

The deadline for What's Happening items is 5 p.m. Friday. Call the Eagle, 541-575-0710, or email editor@bmeagle.com. For meetings this week, see our list in the classifieds on Page A17.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16

Red Cross blood drive

• 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, John Day
To make an appointment or for more information, call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org.

Grant County Democrats meeting

• 6:30 p.m., 511 SE Hillcrest Road, John Day
Local Democrats are encouraged to attend a meeting. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 541-542-2633.

FRIDAY, NOV. 18

'Music of Autumn' concert

• 7 p.m., United Methodist Church, 126 NW Canton, John Day
The Grant County Youth Arts Program and Juniper Arts Council will present the Youth Arts Program Ensembles Concert, with the theme "Music of Autumn." Admission is free, but donations are requested.

SATURDAY, NOV. 19

Christmas on the Prairie

• 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Prairie City
The theme for this year's holiday event, presented by Talents and Treasures, is "Believe in the Magic of Christmas." Activities include gingerbread house building and other children's crafts, bazaars, merchant sales, wagon rides, FFA dinner and auction and photos with Santa and the elves, including a session for family pets from 4:30-6:30 p.m. For more information, see



Page A8 and Page A9 or call 541-820-3675.

SUNDAY, NOV. 20

Seneca turkey shoot

• 9:30 a.m., Seneca Trap Range
The Seneca Trap Range will be holding its annual Thanksgiving turkey shoot, open to everyone. Practice starts at 9:30 a.m., and the shoot begins at 10 a.m. Shells will be available, as well as lunch. For more information, call Nancy Chase at 541-575-0243.

Grant County Fair and Rodeo Court coronation dinner

• 5 p.m., Grant County Fairgrounds, John Day
The community is invited to the Grant County Fair and Rodeo Court Cowboy Christmas Coronation Dinner and Auction. Jessica Carter will be crowned queen, and Trinity Hutchison princess. The dinner includes tri-tip catered by Kris and Kjer Kizer, and Snafflebit Restaurant's no-host bar. Live, silent and dessert auctions will be held. Dinner is \$15 a person or \$25 for a couple. For dinner tickets, or to donate an item, dessert or money, call Nicole Israel at 541-620-2624. All proceeds benefit the court for travel expenses, wardrobe and outfitting their horse as



Eagle file photo

A wide variety of gingerbread houses from Prairie City businesses wait to be auctioned during Christmas on the Prairie last year. The event is set for Saturday, Nov. 19, this year.

they promote Grant County.

THURSDAY, NOV. 24

Community Thanksgiving dinner

• 1 p.m., The Teen Center, 145 W. Front St., Prairie City
The Prairie Baptist Church will host a community Thanksgiving dinner. Everything will be provided for diners. For more information, call the church at 541-820-3696.

Community Thanksgiving dinner

1-4 p.m., John Day Elks Lodge, 140 NE Dayton St.
A free holiday meal with ham, turkey and all the trimmings will be offered. Contributions of side dishes and desserts are welcome. The lounge will be open for pool, shuffleboard, card games and football on big screen TVs. Home deliveries are available for seniors, veterans and disabled people who live in John Day, Canyon City, Mt. Vernon and Prairie City. Call the lodge in advance to make arrangements. Volunteers are also needed to help cook, set up, clean up and deliver meals. For more information, call the lodge at 541-575-1824.

John Day gets a lift with new taxi service

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

Experienced in the taxi driving industry, Richie Colbeth has always wanted to own his own business.

A perfect storm of proper finance, enough time and his wife's grudging approval have allowed him to make that goal a reality.

Colbeth said business at John Day Taxi is going great, and people are glad to have a taxi service in the area. He is offering rides to Canyon City, Mt. Vernon, Prairie City and John Day and is getting as many as 10 customers a day.

He charges \$2 for a round trip anywhere in John Day, \$3 in Canyon City, \$5.50 to Mt. Vernon and \$7.50 to Prairie City. He is typically available from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

He said he has been approached by customers wanting rides as far as Idaho and Bend but has declined because he's more interested with providing a local service.

