

LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

SAVE THE DATE

August 11-14 Kindergarten Boot Camp, 9:00am-11:00am

August 12-13 Humbolt New Student Registration

Grant Union Jr/Sr High School Registration
August 11-14, 8:00am-2:00pm

August 13-16 Grant County Fair

August 20 Humbolt Open House

August 21 Booster Club Back-to-School BBQ, 6:00pm

August 25 First Day of School

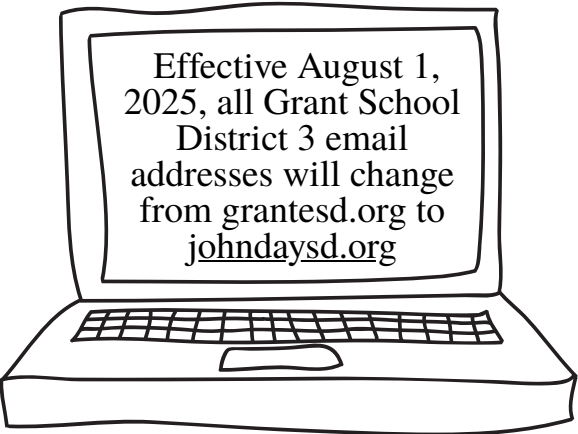
Parks & Rec Flag Football begins in September
Register now at jdccparksandrec.org

Parks & Rec Volleyball is coming soon!
Be watching for registration information!



Parks & Rec Movie Nights:

Aug. 2, 8:30pm at Canyon City Park
Aug. 30, 6:30pm at Grantville Theater
Sept. 27, 6:30pm at Canyon City Park
Oct. 11, 5:30pm at Canyon City Park
Oct. 18, 5:30pm at Canyon City Park
Oct. 25, 5:30pm at Grantville Theater



PROSPECTOR PRIDE

August/September 2025

Volume 3 Issue 1



A publication of Grant School District 3, Grant Union Jr/Sr High School,
Humbolt Elementary School and Seneca Elementary School



Seneca Elementary: A New Year of Growth, Connection, and Community

By Stacy Durych, Head Teacher, Seneca Elementary
A Rural School with a Bold Vision

As the 2025–2026 school year approaches, excitement is building at Seneca Elementary School—a gem of a rural school nestled in the heart of Grant County. With bold changes, new faces, and a strong vision for hands-on, place-based learning, Seneca is ready to welcome students into a year full of discovery, creativity, and connection.

New School Hours, Greater Access

One of the most impactful changes this year is our new schedule: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. This provides added flexibility for families—especially those commuting from John Day and the surrounding areas. Head teacher Mrs. Stacy Durych will now personally drive the school bus from John Day each morning, allowing students to leave an hour later than in past years. This is a change that is both practical and personal, rooted in our deep commitment to accessibility and care.

Rooted Learning: Conservation, Careers & Community

At the heart of everything we do is a commitment to place-based and project-based learning, deeply rooted in our region and responsive to the land, people, and stories that shape us.

This summer, Mrs. Durych completed a four-day

Land Conservation and Stewardship externship in Eastern Oregon, discovering careers tied to natural resources, fire management, wildlife preservation, and land health. From learning how professionals suppress wildfires to meeting a team that feeds and manages over 1,000 elk to protect local ranches, she returned inspired by the many meaningful jobs that exist right here at home.

These lessons will be woven into science and social studies—encouraging students to see themselves as future contributors to our region. At Seneca, we want children to know that they don't have to leave Eastern Oregon to make a difference.

Continued on page 6 (See Seneca Elementary)

In this Issue:

- Page 1 - Seneca Elementary
- Page 2 - Shout Outs
- Page 3 - Free Preschool at Humbolt Child Care Center
- Page 4 & 5 - Around Campus
- Page 6 - Seneca Elementary (Continued)
- Page 7 - Alumni Focus
- Page 8 - Upcoming Events Calendar



Hadley Goes Above and Beyond
Thank you, Hadley, for the extra assistance at Humbolt last Spring. You did a great job cleaning the school, and we appreciate your hard work on the flower beds in front of the school.
-Sena Raschio, Humbolt Kindergarten Teacher

