



Contributed photo

'Life,' by Grant Union senior Savannah Wyllie, which received honorable mention.



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'The Tilted Tower,' by Grant Union sophomore Eli Sheedy, which received honorable mention.

Grant Union artists earn honors at EOU exhibition

Wyllie's art speaks of 'Life'

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Two Grant Union art students received recognition for their creative works, which are on display through March 21 at the Eastern Oregon Regional High School Exhibition in La Grande.

Senior Savannah Wyllie and sophomore Eli Sheedy each received an honorable mention award at the juried art show held at the Nightingale Gallery in Loso Hall.

"It's a flower pot with a bottle and two oranges," Wyllie said, describing her work she titled "Life" — yet, there is more meaning behind the piece than a simple still life.

The watercolor with India ink washes shows one budding flower standing tall among others, which are drooping slightly.

"I kind of just went with how I felt," Wyllie said of the process. "It was looking at the life of people who are down or depressed."

She said she wanted to convey that one should stay strong "when people around you put you down."

Wyllie said she has mainly worked on art at home and just joined Grant Union teacher JJ Collier's advanced art class her senior year.

"It's something I do all the

time that I love doing," she said.

Sheedy, who is in Collier's Art I class, said the honorable mention came as a shock for him.

He entered a clay sculpture titled "The Tilted Tower."

"It was cool that it won honorable mention," he said. "I was honestly surprised."

A total of 300 entries are on display with just 25 students receiving awards. Collier said 28 of her students entered 40 pieces.

"I am very proud of the hard work and imagination that Eli and Savannah put into the works that were selected by the jurors for awards," she said. "I love that the Eastern Oregon Regional High School Art Exhibition is still available to our students to show-

case all the great work done at the high schools throughout our region."

The contest has been around at least since 1991, when Collier was the Nightingale Gallery director.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for the schools in Eastern Oregon to showcase their artwork in a professional gallery setting," she said. "It is really fun to see all the different type works presented from the different schools."

Collier said she hopes the annual event continues well into the future.

"The students have great imaginations," she said.



Savannah Wyllie



Eli Sheedy



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Tabby (Mindi Teague) pulls a cloth off Emily (Ellie Justice), who had been sleep walking, and Alex (Maggie Justice) holds her back in Saturday's Grant Union play 'Maniac Manor.'

Grant Union actors take spotlight in two plays

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Junior-Senior High School drama club kept their audience guessing and laughing Saturday as they presented a comedy and a mystery-comedy on the Grant Union stage.

"Cheating Death," a one-act comedy featuring junior high students, and "Maniac Manor," with senior high students, were the club's debut plays for the 2017-18 school year.

Drama advisors Kathy Sherwood and Angela Smith directed 18 actors in the double feature.

"I'm proud of all the kids," Sherwood said.

She said the junior high students had to memorize many lines as they stayed on stage for the entire play.

"They did a great job," she said. "The high schoolers — they're older and have more acting experience — really get into character."

She added, "Maggie Justice, Mindi Teague and Logan Namitz did an outstanding job memorizing their lines."

Justice, who played a detective in "Maniac Manor," had 141 lines, and her sidekick Teague had 78. Namitz, who played "Death" in "Cheating



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

'Death' (Logan Namitz) takes Sam (Mariah Kerr) by the hand in the play 'Cheating Death.'

Death," had 137 lines.

"When you have a small drama club, you have to be flexible, and the kids really stepped up," Sherwood said.

Both Sherwood and Smith have high school acting experience.

Sherwood was an assistant adviser to long-time Grant Union director Julie Reynolds last school year, as well as drama instructor for the Youth Arts Program last summer. Smith also took a college-level acting course.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Egor (Will Carpenter) saves Tabby (Mindi Teague) from someone reaching out to grab her.

Monument Senior Center receives \$21,000 grant

Upgrades to include repairs and ramp

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Monument Senior Center is not just a gathering spot for people in their golden years, but for the entire community.

The center, where 200 events were held last year, will receive improvements, thanks to a \$21,000 grant from the Dr. Issai and Dr. Ellen Hosiosky Fund of the Gorge Community Foundation.

Lisa Neuburger, a Monument resident and foundation board member, awarded the grant on Feb. 6 to senior center officials.

Judy Harris, fundraising chairman for the senior center, said the building is vital to the community, and the funds will help pay for building repairs and a wheelchair

ramp, as well as the purchase of an ice machine and additional tables and chairs.

Neuburger, who has been on the foundation board for 10 years, had been attending the senior meals with her husband, Harris said.

"She was impressed with everything we've been doing in our community," Harris said.

The senior center is not just for seniors, she said, adding it sees a tremendous amount of use.

"It is the hub of the whole city," she said. "We're very proud of it, and we wanted to have it right up to snuff."

She said the grant means a lot because no improvements have been made since the facility was built in 1994.

Senior center board member Jimmy Cole said the group has been working to ensure the building is up to code. He said the center recently received an additional grant through the Collins Foundation to replace the dishwasher and mixer.

Jan Ensign, a senior center board member from Long Creek, said many of "volunteer miles" have driven the activities and fundraisers at the center.

There were 56 volunteers last year who contributed a total of 3,476 volunteer hours.

"We have a lot of wonderful support, and we have some very knowledgeable people who've helped," Ensign said. "We're very thankful to the grantors who've awarded us these funds, and we need to offer a huge thank you to Elaine Eisenbraun who has written grants for us — she's done a superb job."

Cole said all the residents are behind the fundraising efforts.

"That's what is nice," he said. "It's a blessing to our community that everybody has come together. People in Monument will put their differences aside for the betterment of the community — not just the young people, it's everybody. It's for the community and by the community."



Contributed photo

Monument Senior Center supporters accept a \$21,000 grant award from Gorge Community Foundation for facility updates and equipment. From left are Jeanne Vaughan Strange (fundraising committee), Lisa Neuburger (foundation board member), Judy Davis Harris (fundraising chairman), and senior center board members Jan Ensign, Jimmy Cole, Linda Abraham, Lorynn Lawrence, Betty Richards and Karen Wibbels-Stubblefield.

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