classroom and as an instructional aide.

“Monument School District is lucky to have just under 45% of our staff who are alumni of the school district,” said Superintendent/Principal Laura Thomas. “This really shows the dedication and commitment to both the community and the school.”

Other staff members who graduated from Monument School include Michele Engle, Chuck Thomas, Kristi Emerson, Teri Hamilton, Jessica Hudson and Mary Cade.

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