

# Rural veteran transportation funding awarded

Free transportation to medical appointments available for veterans

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs has received another federal VA grant to invest a half-million dollars into the transportation needs of veterans living in highly rural Oregon counties.

Distance and transportation to and from appointments are routinely cited by rural veterans as the main obstacles to obtaining health care. Oregon has 10 counties that are considered "highly rural" by the U.S. Census Bureau: Grant, Baker, Gilliam, Lake, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Wallowa and Wheeler.

More than one-fifth of Oregon's veteran population lives in one of these highly rural areas.

"It's not enough to just provide quality health care for veterans. We must also ensure that all veterans have access to it — no matter where they choose to live," ODA Director Cameron Smith said. "We are proud to collaborate with our local partners to continue to reduce barriers for rural veterans to access care at the VA and in the community."

For the past three years, Oregon has received the maximum award of \$50,000 for each participating coun-

ty. ODA, in partnership with each county or transportation district, leverages these dollars in conjunction with existing programs and innovative new approaches to medical transportation in order to get the maximum value from each grant.

Tapping into existing programs has enabled these grant dollars to make a significant and immediate impact for rural veterans in need of medical transportation services.

Last year, the 10 participating counties drove over 274,600 miles as part of this program and spent a total of 9,871 hours on the road.

Free transportation to and from medical appointments (not just those at VA facilities) is available to any veteran living in one of the participating highly rural counties.

Services include door-to-door pick-up and drop-off in ADA-compliant vehicles, with assistance in loading or unloading at no cost to the veteran.

For more information about the Highly Rural Transportation program in Grant County, call 541-575-2370.

A complete list of the appropriate contacts can be found on ODA's website at <http://wp.me/p60SnD-Nf>.

# RISKY BUSINESS AT HOSPITAL FOUNDATION GALA



Bruce Ward, dressed as Tom Cruise's character, Joel, from the movie "Risky Business," enjoyed the Hollywood-themed Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation dinner and auction Oct. 22 in John Day. Foundation Executive Director Judy Krutsinger said the fundraising event was "a great success," with 114 dinners served and more than \$18,000 collected. The foundation is currently raising funds to purchase a bone density scanner for Blue Mountain Hospital. Foundation-supported purchases in recent years include a new ambulance, a pediatric stretcher crib, cardiac monitoring equipment, a nurse call system, portable X-ray equipment and a mammography unit. For more information or to donate, contact Krutsinger, 541-620-1010.

Contributed photo

# County pays Eastern Oregon County Association dues

By Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Kimberly Lindsay, the executive director of Community Counseling Solutions, gave an update on the state of relations between the Oregon Health Department and Eastern Oregon Counties during a Grant County Court meeting Wednesday, Nov. 3.

She said, as rural counties continued to shrink in size, the state would likely take on more health responsibilities and begin to centralize services. She rec-

ommended communities stay engaged and advocate for themselves to make sure their needs were met.

The court also discussed paying dues to the Eastern Oregon County Association. The association advocates for counties who receive funding through programs like Payment in Lieu of Taxes and the Secure Rural Schools. Commissioner Chris Labhart and County Judge Scott Myers voted to pay the association dues of \$10,800.

Commissioner Boyd Britton advo-

ated for paying half of the county's dues. He explained his position, stating elected officials were already advocating for rural counties and had their best interests at heart.

The court voted 2-to-1 to pay dues to the association.

The court also approved unpaid time off for a Road Department employee, regular elevator maintenance for the courthouse's elevator and a credit card to cover business expenses for the department of the Justice of the Peace.

## COPS & COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

### Circuit Court

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Circuit Court reported the following fines and judgments:

- Harley John Askew, 56, was convicted of fourth-degree assault on Oct. 31. He was issued a suspended sentence of 18 months probation, 10 days jail with credit for time served and ordered to pay \$581.62 in restitution to SAIF Corp and pay \$665 in court fees and fines.

### Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Oct. 27 to Nov. 2:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 5
- Average inmates: 19
- Bookings: 17
- Releases: 19
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 1
- Fingerprints: 7
- Warrants processed: 1
- Asst./welfare check: 2

### Justice Court

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Justice Court reported the following fines and judgments:

- Exceeding the speed limit: Brandi Lynn Fountain,

32, Prairie City, 79/65 zone, Sept. 14, fined \$260; Vikki Lee Price, 62, Nyssa, 73/65 zone, Oct. 21, fined \$135; Kathleen Elizabeth Christensen, Bend, 55/35 zone, Oct. 6, fined \$160; Jennifer Lynn Reddel, 24, Sweet Home, 61/45 zone, Oct. 11, fined \$135; Caleb Pace Sanders, 23, Prairie City, 72/65 zone, Oct. 18, fined \$160; Railey Renee Namitz, 18, John Day, 75/65 zone, Oct. 14, fined \$160; Travis Charles Foster, 30, Idaho Falls, 74/65 zone, Oct. 13, fined \$160; Jared Jerrell Baker, 21, John Day, 53/25 zone, Sept. 25, fined \$260.

