

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The deadline for What's Happening items is 5 p.m. Friday. Call Cheryl at the Eagle, 541-575-0710.

THURSDAY, JAN. 8

After-lunch bingo

• 1 p.m., John Day Senior Center
Daytime bingo is starting up, to be held after the regular senior lunch on Thursdays. The cost is \$4 per card, and there will be a variety of games, including blackout. To kick things off for the first session, there will also be door prizes donated by several local merchants. All are invited to come early for the lunch at noon. The cost for lunch is \$5 a person, and \$4 for those 60 and older.

SATURDAY, JAN. 10

Second Saturday Gathering

• 9:30-11:30 a.m., Outpost Restaurant, John Day
All ladies are welcome to the gathering where the discussion will be on the theme, "Fresh Starts, New Beginning - Letting go of the Past to Embrace the Future." Music will be presented by Kathy Rogers and Lis Davis. Complimentary coffee and tea will be offered at the no-host breakfast.

Family dance

• 1-4 p.m., John Day Senior Center
All ages are welcome to dance and listen to the music of Up River Country Band. The cost is \$5 for couples, and \$3 for singles. Coffee, punch and cookies will be available. No alcohol will be allowed.

Clay pigeon shoot

• 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Kimberly Rock Products
The event will include a variety of shoots, jackpots, Annie Oakley, men's, women's and kids' competitions, and more. The cost is \$3 per shoot, with proceeds to benefit Allovors Community House of Long Creek. There will be a pot roast dinner and concessions available onsite. This is also the first in a series of four shoots - Jan. 10, Feb. 7, March 14 and April 11 - to win a Savage 17 HMR bolt action rifle. Participants must be at three of the shoots to qualify. The best score out of 100 shots wins. The cost for that competition is \$25 for 25 shots, with those proceeds not part of the Allovors fundraiser. The rock pit is located at the 9-mile marker on Highway 402 between Kimberly and Monument. Call 541-934-2143.

SUNDAY, JAN. 11

Farm Bureau annual meeting

• 1 p.m., Outpost Restaurant, John Day
The agenda includes awards and recognitions, election of board members and officers, and several speakers and presentations. Rep. Cliff Bentz will talk about upcoming legislative challenges and issues; Trent Luschen from Baker-Grant FSA will talk about various programs including new ones; and National Resources Conservation Services will offer program updates. A tentative presentation from Monument-Grant Soil and Water Conservation District is also planned. A question-and-answer period will follow each. Pizza and soda will be provided.

MONDAY-TUESDAY, JAN. 12-13

Red Cross blood drive

• 1-6 p.m. Monday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, John Day
The church is at 944 E. Main St. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment, or visit redcrossblood.org.

SATURDAY, JAN. 17

Legion Auxiliary will meet

• 12 noon, Valley View Assisted Living, John Day
The American Legion Auxiliary's Ellis Tracy Unit No. 77 will start the new year with a meeting at the local retirement complex.

Fire, weeds, herds on agenda

SWCD offers presentations for annual meeting

Blue Mountain Eagle

MONUMENT - The Monument Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a trio of presentations at its annual meeting, set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22.

The event will be at the Monument Community Center, and the Monument FFA will serve a barbecue brisket lunch for \$8 a plate at noon.

The program includes:

- 10:15 a.m. - Timber stand health and fire resilience, about managing timber to maintain a health stand that's resistant to fire,

presented by forest consultant Irene Jerome and Rob Pentzer, Oregon Department of Forestry unit forester.

- 1 p.m. - Controlling medusahead, cheatgrass and jointed goatgrass with bacteria, presented by Ann Kennedy of the Agricultural Research Station in Pullman, Wash.

- 2 p.m. - Making financially-based herd management decisions, presented by Shanna Northway, Grant County Extension agent.

The district's annual meeting and election of officers will follow at 3:15 p.m.

Those planning to attend should RSVP by Jan. 16 to Monument SWCD at 541-934-2141 or mswcd@centurytel.net.

FOR THE BIRDS
Counters tally feathered friends in Grant County

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY - Observers didn't spot any new species this year, but there were some notable finds in the John Day Christmas Bird Count, reported organizer Tom Winters.

The Dec. 20 count produced its highest wood duck count, in part due to a report from Betty and Dean Elliott.

Also bountiful were hooded mergansers, almost triple their previous high, and merlins, double the past record.

Eurasian collared-doves also had all-time high numbers, although that was not applauded by participants. These adaptable non-natives are considered invasive across the United States.

Meanwhile, wild turkeys were just 22 birds short of their all-time high.

Two species tallied for 2014, the western grebe and Say's phoebe, had been seen just once before in a local count.

This was the first count where golden eagles were not recorded, a notable omission that volunteers blamed on weather.

All told, the counters spotted 64 species and 4,718 individual birds - both numbers about average. Three more species were seen during the count week but not on the count day.