Harney Lawn & Irrigation
Harney Lawn & Irrigation has done an amazing job at Humbolt. Not only did they take pride in their work but they have shown genuine care, respect, and kindness to all of the students and staff. Thank you Kenny, Chelsea, and Jake!
-Shanley Cobb, Humbolt Elementary Support Teacher

Congratulations CNA Graduates!
Congratulations to Madisen Underwood & Rillie Mitchell for completing their Certified Nursing Assistant certification! Great job ladies!
-Sylvia Ross, GU Health Science Teacher

Charette Leads Humbolt Yearbook Club
Thank you so much to Amy Charette and her Yearbook Club for creating an amazing Humbolt yearbook! Your hard work is greatly appreciated!
-Robyn Miller, 3rd Grade Teacher

Thank you, Kenna Combs!
I would like to give a shout out to Kenna Combs. She has done an amazing job during summer school. She is always willing to tackle any task that is thrown her way. She is a great example of hard work, problem solving, and kindness. Her genuine love for the students shines through daily.
-Shanley Cobb, Humbolt Elementary Support Teacher

Humbolt Staff Inflatable Race
A special shout-out to Robyn Miller for organizing the inflatable costume races!
-Sena Raschio, Humbolt Kindergarten Teacher



Thank you, Summer School Staff!
I want to thank the summer school staff, Mrs. Ashley, Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Judd, Mrs. Cobb, Ms. L, Ms. Dalaney, Ms. Bri, Ms. Gracee, Ms. Monel, and Ms. Kenna, at Humbolt Elementary School. I appreciate your time, creativity, and dedication to our students! Thank you to the transportation department, Gary and Brad, for picking up our students and taking us to our field trip! I appreciate all of you!
-Amy Hunt, Humbolt Elementary Title 1 Teacher

Shout out to Brad Fuller
Thank you to Brad Fuller, our Summer School Bus driver. With the many changes from the time we started looking at doing the summer run until now, Brad has adjusted his schedule and managed to make everything work very well. He has given most of his summer to this so far.
-Gary VanderStelt, Transportation Manager

A Second Retirement
Shout out to Karen B for coming back from retirement. Happy second retirement to her!
-Sena Raschio, Humbolt Kindergarten Teacher

Students Show School Pride
Grant Union Math students worked on a landscaping project this Spring, installing an entire drip irrigation system, putting in many plants purchased from Better Blooms or grown from seed in the Grant Union Greenhouse, designing rock features, pulling weeds, and cleaning up the roadside bed! They gained real-world, hands-on experience, student ownership, and investment into our campus, and collaborative work! Great job guys!
- Anna Field, Grant Union Math Teacher

Thank you, Driver Brad!
Shout out to Brad Fuller aka Driver Brad, Mr. Brad, B-rad. Brad not only drives the bus during the school year. He drove 2 bus routes during summer school. He has gone on fields trips and built relationships with students. He takes great care of everyone riding on the bus and ensured we all got to our destinations safely. Thank you, B-rad! Your hard work and patience does not go unnoticed!
-Shanley Cobb, Humbolt Elementary Support Teacher



Darrel and Kathie Holliday Family
Darrel and Kathie Holliday, parents of eight daughters and grandparents to eighteen grandchildren, have been married for 53 years. Longtime residents of the beautiful John Day Valley, they are dedicated ranchers and proud supporters of Grant Union High School. Darrel graduated from Grant Union in 1973 and Kathie was in the class of 1975. All eight of their daughters and three of their grandchildren are also graduates of Grant Union High School.

Tricia Ann Holliday Cook (1973–1997)
Tricia graduated from Grant Union as Salutatorian in 1991 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Oregon University in 1995. She is the mother of one child.

Heather Holliday, RNC-OB, BSN
A 1994 Grant Union graduate. Heather is a Registered Nurse Certified Obstetrics with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She has been fulfilling her childhood dream of working as an OB nurse for the past 23 years.

Michelle Holliday
Michelle graduated from Grant Union in 1995. Michelle has an Education Specialist degree and currently teaches in California. She has three children.