- Violation of the basic rule: Kelly James Workman, 55, Mt. Vernon, 70/55 zone, Oct. 13, fined \$135; Phillip Andrew DeGrande, 61, John Day, 74/55 zone, Oct. 14, fined \$160; Andrew R. Copenhaver, 18, John Day, 80/55 zone, Oct. 21, fined \$135; Kristen Denise Webster, 23, Bowling Green, Kentucky, 75/55 zone, Oct. 12, fined \$160; Sandra Marie Gilson, 50, Mt. Vernon, 70/55 zone, Oct. 27, fined \$160.

- Driving while suspended: Travis James Frieni, 30, John Day, July 24, fined \$2,000; Deanna Lynette Griffin, 45, Hines, Aug. 8, fined \$435; Kasey A. Morrill, 29, Portland, Aug. 29, fined \$435; Jyla Hill, 27, John Day, Oct. 14, fined \$335.

- Driving uninsured: Travis James Frieni, 30, John

Day, July 24, fined \$1,000; Jared Jerrell Baker, 21, John Day, Sept. 25, fined \$260; Jyla Hill, 27, John Day, Oct. 14, fined \$200.

- No operator's license: Jared Jerrell Baker, 21, John Day, Sept. 25, fined \$260.

- No seat belt: Taylor Paige Castle, 22, John Day, Sept. 24, fined \$110.

- No tail lights: Travis James Frieni, 30, John Day, July 24, fined \$500

- Violation of travel management: Tyler Jacob Joram, 19, Forest Grove, Oct. 7, fined \$435.

- Open Container: Jesse Cole Rigel, 31, Prairie City, Oct. 29, fined \$370.

- Dog as a nuisance: Paul L. Roark, 20, Mt. Vernon, Oct. 24, fined \$260, but will dismiss if no convictions prior to May 2, 2017.

- Homegrown marijuana or cannabinoid products or concentrates in public view: Dustin Lee Goin, 41, Canyon City, Oct. 5, fined \$220.

- Depositing trash within 100 feet of a waterway: Joseph Frank McCrary, John Day, fined \$435.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 153 calls during the week of Oct. 31 to Nov. 6. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- Nov. 5: Dispatch was advised by the mayor of Long

Creek that the main water pump burned out on the night of Nov. 4. Took an information report about a possible phone scam regarding ballots.

- **John Day Police**  
Oct. 31: dispatched to a report of theft at the Methodist Church.

- Nov. 2: Dispatched for a report of a stolen dog.

- Nov. 3: JDPD and OSP dispatched to a report of a verbal domestic dispute. Cit-

ed a subject for driving while suspended.

- Nov. 6: Cited a 31-year-old Prairie City resident for driving while suspended, expired plates and no insurance.

- **Grant County Sheriff**  
Oct. 31: Responded to a report of a burglary on Golf Club Road. Arrested a suspect for driving while suspended. Received a report of telephonic harassment.

- Nov. 4: Arrested a 51-year-

old Mt. Vernon resident for a restraining order violation.

- Nov. 6: Arrested a 24-year-old Athena resident on a Umatilla warrant.

- **John Day ambulance**  
Nov. 1: Dispatched for an unconscious 55-year-old male in Mt. Vernon.

- **Oregon State Police**  
Nov. 3: Received a driving complaint of a man driving with a dead skunk tied to his car.

## Monument Senior Center wishes to extend a huge thank-you

to all who have been part of the success of the first annual Buckaroo Festival and Harvest Auction in Monument, Oregon, held September 24, 2016 for all businesses and persons who either donated a item, purchased a item or gave their time. You made it a grand blowout.

*If I have missed anyone, know you are appreciated.*

*It took each and every hand to make this a successful event.*

Save September 23, 2017 for the 2nd annual Buckaroo Festival and Harvest Auction.

The Monument Senior Center would like to thank you for supporting our senior center.

