



Contributed photo

Education assistant Kim Brown, left, accepts the Crystal Apple Award from Ryan Gerry, Grant Union High School's principal.

Crystal Apple Award winners announced

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Two Grant County educators have been honored for their dedication to area youth with Crystal Apple Awards.

The Grant County Education Service District selection committee named Lindy Cruise from Prairie City High School as the licensed winner and Kim Brown from Grant Union High School as the classified winner.

Robert Waltenburg, ESD superintendent, said the district has two award categories: licensed individuals and classified employees.

"We want to recognize all school district employees and volunteers because every single person in our schools helps us to educate kids," Waltenburg said. "But these two rose to the top."

In June, the service district solicited nominations for the award from across the five school districts in Grant County from staff, students, parents and anyone else in the community.

Lindy Cruise

In the selection committee's letter to Cruise, Prairie City School District's agricultural science and technology instructor, the committee noted that it looked at Cruise's leadership in the school and the community as well as her overall contribution to her students.

In the award letter, the committee referenced quotes from those who nominated Cruise:

"She does everything she can to make Prairie School better for the kids and that's what teaching is all about."

"She is a hard working individual. She has turned that FFA/AG program around with her getting the grant for the greenhouse

and the Farm to School program."

It was obvious, the committee told Cruise, that she is highly respected by her peers, students, families and community.

Kim Brown

According to Brown's bio page on the Grant High School website, she started her career with the Grant School District 3 in 1998 as a first-grade teacher's assistant at Humbolt Elementary School.

Five years later, Brown transferred to Grant Union's special education department. In 2008, she spent one year at Mt. Vernon Middle School and then began working at Grant Union High School in 2009.

"The staff here at the High School are great and I am still doing what I enjoy most," she notes, "working with students."

The committee shared a quote:

"Anyone that works with Kim or has worked with her in the past agree she is a very caring and compassionate educator. She has always shown dedication to her job and truly cares about the students she is working with. Kim works easily with all levels of kids. She is compassionate, patient, dedicated, and reliable.

"Her willingness to step up has always been apparent but especially during the early days of COVID. When others felt they should not be forced to work, Kim was distributing breakfast and lunch to students in the district. Not only was she dropping off the food, she talked to the students, asked about their well being, and was a familiar, caring face during a tough time. She would even ask the office staff and administration if they needed help, and she was always ready for any task."

Baker City woman a polio survivor

By LISA BRITTON
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A virus changed Gloria Schott's life.

Not the virus that has so dramatically affected society today, but one of many years ago — a virus that mostly affected children and is now nearly eradicated from the world.

Schott was diagnosed with polio when she was 3½ years old.

"On Oct. 9, it'll be 75 years. I lived instead of died," she said.

Schott was living with her family in Weiser, Idaho. She's heard stories of how her illness began.

"I've been told it was my uncle's birthday and I wouldn't eat ice cream. Shortly thereafter I started to fall," she said.

Her parents took her to the local doctor.

"He immediately diagnosed me," she said.

And immediately isolated her.

Schott was admitted to St. Luke's Hospital in Boise on Oct. 9, 1946.

Her parents were not allowed to see her. She said her mom got a job at the Table Rock Cafe in Boise, and would come to the hospital after work to peer at her daughter through a crack in the door.

Schott remembers wanting her mother. She would call out: "Mother, mama, where are you? I need you!"

"And she was standing right there," she said.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald
Gloria Schott on her front porch in Baker City on Oct. 5. Schott was diagnosed with polio 75 years ago, on Oct. 9, 1946.

Schott had contracted the type of polio that caused paralysis. When she regained some movement, the hospital staff would put her on the floor and let her explore.

"I did the army crawl," she said.

She distinctly remembers crawling down the hall and into a room filled with patients in iron lungs — a tube-like machine that provided breathing support for polio patients suffering paralysis of the diaphragm.

"The whole floor was polio," she said.

Schott had heard the voice of a patient through her wall — the voice was deep and raspy, and she referred to it as "my boyfriend."

But when she crawled in

there, and lay beneath the iron lung to see the patient's face, she discovered that her "boyfriend" was in fact a teenage girl.

