

Memorial auction grows every year

Auction raises record \$33,442

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

It's been 25 years since Lucie Immoos' sister Carrie Young died in a car crash in Alaska, but her name is kept alive with a cause close to her heart.

"She was young, vibrant, full of life," Immoos said. "When I found out how she helped elderly people, I felt I wanted to carry on the cause in her name."

The 25th annual Carrie Young Memorial auction was held at the John Day Elks Lodge on Friday, Dec. 1. Money raised by the auction is used to help seniors pay for utilities and buy groceries and other essentials.

In 1993, the auction raised \$175. That figure grew to \$18,000 in 2015 and \$28,000 in 2016, Immoos said. This year the auction raised \$33,442, a new record. Items in the auction were donated by local businesses, family and friends.

"The local businesses have been phenomenal," Immoos said. "I know they get hit a lot with requests, but they continue to give. I never get turned down."

Immoos estimates they will help 130 to 160 seniors in their own homes or at four assisted-living homes — Blue Mountain Care Center, Valley View Assisted Living, Elderberry House and Mothers Creek Ranch.

"People ask me, 'How do you know who to help?'" she said. "I've lived here for 45 years, grew up in Prairie City, so I know who needs help."

Immoos said she maintains a list of elderly people in the county throughout the year — where they live and if they heat their homes with oil, propane or firewood.

Special items in this year's auction included carved bull elk horns from her brother-in-law Bill Immoos, a birdhouse resembling a church made by Dorman Gregory and a wildlife print by artist Leon Parson from Charlie O'Rourke's collection, which sold for more than \$1,000.

"The print is part of the No-Tellum Series," Immoos said.

Immoos credits five core women for making the event happen — Terri Bowden, Sharrie Slinkard, Dawn Wood, Carol Schum-



Becky Sharp forks out a plateful of spaghetti at the 25th annual Carrie Young Memorial auction at the John Day Elks Lodge on Dec. 1.

Eagle photos/Richard Hanners



From left, Ritter and Brogan Rookstool and their young friend Sawyer Hammon were drawn to a basket of Star Wars items at the 25th annual Carrie Young Memorial auction at the John Day Elks Lodge on Dec. 1.

acher and Christie Winegar. Donated items were sorted into categories and placed in more than 250 baskets at a warehouse owned by Mike and Sharrie Slinkard, where they were decorated a hundred different ways. Winegar, Immoos' sister, helped run the kitchen where a spaghetti dinner was prepared and served by a group of volunteers.

Immoos and her helpers left for Ontario at 4:30 a.m. Sunday to shop for clothing and other items for residents in the assisted-living homes.

Twenty-three high school students will wrap the items and deliver them to the homes on Wednesday, she said.

Helping the county's elderly is a major part of the auction, but not the only benefit, Immoos notes.

"I love to see the expression of people as they wander around the Elks Lodge looking at the baskets and the decoration," she said. "Newcomers don't know what to expect."



A basket for chocolate lovers at the 25th annual Carrie Young Memorial auction.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Eleven-year-old Macy Carter of Seneca tells Santa, with a big smile, she'd like a baby brother for Christmas as her mom, Jennifer, standing nearby, laughs. Santa visited with children and also held pets for photos at Saturday's Blue Mountain Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar.

Christmas shoppers flock to fairgrounds bazaars

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The parking lot at the Grant County Fairgrounds was full as shoppers enjoyed a plethora of handmade goods and other items for sale at the pavilion for the Blue Mountain Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar and the Keerins Hall Holiday Bazaar.

"People were waiting in line in the cold this morning," said Mary Jones, the auxiliary's bazaar coordinator. "It didn't slow down until this afternoon."

At the pavilion, 46 vendors manned 67 booths and tables, selling a variety of handicrafts such as wreaths, wooden signs, Christmas ornaments, jewelry, hand-sewn items and knives with antler handles. Lotions, soaps and goodies such as pies, jams and honey were also for sale.

Several vendors said this year's sales were as good or better than last year.

Fairgrounds manager Mindy Winegar, who oversees the bazaar at Keerins



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Elaine Mezzo, left, of Hope4Paws: Grant County finds a handmade craft (created by Anna Smith) to give to Alice Shawn, a Blue Mountain Hospital Auxiliary member and volunteer at the bazaar. Shawn collected items from vendors for a raffle table.

Hall, said they had 20 vendors with 27 tables.

Wares included clothing, handmade candles, miniature Christmas trees, quilted items, lotions and soaps, fruit and much more.

"The atmosphere was wonderful. Sales were good for the vendors that we had from all over Grant County — a few from outside Grant County," Winegar said.

Find just what you need for all the men on your list



ACE
The helpful place.

652 W Main St.
John Day
541-575-0549

Timber Truckers Light Parade
December 9th at 6:00 pm
Downtown John Day

Parade Theme: Truckin' Thru the Snow

Preregistration is encouraged by calling Leslie Traylor at 541-620-4032 or 541-575-1862. Register day of 3-5:30pm @ Grant Western. \$10 entry fee. Winners will be announced at the Elk's Lodge following the parade.

04885

Introducing

Fancy & Schmantzzy

Ready to brighten up your life!

J. TABOR
JEWELERS

1913 Main Street · Baker City
524-1999 · Monday - Saturday 9:30 - 5:30

28859

Whether you're planning for next year's working capital, expansion, or equipment... now is the time to come visit BEO.

Term Loans · Lines of Credit · Ag & Commercial Real Estate

John Day & Prairie City Branches

Bank of Eastern Oregon
beobank.com

Member FDIC

28689