

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.

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 14**

**Small grants application training**

• 5:30-6:30 p.m., John Day Fire Hall community room  
The Juniper Arts Council is offering training on applying for small grants. The trainer will use the Juniper Arts Council Shelk Community Grant application and budget as a model at the training. The council is partnering again with the Shelk Foundation to offer small grants to Grant County organizations. The application will be available at the meeting and is due Nov. 2. The council will distribute approximately \$3,000 with a maximum grant award of \$1,000. For more information call President Kris Beal at 541-932-4892.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 16**

**John Day Farmer's Market**

• 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – SW Brent St., John Day.  
Crafts, baked goods, produce, kids activities, entertainment, information booths. For more information, call 541-792-0958 or email johndayfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

**A Round for Kenya golf tournament**

• 9 a.m., John Day Golf Club  
Local resident Aaron Kienzle is hosting a golf scramble to raise funds for a mission trip to Kenya. Players will compete on four-member teams. A hamburger feed, by donation, will be held after the scramble. The cost is \$60 per person, which includes green fees and a cart. Payment is due at registration. To register or for more information, contact Kienzle at 541-620-4435.

**Star program**

• 6:30 p.m., Thomas Condon Paleontology Center, nine miles west of Dayville  
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument will host a star program presented by John Fiedor, retired National Park Service Ranger. An astronomy program will be given, followed by outdoor viewing of stars and planets. A program will be presented regardless of weather. There is no cost to attend, but bring warm clothes



Contributed photo

**National Parks Service retiree John Fiedor, a Dayville resident, is hosting a star program at the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument Sept. 16.**

and a flashlight. For more information, call the center at 541-987-2333.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20**

**Kerry Grombacher concert**

• 7 p.m., John Day United Methodist Church  
The Juniper Arts Council is bringing Kerry Grombacher back to Grant County for an encore concert. Kerry, a modern-day troubadour, is a singer/songwriter whose songs are rooted in the Western landscape. The concert is free and open to the public. The JAC will accept donations for its scholarship fund. For more information call JAC President Kris Beal at 541-932-4892.

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 21**

**"Era of megafires" presentation**

• 6:30 p.m., Grant County Regional Airbase, John Day  
Blue Mountain Forest Partners collaborative group, in conjunction with the Malheur National Forest, will host a presentation given by Dr. Paul Hessburg, who has conducted fire and landscape ecology research for more than 27 years. This presentation is designed to help audiences better understand fire, its natural role in forest health, how management practices over the years have altered this and created conditions that contribute to larger, hotter, more destructive wildfires, and how to can better meet this challenge. There is no cost, and the public is encouraged to attend.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 23**

**Local author meet and greet**

• 11 a.m. to noon, Grant Union JR/SR High School library  
The Juniper Arts Council will host a meet and greet with local author D. L. Jones (Don Jones.) Don, who taught history at Grant Union for 26 years, has penned his novel about Carlos Quintana, a civil war veteran. Don will talk about himself, writing historical fiction and his book. There will be a question and answer period and Don's book will be for sale. The meet and greet is in conjunction with the all school reunion school tours of Grant Union. Tours will be offered at 10, noon and 1p.m. Please meet in the foyer in front of the old gym to start the tour. For more information contact JAC President Kris Beal at 541-932-4892.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27**

**Healthcare for All Oregon program**

• 6:30 p.m., Canyon City Community Hall, 129 S. Washington St.  
The HCAO's program will focus on the quality, accessibility and affordability of healthcare, and achieving a universal, single-payer healthcare system for Oregonians. The guest speakers are Bill Whitaker and Anna Maria Dill, members of Health Care for All Oregon. A short video will be shown followed by questions and discussion about health care concerns and a legislative update. The program is sponsored jointly by Grant County Democrats. The program is open to public and there is no cost to attend.

**Longtime EOU regional director retires**

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

**Ashley Armichardy, left, is filling an EOU position as Chris Cronin retires.**

Chris Cronin of John Day said her retirement plans include a trip to Ireland with her husband as she closes a 24-year career as Eastern Oregon University's regional director for Grant County.

It was in 1993, when Cronin was hired, that EOU launched full degrees online.

"It was a really exciting time to be involved with distance education because it was blossoming and growing, and EOU was at the forefront," she said.

Cronin said the online educational programs are still "alive and well" in the capable hands of Ashley Armichardy.

Cronin worked side by side with Armichardy at the Grant County Education Service District office in John Day since 2010.

Armichardy, Blue Mountain Community College's center coordinator, has added EOU regional adviser to her responsibilities; the EOU position now has reduced hours.

Cronin said she and Armichardy, also a John Day res-

ident, worked well together over the years and added there is also a positive link between the college and university.