"The last time I saw her, she walked with crutches and braces up to her hips," Schott said.

Schott left the hospital on her fourth birthday — Feb. 28, 1947. "They saved my life," she said. "I wasn't supposed to live. They told my parents I would die."

But though polio spared Schott's life, the virus never truly left her.

She used crutches until she was 13, and wore a brace on her right leg for many years.

"They were terrible. Solid metal," she said.

The hospital stay was followed by physical therapy and hydrotherapy during the week, as well as four surgeries — three on her right leg, one on her left.

Schott became an ambassador for the hospital, and participated in fashion shows to help raise money for a new building.

She also became a poster child for the March of Dimes.

Schott still has the posters and flyers, as well as the blue dress she wore.

The March of Dimes was founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938 as a nationwide effort to eradicate polio. Much of the money raised helped fund research to develop a vaccine.

Some of that funding went to Dr. Jonas Salk, who developed a vaccine made from

dead polio cells.

Schott received that vaccine. Although she'd already contracted polio, doctors told her parents that she could still catch the other strains. The vaccine would protect against all three.

Growing up, the crutches and braces limited her physical activity, so jacks and marbles helped pass the time.

And reading — a love that she credits to her second grade teacher, Ms. Holmes.

During that year, every day Schott could choose a friend to eat lunch with in the classroom. As they ate, Ms. Holmes read "The Little House on the Prairie" series of books.

"She instilled a love of reading," Schott said.

There were some times when her special abilities were sought for a playground game.

"They'd get me sometimes for kickball. If I had a cast, it was solid," she said, chuckling at the memory. "I could kick it out of the field, and someone would run for me."

An invisible virus changed her life three-quarters of a century ago, but Schott said it also created the person she is today.

"I think who I am, my passions, and my concerns for those who are hurting, stem from this," she said.

But she'll never forget that virus.

"I'm never free of it," she said. "I thought with time I would be, but polio still has a hold of me. I have no memory of not having polio."

COVID claims two more Grant County lives

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — COVID-19 has snuffed out the lives of two more Grant County residents.

The county's 11th and 12th COVID-related fatalities were an 86-year-old man and an 81-year-old woman, the Grant County Health

Department announced on Monday, Oct. 11.

The department noted that both had underlying medical conditions and died at different regional hospitals.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, the 86-year-old man tested positive for COVID-19 on Oct. 2 and died at the Boise Vet-

erans Administration Hospital on Friday, Oct. 8.

No additional details were immediately available about the death of the 81-year-old woman.

As of Monday, Oct. 11, Oregon's death toll from the disease was 4,002. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the nationwide

total of COVID-19-related deaths stands at 715,000.



Friday, Oct. 15

American Legion Auxiliary meeting
• 2 p.m., Grant County Chamber of Commerce, John Day
All members of the Ellis Tracey Unit are encouraged to attend.

Sunday, Oct. 31

Halloween Day Clay Pigeon Shoot

• 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Brad and Julie Smith's B Bar J Ranch, Highway 402 near milepost 9
Prizes awarded for women's, men's and kids' clay pigeon shoot, which costs \$3 per round. Bring your own pumpkin for the pumpkin chunkin' shoot. The event, a benefit for Monument High School's Flying Tigers Club, will feature concessions, a live auction and a dessert auction. Halloween costumes are welcome. A meal of ribs, beans, cornbread and corn on the cob will be available for \$12 per person, or \$10 for kids 9 and younger. For more information, call 541-934-2143.

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Sat & Sun	1:00, 4:00, 7:00
Mon-Thurs	7:00
ADDAMS FAMILY 2 (PG)	
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Sat & Sun	1:10, 4:10, 7:10
Mon-Thurs	7:10

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- Maternity Case Management

Grant County Health Department does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.

"Billie" Bullard is celebrating her 100th birthday October 18. You may remember her from her time as a Lionette, Elk, craft fair participant, senior center regular, or any bingo gathering. Billie will be at the Senior Center in John Day on October 18 at about 11:30 during meal pickup. Stop by to give her a birthday greeting. She would be delighted to receive birthday wishes by letter or card as well, sent to P.O. Box 337, Mt. Vernon, Oregon 97865.

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