"I'm here for the people of John Day," Colbeth said.

He also said he would make himself available for late-night emergency pickups if the need arises.

He said he has been printing business cards, magnetic labels and even advertising via mail.

Colbeth said startup expenses cost him a small fortune. He said he has been approached by others who had wanted to start a taxi business, but the various legal expenses and insurance costs made it impossible.

Colbeth said he wanted to work as a driver for the People Mover, but after being denied employment, he decided to start his own taxi business.

He has plenty of stories



Eagle photos/Rylan Boggs

Richie Colbeth keeps an eye on the road while driving back into John Day Nov. 9. BELOW: Colbeth with his taxi.



from his past days driving cabs. He said he once picked up four soldiers from a bar near Fort Dix, New Jersey, and drove them back to their barracks. The soldier riding shotgun made a run for it when they got close. Colbeth gave chase with tire iron in hand, and while he wasn't able to catch the first soldier, the other three were. They slammed the run-away to the ground and made him pay for all their rides, plus a tip, Colbeth said.

Another time, Colbeth said he was driving in Phoenix, Arizona, and picked up an NBA player named Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Over 7 feet tall, he spent the entire ride to the airport with his knees in the back of Colbeth's head. Abdul-Jabbar gave him a quarter, an autograph and a story to tell for the rest of his life, Colbeth said.

He said one time he picked a rough-looking man in New Jersey who asked Colbeth to take him where the women were. Colbeth drove to the YWCA. Unamused, the man pulled a gun. Colbeth was not only able to talk the man down, but got his \$2.50 cab fare as well.

To get a ride, call Colbeth at 541-620-4255.

Community Counseling Solutions receives rural health award

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

Community Counseling Solutions, a mental health provider servicing Grant County and Eastern Oregon, recently received the Rural Health Hero of the Year award.

The award is given to a person, organization or program that greatly improved the quality and availability of health care in rural Oregon. The award was presented to CCS at the 33rd annual Oregon Rural Health Conference, held Sept. 28-30 in Portland.

"There are many hard working, dedicated people out there who have made a major impact on health care in rural Oregon," Scott Ekblad, director of the Oregon Office of Rural Health said.

CCS provides services in Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler, Grant and Lake counties. Its services include individual, family and group therapy, such as gambling counseling,

alcohol and drug treatment, 24-hour crisis intervention, psychiatric consultations and medication management. In addition, it offers case management for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The agency's list of facilities and services include Juniper Ridge Acute Care Facility in John Day, Lakeview Heights in Heppner and mental health, alcohol and drug and developmental disability services in Heppner, Condon, Arlington, Fossil, John Day and Boardman. Additional services include rental assis-

stance, senior companion and foster grandparent programs and a phone line for those struggling with mental health issues.

Kimberly Lindsay is the organization's executive director and oversees a huge swath of rural Eastern Oregon's mental health care. By statute, each county must hire a mental health director, a developmental disability manager and provide certain mental health services, usually by contracting a provider like CCS. Most directors oversee only one county.

Your Rural Family Health Clinic



Grant County HEALTH Department
528 E. Main, St. E., John Day

Monday - Friday
8am - 5pm

Karen Triplett, FNP

Appointments available

Call and schedule your appointment today!
TOLL FREE
888-443-9104
or 541-575-0429

Services Provided:

- Primary Care
- Acute Care
- Women's Health Exams
- Men and Children Exams
- Immunizations
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- Contraception
- Pregnancy Testing & Referrals
- HIV Testing & Referrals
- Caecoon
- WIC
- High Risk Infants
- 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.


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The doctor speaks Spanish - El doctor habla Español



EARLY DEADLINE
for Nov. 23rd Edition
Classified Liners, Legals & Display Ads

DEADLINE
Thurs. Nov. 17 5:00pm



541-575-0710
195 N. Canyon Blvd. John Day OR 97845

**Office will be
CLOSED
Nov. 24**