Erin Holliday Hodge
A 1998 graduate of Grant Union, Erin holds an Associate of Science in Health and is nearing completion of a Bachelors in Elementary Education with a Special Education endorsement. She has three children, all Grant Union graduates: Russell (GU Class

of 2020) – E-4 Senior Airman, U.S. Air Force, Justin (Grant Union Class of 2023) – Welder in Klamath Falls, Sivanna (Grant Union Class of 2024) – Student at Oregon Institute of Technology.

Kimberly Holliday Mecham, EPDH
Kimberly graduated in 2000 from Grant Union and lives in Bend with her husband Drew and their two children. She works as an Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist.

Charity Holliday Mecham, BS-GIS
A 2003 Grant Union graduate, Charity works in Geospatial Information Systems at Mountain Home Air Force Base. She resides in Idaho with her husband Levi and their three boys.

Kristal Holliday Hansen
Kristal graduated from Grant Union in 2005 and is married to Mark Hansen (Grant Union Class of 2002). They have three children who attend Grant School District. Kristal graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education. Kristal teaches 3rd grade at Humbolt Elementary.

Rebecca Holliday Soupir, LCSW
A 2007 graduate of Grant Union, Rebecca is a licensed clinical social worker and mental health therapist. She is married to Dr. Jamison Soupir, OD (Grant Union graduate 2007), and they have three children.

All proud graduates of Grant Union High School — Go Prospectors!



Seneca Elementary (Continued from Page 1)



After-School Enrichment Clubs

To support working families and extend hands-on learning, Seneca is launching after-school enrichment clubs, offered Monday–Thursday with rotating themes each quarter. Students will explore:

- Theater & storytelling
- Science experiments & nature projects
- Strategy games & puzzles

Conscious Discipline for a Whole-Child Approach

We’re also proud to share that Seneca Elementary is engaging in Conscious Discipline training this year. This evidence-based model builds emotional safety, empathy, and self-regulation. Throughout the year, families will receive tips and tools to support the same strategies we’re practicing in the classroom—creating consistency between school and home.

Integrated Learning That Makes Sense

Seneca continues to expand its interdisciplinary model, connecting science, literacy, math, and art in meaningful and grounded ways. For example:

- Science lessons on soil and agriculture may inspire spelling word lists
- Writing assignments may focus on fire safety, wildlife management, or local ecosystems
- Math may involve real-world measurement problems based on ranching, forestry, or farming

This thoughtful integration helps students make connections across subjects, while deepening both comprehension and fluency.

Learning often extends far beyond the classroom. Through partnerships with local ranchers, forestry professionals, and the U.S. Forest Service, our students participate in field trips to working ranches, archaeological digs, and conservation sites. These experiences bring academic concepts to life while cultivating a deep respect for the land and people of our region. Whether they’re identifying native plants, measuring fence lines, or listening to the oral histories of our neighbors, students at Seneca learn not only with their minds, but with their hands and hearts.

Honoring History Through Language and Relationship

As part of our commitment to place-based education and cultural respect, Seneca Elementary is deepening its relationship with the Burns Paiute community by learning about the history, language, and traditions of the land we share. Our long-term vision includes introducing Paiute language and cultural studies into the school day—offering students a richer understanding of the people who have called this region home since time immemorial. We believe that honoring Indigenous language and culture is an essential part of place-based learning, and we warmly welcome continued collaboration with Paiute families who wish to share in this journey.

Small Schools, Big Connections

Through a Rural Schools Collaborative, Seneca students will participate in monthly math challenges, pen-pal writing, and virtual classroom exchanges with students in six other small Eastern Oregon schools. This growing network builds friendship, critical thinking, and a broader sense of community for students who live in remote areas.

Welcome Home, Miss Raney Anderson

We are thrilled to welcome Raney Anderson, our newest teacher and a proud Seneca graduate. Her personal connection to this school—as a former student and now as a passionate educator—is a beautiful reminder of what it means to grow, give back, and come full circle.

Growing Something Beautiful—Together

Seneca Elementary is more than a school. It’s a place where curiosity is nurtured, relationships are honored, and learning is rooted in the rhythms of rural life. Whether you’re a longtime supporter or discovering Seneca for the first time, we invite you to visit and see what makes this school such a special part of Grant County.

Welcome to a new year at Seneca. We’re growing something beautiful—together.