Field participants included Chris Bare, Mike Bohannon, Hugo Cobos, Angeliq Curtis, Randy Hennan, Karen Jacobs, Barbara Meyer, Peter Meyer, Clarence O'Leary, Marilyn O'Leary, Shaun Olson, Anakhoree Reeves, Jill Reeves, Johanna Ruff, Jim Soupir, Clarence Story, and Tom Winters.

Reports also came in from Betty and Dean Elliott, Anne Frost, and Cecil Gagnon.

Winters said the counters were fortunate to have community partners - Crown Ranch, Enright Ranch, Holiday Ranch, and Grant Western Lumber Co. - allowing them to check their outbuildings and properties for birds. They also noted several other landowners allowed the teams to observe birds on their properties.

A separate count took place Dec. 19 in the Antone observation circle, where temperatures were milder - ranging from 43 degrees at dawn to 51 degrees in the afternoon. The weather was generally good for birding,



Contributed photos

A canyon wren is spotted in a thicket during the 2014 Christmas Bird Count.

The Counts

2014 John Day Results

Canada goose (233), tundra swan (4), wood duck (55), American wigeon (4), mallard (71), northern shoveler (3), green-winged teal (5), ring-necked duck (3), lesser scaup (3), hooded merganser (22), common merganser (1), California quail (309), wild turkey (282), Western grebe (1), great blue heron (6), bald eagle (16), northern harrier (5), sharp-shinned hawk (2), Cooper's hawk (3), red-tailed hawk (26), rough-legged hawk (2), American kestrel (6), merlin (6), American coot (13), killdeer (6), rock pigeon (2), Eurasian collared-dove (223), mourning dove (21), great horned owl (1), belted kingfisher (9), downy woodpecker (5), hairy woodpecker (4), northern flicker (31), Say's Phoebe (1), northern shrike (1), Steller's jay (12), western scrub jay (11), Clark's nutcracker (2), black-billed magpie (85), common raven (127), black-

capped chickadee (54), mountain chickadee (9), red-breasted nuthatch (4), brown creeper (1), marsh wren (1), American dipper (8), golden-crowned kinglet (1), ruby-crowned kinglet (5), Townsend's solitaire (56), American robin (1170), varied thrush (1), European starling (1011), cedar waxwing (30), spotted towhee (5), song sparrow (14), white-crowned sparrow (5), slate-colored (2) and Oregon (266) juncos, purple finch (20), house finch (81), pine siskin (12), lesser goldfinch (4), American goldfinch (96), evening grosbeak (124), and house sparrow (116).

Other species were seen during count week: yellow-shafted flicker (a rarity in these parts), mountain bluebird, and Cassin's finch.

2014 Antone Circle Results

Canada goose (142), cackling goose (1), tundra swan (5), American wigeon (2), mallard (85), green-winged teal (2), ring-necked duck (1), common mer-

ganser (2), chukar (10), wild turkey (132), mountain quail (1), California quail (56), great blue heron (5), bald eagle (5), northern harrier (2), sharp-shinned hawk (2), Cooper's hawk (2), red-tailed hawk (16), golden eagle (9), American kestrel (5), Wilson's snipe (4), rock pigeon (57), Eurasian collared-dove (12), great horned owl (1), belted kingfisher (2), hairy woodpecker (1), northern flicker (14), northern shrike (3), Steller's jay (2), black-billed magpie (105), common raven (32), mountain chickadee (3), bushtit (7), brown creeper (1), rock wren (3), canyon wren (22), American dipper (1), ruby-crowned kinglet (8), mountain bluebird (60), Townsend's solitaire (89), hermit thrush (1), American robin (881), European starling (100), spotted towhee (5), song sparrow (32), white-crowned sparrow (22), dark-eyed junco (251 and 1 slate-colored), house sparrow (2).

- Source: Tom Winters and Joel Geier



Camouflaged in the brush, a hermit thrush appears ready to fly from its perch.

despite a brief shower before noon.

The Antone volunteers counted 49 species.

Participants included Charlie Berry, Diane Burgess, Joel Geier, Wil Geier, Shirley Hoh, Judy Meredith, Ginger Sanders, Clarence Story, Darwin Wile, and Tom Winters.

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COUNTRY FINANCIAL

ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:

Did you know a service-connected disabled veteran is entitled to **FREE** use of Oregon State Parks?

See your Grant County Veteran Services Officer today for more information, located at Grant County Courthouse.

Office hrs.: Tues. - Thur. 10 am - 4 pm
Call 541-575-1631 for an appointment at any time.

A Belated Merry Christmas

A late Christmas present for the community:
Go to Monica's John Day Video Store by Squeeze-In and pick up the DVD "The Investigator" and she will rent it to you for free.
From the COWBOY CHAPEL

Thank You

The family of Clarence "Buster" Shearer wishes to express a very heartfelt "Thank You" for the kindness and thoughtfulness shown during our recent loss. Thank you for the prayers, cards, food and love offerings, we deeply appreciate everything. May God bless each and everyone of you.

Sincerely,
The family of Clarence "Buster" Shearer

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www.bluemountainhospital.org

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