

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9

Chamber installation, dinner

• 5 p.m., John Day Golf Clubhouse
The Grant County Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual installation and volunteer appreciation. Food will be provided. Happy hour will be from 5-6 p.m. Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) is the guest speaker.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

Shinyribs in concert at the ranch

• 7 p.m., Diamond Hitch Mule Ranch, Kimberly
Shinyribs brings their high-energy music to the Diamond Hitch Ranch. The Austin, Texas-based band's latest album is "Okra Candy." Tickets are \$20 a person, and camping at the ranch is \$15. Food will be provided by Monument High School's Flying Tigers, including a Texas-style meal of pork ribs, coleslaw and baked beans. The Diamond Hitch Ranch is on State Route 19 between mileposts 107 and 108. Call 541-934-2140 for more information. Visit Shinyribs at <http://shinyribs.org/>.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

Second Saturday Gathering

• 9:30-11:30 a.m., Outpost Restaurant, John Day
Chris McKinley will speak about her recent trip to Cambodia with Samaritan's Purse as a "Helping Hands" ministry. Kathy Rogers and Lis Davis will present music at the no-host breakfast. Coffee and tea are complimentary.

The monthly gatherings are open to all women in the county.

Star program

• 7:30-9:30 p.m., Thomas Condon Paleontology Center
Enjoy an evening of viewing the planets, stars and galaxies with a telescope, presented by John Fiedor, National Park Service volunteer. An astronomy program will precede the outdoor viewing. Clear or cloudy skies, a program will be presented. The center's fossil museum will be open for touring at 7 p.m. The program is free. Call 541-987-2333.

MONDAY, SEPT. 14

Airport master plan meeting

• 5 p.m., Grant County Regional Airport, John Day
All are welcome to a kick-off meeting of the Grant County Regional Airport Master Plan project, which will help ensure an effective and optimal development of the airport. Community participation is welcome and appreciated in the master planning process.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 15

George Winston in concert

• 7 p.m., Prairie City Community Center
George Winston returns to Prairie City, bringing his melodic folk, New Orleans R&B and stride piano styles in concert. Winston's latest record, "Gulf Coast Blues and Impressions - A Louisiana Wetlands Benefit," was released by Sony Music in March 2012. His upcoming album, "Spring Carousel - A Cancer Research Benefit," is scheduled for release in 2015. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the performance at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 a person, with all proceeds going to disaster relief and emergency preparedness upgrades at the community center. Support the

local food bank by bringing a canned food donation. Tickets are available at Bar WB; Norm DeJong, DDS; Prairie Trading Post; and Roan Outwest. Call Melanie DeJong at 541-620-1492 for more information.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

Clay pigeon shoot

• 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Kimberly Rock Products
There will be mens, womens and kids competitions at a cost of \$3 per shoot. A pulled pork sandwich lunch plus sides will be served for \$6 a person. Proceeds will help the Monument FFA be able to attend the national FFA convention. Kimberly Rock Products is on State Route 402 at mile marker 9. Call 541-934-2143.

Comedy fundraiser for fire victims

• 8 p.m., Dirty Shame Saloon, John Day
Bend Comedy presents the "Canyon Creek Complex Benefit and Fundraiser Comedy Show," featuring performers Benjie Wright, Ryan Traugher and Elaine Johnson. There will also be raffles with gifts and prizes from sponsoring businesses. Tickets are \$5 a person, and can be purchased online from bendcomedy.com. Proceeds will benefit those impacted by the wildfire.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23

PC town hall on recreational pot

• 6 p.m., Prairie City Community Center
Prairie City residents are encouraged to attend the town hall and learn more about the issue of recreational marijuana. The city council seeks the community's input on the subject of the cultivation, processing and sales of recreational marijuana within the city limits.

People Mover blazes a trail for veterans

Grant will allow service to take a larger bus to Walla Walla

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The People Mover just got the green light on efforts to get more local veterans to medical appointments outside the area.

After a yearlong process, the transportation service received word from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that they may now take a larger capacity bus on the weekly runs to Walla Walla, Wash.

Angie Jones, transit manager for The People Mover, began the application process in August 2014, after learning The People Mover would be receiving the High Rural Transportation Grant to be able to take Grant County veterans to medical appointments.