Humbolt Child Care Center Free Year-Round Preschool

Grant School District 3 is excited to announce that **beginning July 1, 2025, free all-day preschool will be available to all children ages 3-4 (pre-k) through the Humbolt Child Care Center.** This expanded access is made possible through the addition of six new Preschool Promise slots, bringing the District’s total to 10 funded slots for the upcoming program year. An additional \$20,000 grant from the Early Learning HUB will assist in offering free preschool to all students.

The **Humbolt Child Care Center operates year-round** and offers part-time and full-day services Monday through Friday from 7:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., serving families throughout the community with quality child care and preschool education.

Board Vice Chair Amy Charette stated, “The board is very pleased to be able to offer free preschool for our families at the Humbolt Child Care Center. This has been made possible through the District receiving an additional six Preschool Promise slots, bringing the total Preschool Promise slots for the District to ten. We

are grateful to local and state leaders who advocated on the District’s behalf to be awarded these slots.”

This initiative reflects the District’s continued commitment to ensuring every child has access to early learning opportunities that lay a strong foundation for future academic and social success. The Preschool Promise program, funded through Oregon’s Early Learning Division, supports income-eligible families in accessing high-quality preschool at no cost.

Parents interested in enrolling their child can pick up an application at the Grant School District Office, located at 401 N Canyon City Blvd, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information or to inquire about eligibility, families may also contact Program Director Trina Fell at fellt@johndaysd.org or call (541) 575-1280.

Grant School District 3 is proud to expand opportunities for young learners and continue working in partnership with families and the broader community to support school readiness and lifelong success.

Register Now! Call 541-575-1280 or e-mail fellt@johndaysd.org

2025 Summer Volleyball Camp



Coach Mariah Moulton and the Grant Union Volleyball Team hosted a volleyball camp for third through fifth grade students (pictured at left) and sixth through eighth grade students (pictured at right).

Grant Union, A Family Tradition

Graduation is an exciting time for both students and their families. As 2025 graduate Fallan Giffin exited the gym, however, she stopped to take a four generation family photograph with her mother Larissa (Silva) Giffin who graduated from Grant Union in 2006, grandmother Rhonda (Morris) Moore who graduated from Grant Union in 1978, and great-grandmother Barbara (Ledgerwood) Morris who graduated from Grant Union in 1958. A 2017 photograph (right) shows the same four generations with the addition of Fallan's sister Haven Giffin, Grant Union Class of 2028..



Online Learning Offers Flexibility for Students

Grant School District 3 offers K-12 online learning with flexible K-6 learning opportunities for all of Grant County. For more information about curriculum options and library of hands-on kits and projects designed to enrich your homeschool experience, contact: Jaclyn Lopez, Online Program Coordinator, 208-697-1721, lopezj@johndaysd.org.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Support From Dedicated Teachers
- Classroom availability for student engagement.
- K-6 Online and Textbook options available.
- Growing library of Hands-On Projects & Kits

Humbolt Elementary Summer School



Humbolt Elementary has been hard at work this summer conducting summer school for a group of students. These students have been able to build confidence through reviewing past curriculum and obtain new academic skills by participating in project-based learning. The opportunity allows students to learn in a fun setting while keeping up the consistent routine and structure that school provides. These factors will positively impact students when returning to school at the end of August. - Paige Lamb, Humbolt Elementary 5th Grade Teacher

Future Business Leaders attend National Conference



Representing Oregon with pride, Maddie Bailey (2023-24 and 2024-25 Oregon State President), Eliza Bailey (2024-25 VP of Media, 2025-26 VP of Development), and Jhett Williams (2024-25 Grant Union Chapter President) attended the 2025 FBLA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California. Eliza and Maddie teamed up to compete in Social Media Strategies, while all three competed in Partnership with a Business Presentation. Though they didn't advance to the finals, the experience of qualifying and competing at Nationals was packed with growth and unforgettable memories.

The team made the most of every moment: networking, pin trading, attending workshops, competing, and sightseeing across L.A. Eliza stayed especially busy fulfilling her state officer duties throughout the conference. As the 2024-25 school year officially closes, we celebrate the hard work, leadership, and enthusiasm that all of our FBLA members showcased throughout the year. - Kalli Wilson, FBLA Advisor and GU Business Teacher