"BMCC and EOU have always been strong consortial partners," Cronin said. "It allows students to save on costs by taking classes at the community college level at a greater degree, and those credits transfer easily."

She added, "The advising (students) get early on smooths the pathway, so they take the correct classes at the right time."

Armichardy jumped in, "... to get that bachelor's degree efficiently and economically."

She said she can also help answer students' questions about becoming an on-campus

student, admissions, financial aid and placement testing.

They also offer placement tests for other schools, free of charge.

And there are programs to help people earn a GED.

"I can help students at every level of their college experience," Armichardy said.

Oftentimes people want to return to college to finish up a degree; sometimes a master's of arts and teaching.

The online degrees offered through EOU include 13 undergraduate degrees, 15 minors and three graduate programs.

Armichardy said that for a lot of online students "their first time on campus is for graduation."

She is an EOU graduate with bachelor's in science and biology and also holds a master's of biological sciences from Boise State University.

She taught an online biology class for BMCC in the past, and, if given the opportunity, she may teach the class again.

Cronin said she's looking forward to spending time with grandchildren and traveling with her husband in retirement, but there are many aspects of the job she'll miss.

"My favorite part and the part I will miss most will be working with students and just being a part of helping them

achieve their lifelong dreams," she said. "I helped make it easier for them to do what they wanted to do. That was very satisfying and rewarding."

She said she sees former students she assisted working at the school district, forest service and courthouse, as well as accountants and those in the medical field.

"I was an adviser for so many students who got their degree through EOU," she said.

Cronin said she's glad to see Armichardy stepping in where she left off.

"I'm thrilled that she's going to be serving in this role," Cronin said. "She's a great fit, and she's an EOU graduate. We have partnered together and worked with students in common for the past seven years, so I have a lot of confidence in her knowledge and ability to work with students."

"I have big shoes to fill," Armichardy said.

Advising sessions with Armichardy are available by appointment by calling 541-575-1550 or contact her at aarmichardy@eou.edu.

Her hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays or by appointment.

The ESD office is located at 835 B South Canyon Blvd. in John Day.

**Local students pen top state essays**

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Four Grant County students won top honors at the state level for Americanism essays they wrote for an American Legion Auxiliary contest.

Annie Wall, Samantha Floyd, Raney Anderson and Monel Anderson each won first place locally last spring in separate age divisions through John Day's Ellis Tracy Unit No. 77, before their essays were sent on to the state competition.

Americanism essay contest co-chair Sherry Feiger, who heads the local contest with Jessie Lewis, said she was thrilled to hear the four local students won.

"It's pretty exciting that this happened, and we're definitely proud of them," Feiger said. "I appreciate the teachers who were willing to take this on and for the students to have this opportunity to win."

The theme for the 2017 contest was: "How Does Learning About Government and our America Help you Become a Future Guardian of the Liberties of Our Country?"

Floyd, who is a sophomore at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School, said she was notified of winning a few weeks ago.

"I was honestly just shocked and pleasantly surprised," she said.

She added the contest "helps bring awareness to our country for people who don't often take the time to appreciate it."

Floyd is the daughter of Greg and Joelene Floyd.

Annie Wall, who is a senior at Yreka High School in Yreka, California, entered the contest while in Elizabeth Shelley's honors English IV class at Grant Union.

She said not all teachers include the essay as an assignment, and while it's not an easy task, she said it is a



Annie Wall  
Samantha Floyd



Raney Anderson  
Monel Anderson

valuable one. "I think it's really important that the teachers assign it," she said. "I think the contest makes students think about the country."

Wall is the daughter of Carol Faulkner and Bill Wall.

Raney and Monel, daughters of MT and Cori Anderson, were students of Seneca teacher Andrea Ashley when they entered the contest. Now Raney is in seventh grade at Grant Union, and Monel is in fifth grade at Seneca.

Monel said it was fun writing the essay.

"It's nice that I won, and it's an honor," she said.

Raney said she participated in the writing contest since third grade.

I like writing," she said. "Some topics are hard, but not hard enough that you can't do them."

She added, "It's worth it and nice to get recognized for something you do."

Seneca head teacher Andrea Combs said every year the students look forward to the Americanism essay.

"(They) put a lot of effort into producing a great piece of writing," she said. "We are incredibly proud of the hard work of these girls."

All four students will be awarded a medallion and certificate at an American Legion and Auxiliary meeting this fall in John Day.

**Thank You**

to all the people that stepped up and worked so hard to make the Long Creek School Eclipse event a huge success. Our guests had a great time, the weather was perfect, and our fund raising far exceeded our expectations. GO MOUNTAINEERS!

Patch Freeman  
Long Creek School Eclipse Manager

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