



Eagle file photo

The Seneca School was built by the Edward Hines Lumber Co. in the 1930s to educate the children of its workers.

## Humbolt, Seneca elementary schools employ different distance learning tactics

By Rudy Diaz  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The second week of distance learning continues for many schools in Grant County, with each school implementing the program the best way possible for their area.

While Seneca School and Humbolt Elementary are two schools within the same school district and about a 30-minute drive from each other, the schools have taken different approaches to distance learning.

Connectivity has been the biggest difference with Seneca. Dana McLean, the Seneca head teacher, said much of the work has had to be done through packets, rather than online.

“We are doing the same as (Humbolt Elementary), and most of our stuff is done through packets,” McLean said. “We don’t have the internet capacity to do anything online right now since it is very slow up here.”

Packets are being delivered to students each week, and parents are doing a great job adjusting to the changes, according to McLean.



Eagle file photo  
**Darbie Dennison, Humbolt Elementary School principal**

At Humbolt Elementary, a current priority is to provide devices to students with internet access, said Humbolt Principal Darbie Dennison. Dennison said a challenge they noticed is that they didn’t have many portable devices that were compatible with the programs needed for distance learning.

“We’re still doing a blended approach of online as well as sending packets to pretty much every student,” Dennison said. “I have to say the staff at Humbolt have just been phenomenal in this whole process. Our instructional assistants have come in and are putting packets together and getting them delivered, and our teachers have spent many additional hours contacting parents and getting kids online and setting up Google Classroom.”

A common challenge between

Humbolt and Seneca has been with parents feeling overwhelmed with the changes.

“Parents have been very willing to do (the extra work), and I have heard a few parents that are pretty overwhelmed with all the work, but they are willing to step it up and have a schedule for their kid,” McLean said.

Staff at Seneca have made conference calls with parents to follow up and see how things are going.

Dennison said another challenge for parents is coming up with a system that focuses on each child, not just those in high school.

“A little concern for us at the elementary is that parents that have kids in high school are really focused on getting those kids to do what needs to be done — I think because they’re concerned about credits — and putting us elementary kids a little behind,” Dennison said. “I think maybe it’s just a matter of meeting them where they are, and as we move along they’ll come up with a good system at home, and it’ll work out.”

## John Day plans proactive approach to economic recovery

Unemployment claims have spiked during pandemic

By Rudy Diaz  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Being proactive is an important goal for John Day as the city council discussed the sobering statistics and data regarding economic recovery amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The city of John Day looked at how COVID-19 affected the economy and unemployment in the city and county.

City Manager Nick Green shared data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency regarding business closures during a disaster, which was dismal, according to John Day Mayor Ron Lundbom.

“The number that stood out to me were 40% of businesses do not reopen after a disaster, 25% fail within one year and over 90% fail within two years. That was a sobering statistic,” Lundbom said. “Let’s see if we cannot let that happen.”

Green said these statistics are for a typical disaster but added that the current situation may not be typical based on when restrictions are lifted and businesses can reopen.

Unemployment insurance claims in Grant County increased approximately 50% each week since March 14, according to data Green received from Chris Rich, the state regional economist. Thirty-two percent of the claims processed were from accommodation and food services.

The amount of claims gradually increased in March with 14 claims made for the week ending on March 14, 40 claims for the week ending on March 21 and 52 claims for the week ending on March 28.

“If we come back to thinking about the severity of the shock, this one, as an effect on employment, has been far worse than the Great Depression in the depth of the shock, and the question becomes how quickly do you

recover?” Green said.

Statewide during the week of April 5 to April 11, the Oregon Employment Department received 53,800 initial claims for unemployment benefits. That’s in addition to a revised total of 243,000 initial claims filed during the prior three weeks.

The department said in their press release that, with the first CARES Act payments on April 10, Oregon is among the early states getting an extra \$600 per week to those out of work due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Along with the current pandemic, John Day has faced multiple disasters the city is still recovering from.

“This recovery is coming on the heels of the 2019 spring flooding, and we’re still recovering from that... which has come on the heels of the 2015 wildfires... and that’s coming on the heels of 2011 flooding and on and on and on,” Green said. “We need to be prepared for these waves, and we need to pay attention to the data that are meaningful.”

The city has been working with EcoNorthwest and the Economic Development Administration to get a framework on economic recovery, resiliency and how to emerge stronger for future disasters.

In recovering from the disaster, Green said it was important for public officials to not give into fear and continue to work forward.

“Within the paper by EcoNorthwest, they talked about short-term and long-term strategies, and if you go through that, we are already doing a lot of these things,” Green said.