The effort was not without barriers, the largest of which was that the FMCSA didn't recognize the insurance risk pool that they use through the Special Districts Association of Oregon. The risk pool met or exceeded all the requirements, but was still unrecognized because it wasn't affiliated with the private insurance industry.

Jones, however, was undeterred, continuing the required process and pushing for recognition of the necessary insurance, seeking assistance from the Oregon Department of Transportation, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) and other agencies for assistance.

As a result, the Grant County Transportation District is the first of its kind in Oregon and the nation to apply for and receive Motor Carrier Authority to provide public transportation across

state lines.

"Grant County deserves tremendous credit for trailblazing the path forward to solve a tough transportation issue to make sure veterans get the health care they need and deserve," said Sen. Wyden.

"I'm gratified that I could help The People Mover with their job of connecting our veterans to health care in Walla Walla, and I very much appreciate that Angie Jones and the People Mover shares my commitment to our veterans," Sen. Wyden added.

Robin Phillips, executive director of the National Rural Transit Assistance Program, said, "Like common sense, your attention and follow through are uncommon and much needed in your community."

The People Mover travels to Walla Walla every Tuesday. The service is open to the general public, as well as veterans who need medical services. For more information, call The People Mover office at 541-575-2370.

Local singer aspires to be an 'American Idol'

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — It must be fate.

An "American Idol" audition is taking place in San Francisco Sept. 15 — the same day as Jamie Cernazanu's birthday.

Taking the stage name Jamie Rachele, the budding artist says she turns 27 that day, which happens to be the age limit for applicants to the show.

Cernazanu recently attended the Grant County Fair in John Day at the Spoiled Rotten Boutique booth singing guest requests.

She sang to a small group that gathered around her as she belted out Adele's "Rollin' in the Deep."

Cernazanu graduated from The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in Los Angeles with a bachelor of fine arts degree in musical theater.

While she aspires to be a mainstream radio artist, Cernazanu took a detour back to her hometown of John Day earlier this year to assist a family member.

She's the daughter of Tootie and the late Jim Cernazanu of John Day.

Jamie went from managing

a "The Body Shop" franchise in L.A. to bartending at the Outpost Restaurant, but her goal is to reach greater heights, such as recording top music hits.

Her plan is to record music she's written, but that project is on hold because it's out of reach financially.

"I definitely want to have a No. 1 album," she said, adding that she envisions a career in television and film as well.

She also hopes to share her talents in schools, providing outreach to students.

While she appreciates all music, she said her favorite type of music is R&B and jazz.

Adele, Etta James, Ella Fitzgerald, Amy Winehouse and others hit a "soulful zone" for her.

Jamie is a 2007 graduate of Grant Union High School, and says she was encouraged and influenced by her music teachers over the years, including MaryAnn Vidourek, Al Olson, Peggy Neal and,

more recently, Jamie Lupien.

As for the "American Idol" contest, she said her mother will travel with her for the audition — she also plans to submit a video entry — and she should hear in winter about the results.

The show airs in January; the

winner receives a recording contract, and the top 10 do a music tour together.

"There's a lot of growth I'm hoping to gain from the whole experience," she said. "The biggest thing is to remember to be myself."

CASA training for new advocates

The training will be held at the Grant County ESD, September 11th, September 12th, September 25th, and September 26th. Anyone interested in attending or obtaining more information Call Tracey Blood at (541) 575-5574.



Howard & Marcia Geiger would like to thank the Prairie City Fire Department and the other teams who fought back the fire and saved their house and shop. A special thank you to Joey and Spencer who were patient and saved Howard's mind.

Taci at the City of Prairie City was a life saver, and thank you for letting us stay at Depot Park. Thank you to Phil & Carol Bopp at the Oxbow for all they did.

Sincerely, Howard & Marcia

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Rebuilding? Protect yourself by hiring a licensed contractor

Disasters that cause property damage often attract construction scam artists. The Oregon Construction Contractors Board (CCB) offers these tips to avoid problems:

- Get the contractor's full name, business address, and CCB license number.
- Call us or visit our website to verify that the person giving you a bid is licensed and to check the contractor's complaint record.
- Get several bids, and check references.
- Always get a written contract.
- Never pay the full amount up front and don't pay in cash.

www.oregon.gov/ccb
503-378-4621

Unlicensed contractors work illegally.
They are not insured or bonded.
Verify license information with the CCB.

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September 14th-19th

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