Winner of the "Rifle Raffle" — Andrew Lessar, Redmond

Winner of the "Bucket of Bullets" — Andy Shutz, Prineville

Winner of the "Horse Quilt" — Carolyn Thomas, Kimberly

### Grand Marshall - Jack Cavender

- Bruce Hansen - Sauvies Island
- Jimmy Cole - Monument
- Ray & Sandra Davis
- Mills Building Supply - John Day
- The Corner Cup
- John Day Chamber of Commerce
- Coffee Time - KJDY
- Blue Mountain Eagle
- Rylan Boggs - Great Article
- Nydam's Ace Hardware
- John Day River Veterinary Center - Les Schwab Tire Center
- Squeeze Inn Restaurant
- The Outpost
- The John Day Video Shoppe
- Dan Lynch
- Susan Cavender - Monument
- Bill & Anita Newman
- John & Debbie Cole
- Ada McMillan
- Mark Lemaire
- Aaron & Judy Harris
- Chad & Michelle Engle
- Gary & Pattie Engle
- Cochran Creek Ranch
- D&D Repair
- Bill Turner
- Bob & Soo Yukawa
- Mia Yukawa
- Triple Homestead - Rose & Darrell Howe
- Sahara Derowitsch
- David & Karen Stubblefield
- Dorothy Jordan
- Judy Cavender
- Bob & Sylvia Cockrel
- Ed & Judy Bustardo
- Wally, Marva & Linda Walker
- Joannie Howell

- Columbia Power Co-op
- Ray & Sandra Davis
- Bo, Lonnie & Roger Lawrence
- Boyers Cash Store
- Troy, Stacy, Tell & Reece Cox
- Betty Richards
- Dannie & Wanda Derowitsch
- Cinnamon Derowitsch
- Kimberly McManus "Hair It Is"
- True Value Hardware
- Subway
- Java Jungle
- Radio Shack
- John Day Floral
- Shelly Moiser
- Chester's Thriftway
- Len's Drug
- Frontier Equipment & Sales - Mt. Vernon
- Lou's Heartfelt Quilting - Mt. Vernon
- Shiny Thimble Quilt Shop - Mt. Vernon
- Gail & Shirley Enright - Mt. Vernon
- Bi-Mart - Pendleton
- D&B Supply - Pendleton
- Rick & Charlotte Broadie - Baker City
- JD River Trading Post - Kimberly
- Thomas Orchards
- Dan Lynch
- Bob & Linda Blakeslee
- Debbie Hood
- Jess & Liz Hoodenpyl
- The Pogue Family
- Leonard & Vickie Breck
- Apricot Apiaries - Matt & Liz Lovelock
- Brad & Julie Smith
- Sue Stovall
- Bruce & Jeannine Strange
- Emma Chitwood
- Bodean Anderson
- Darrin & Cara Dailly

- Heather Bowlus
- Cliff & Terry Bowlus
- Pat McCurry
- Patricia Johnson
- Pam Pollard
- Debbie Tippet
- Max & Betty Breeding
- Kristi Guimont
- Bob Cox
- Jody Winkelman
- Carrie Jewell
- Jennifer & Jared Achepohl
- Amiee Patterson - Imbler
- Wilson Ranch Retreat - Phil & Nancy - Fossil
- Linda Abraham
- Kathy Woods - Spokane, Wash.
- Eva Lee - Issaquah, Wash.
- Andy & Julie Erickson - Condon
- Shawn & Tricia Jones - Powell Butte
- Rocky, Deanna & Cole Maley - Long Creek
- Shane Murphy
- Jan & Craig Ensign - Long Creek
- Long Creek Store
- First Choice Auto Body LLC - Canyon City
- Richard Boyer - Canyon City
- Tom & Maureen Erhardt - Salem
- Missy Boyer - Hermiston
- Laura Hopper - Terrebonne
- Dennis & Pat Davis - Mitchell
- Cheri, Amber, Cody, Travis & Steve Hewgley - Portland
- Lynn Porter - Portland
- Paul Green - LaFayette, OR
- Malon & Lola Cowgill - Junction City, OR
- Dayville Cafe - Dayville
- Carolyn Adams - Spray
- Harold & Francis Preston - Prairie City
- Linda Rotz Miller Quilts - Maine
- Charlotte Barker - New York

## Robbins Farm Equipment

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|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 3850 10th St.<br>Baker City<br>541-523-6377 | 10218 Wallowa Lake Hwy.<br>La Grande<br>541-963-6577 | 1160 S Egan<br>Burns<br>541-573-6377 | 86812 Christmas Valley Hwy.<br>Christmas Valley<br>541-523-6377 |
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