“We’ve had Oregon RAIN stood up to help support local small businesses. We’re doing some things for small business assistance, we’ve done a lot of economic development planning, we’re doing things to create adapted workforce housing and we’re heavily invested in infrastructure. I think we’re positioned to take advantage of low interest rates and federal stimulus when it’s made available to cities.”

**Prairie Baptist Church**  
238 N. McHaley St., Prairie City  
541-820-3696  
www.prairie-baptist-church.com  
**Pastor David Hoeffner**  
**Pastor Keith**

Sunday School (all ages) ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship. 10:30 a.m.  
Awana (Oct.-Apr.) ..... 3:00 p.m.  
Youth Group ..... 5:30 p.m.

**John Day Valley Mennonite Church**  
Meeting every Sunday at Mt. Vernon Grange Hall

Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:50 a.m.  
Pastor Leland Smucker  
Everyone Welcome • 541-932-2861

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**

Join us on Facebook  
live Sunday 10am

Like us on Facebook!

**JOHN DAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Sunday Worship • 9AM  
(541) 575-1326  
johndayUMC@gmail.com  
126 NW Canton, John Day  
Food Pantry Friday 3-4PM

Like us on Facebook!

**New Life Bible Church**  
2 Corinthians 5:17

Every Sunday in the L.C. Community Center  
(Corner of Second & Allen)  
Contact Paster Ed Studtmann at 541-421-3888 • Begins at 4:00pm

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship.. 10:50 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship.. 10:50 a.m.  
No Mid-week Services  
**Pastor Jesse Grosnell**  
300 W. Main, John Day  
541-575-1355

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church**  
Corner of S Canyon Blvd and SW 2<sup>nd</sup>

Mon. - Fri. Mass - 12:05 pm  
Saturday Mass - 5:00 pm  
Sunday Mass - 9:00 am  
Holy Days Mass: Noon & 6 pm

Confession: Saturday 4:00-4:45 pm  
Anytime by appointment  
541-974-8638

**St. Anne**  
Monument -  
2nd & 4th Sundays at 12:30 pm

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday 9 am - 12 Noon

**3ABN**  
Three Angels Broadcasting Network  
24/7 Inspirational Christian Broadcasting  
Tune into KSPL 98.1 FM  
For more information, call 541 620-0340

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
Come Worship with us at  
627 SE Hillcrest, John Day

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Worship/Communion ..... 10am  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Worship/Communion/Potluck... 4:30pm  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship ..... 10am  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study ..... 6pm

For information: 541-575-2348

**MT. VERNON PRESBYTERIAN Community Church**

SUNDAY SERVICE ..... 9 am  
541-932-4800  
EVERYONE WELCOME

**St. Anne Catholic Church**  
2nd & 4th Sundays at 12:30 pm  
**Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday 9 am - 12 Noon

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
SATURDAY SERVICES  
JOHN DAY  
110 Valley View Dr.  
541-575-1216

Head Elder ..... 541-575-2914  
Bible Classes (all ages) ..... 9:30 am  
Worship ..... 11 am

LONG CREEK  
E. Main Street  
541-421-3033

Head Elder ..... 421-3468  
Bible Classes (all ages) ..... 2 pm  
Worship ..... 3 pm

**Living Word Christian Center**  
Hwy 26 Mt. Vernon  
**Celebration of Worship**  
Sundays 5:30pm  
Youth: 0-6th Grade  
**Midweek Service**  
Thursdays 6:30pm  
Youth: 0-6th Grade  
**Jr./Sr. High Youth Connection**  
Contact the office for current schedule  
**Overcomer's Outreach**  
Fridays 6:30pm  
**House on the Lawn**  
A Christ-Centered, 12-Step Recovery Support Group  
**Pastor Sharon Miller**  
541-932-4910  
www.livingwordcc.com

**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

Sunday School ..... 9:30 am  
Sunday Worship Service ..... 10:45 am  
Sunday Evening Service ..... 6:00 pm  
Children & Teen Activities  
SMALL GROUPS CALL FOR MORE INFO  
Weekdays: Sunshine Christian School

**Pastor Randy Johnson**  
521 E. Main • John Day • 541-575-1895  
www.johndaynazarene.com

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Sunday School ..... 9:45 am  
Sunday Worship ..... 11 am  
Fox Community Church ..... 3 pm  
Sunday Evening Bible Talk ..... 6 pm  
Saturday Men's Study ..... 6 pm

**Full Gospel- Come Grow With Us**  
541-575-1202 Church  
311 NE Dayton St, John Day  
Pastor Al Altnow

**Cornerstone Christian Fellowship**

139 N.E. DAYTON STREET, JOHN DAY  
541-575-2180

Sunday Worship Service 10 am  
Sunday Youth Group 3 pm  
Thursday Celebrate Recovery 6 pm

Pastor Levi Manitas  
cornerstonejohnday@gmail.com  
ccfd.org

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