

Juniper Arts awards Oregon Cultural Trust grants

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Juniper Arts Council/Grant County Cultural Coalition awarded four Oregon Cultural Trust grants to local organizations to promote arts and art education.

Juniper Arts Council president/secretary Kris Beal of Mt. Vernon welcomed a group of 12 to the meeting held at the John Day Fire Hall conference room.

Adele Cerny received a \$1,700 grant on behalf of Kam Wah Chung Foundation for the celebration of the John Day museum's 140th anniversary.

Francis Kocis, who is involved with the foundation,

said, "It's a testimony to the Chinese culture that the building made it all this time. It's garnered worldwide attention. It's one of three locations with Chinese herbal collections in the world."

The foundation will celebrate the anniversary with Lion Dancers from Portland performing in June at the '62 Days parade and a dinner where a re-dedication of the museum will take place.

Peggy Murphy received \$1,000 for the Grant County Historical Museum to sponsor field trips for all ages to the Canyon City museum, spring break activities and advertising.

"This is very much appre-

ciated," Murphy said. "We want to garner more interest and involvement in the museum."

Murphy said, when she was an elementary school teacher, she enjoyed taking her classes through the museum, but "had no idea of all the treasures" until she accepted the position as museum curator last year. Her official start date is May 1.

Humbolt Parent-Teacher Association received \$580 for a family art night.

Youth Arts Program director Rebecca Bogardus received \$300 for a small school outreach pilot program, which will provide in-school choir for students at Dayville School and a few

private music lessons.

Working with Janine Goodwin and others, Bogardus leads an intensive two-week summer program in Dayville with after-school programs in John Day.

Goodwin leads choirs for ages 4-8 and 9-12, and both Goodwin and Bogardus take turns leading the show choir, comprised of adults with some teens.

Goodwin also directs the string ensemble, and Bogardus directs a guitar group.

"Our goal is to provide quality arts education to every student in the county," Bogardus said.

Grant applications were reviewed by the council in early February.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Recipients of Oregon Cultural Trust grants on Thursday from the Juniper Arts Council/Grant County Cultural Coalition are, from left, Adele Cerny and Francis Kocis on behalf of the Kam Wah Chung Foundation, Peggy Murphy for Grant County Historical Museum and Rebecca Bogardus for the Youth Arts Program. The Humbolt Parent-Teacher Association also received a grant.

Students share ways to promote Americanism

Annual contest draws 227 entries

By Angel Carpenter
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"What can I personally do to promote Americanism in my school and community?"

The question was this year's theme for the Americanism essay contest, a competition held annually by the American Legion Auxiliary Ellis Tracy Unit 77.

Sherry Feiger, who co-chairs the contest with Jessie Lewis, said the answers were varied, and many centered on helping veterans, keeping the community clean and honoring the flag.

She said while the essays were being written, the Parkdale, Florida, school shooting happened.

"Whether they're protesting gun violence or writing an essay sharing their thoughts, just to see them step up and say, 'I can make a difference, and I am important' — we can credit our kids for things like this," Feiger said.

She said she appreciated the teachers from Grant Union Junior-Senior High School, Humbolt Elementary and Seneca School who included the essay with their regular classroom assignments.

Fourteen of the 16 top-three finishers were at a potluck March 19 to read their



Contributed photo/Joelene Floyd

Americanism Essay winners stand together at a dinner held for them by the American Legion Auxiliary in John Day. Front row, from left: Andrea Comer, Monel Anderson, Vincent Raschio, Macy Carter, Sarah Smith, Bradley Smith (back), Madelyn Bailey, Amelia Hall and Samantha Floyd; back row, Carson Weaver, Abby Lusco, McKeely Miller, Maggie Justice and Brooke Taynton. Logan Randleas and Riley Robertson, not pictured, were also among the contest winners.

essays for many friends and family members, as well as American Legion and Auxiliary members.

Seventh-grader Amelia Hall shared her essay.

"Americanism is showing our gratitude for the faithful labor of all those who have fought to keep this nation free," she read. "It is remembering those who have sacrificed so much of their selfless service and repaying them by honoring and celebrating the wonderful country we have today."

Sophomore Samantha Floyd said, as citizens, we're given many wonderful rights.

"But in order to develop a strong country that finds pride in Americanism, this is not enough," she said. "We, as citizens, must be what we want

our country to be. You reap what you sow, so ask yourself, what is your name doing for our flag?"

Senior Maggie Justice said, "America has been built on many foundation beliefs, something that I would consider as 'Americanism.' These beliefs include: integrity, hard work, motivation and the ability to want to better oneself."

There were 227 entries this year from Grant School District No. 3 schools, up from 89 last year. Winners of the essay contest received monetary awards in the amount of \$25 for first place, \$15 for second and \$10 for third.

Those who finished in first place advance to the state competition, which will be judged in April. Winners of state may advance to the re-

American Legion Auxiliary Americanism essay finalists
Division V, grades 11-12
Maggie Justice, first, Grant Union
McKeely Miller, second, Grant Union
Division IV, grades 9-10
Samantha Floyd, first, Grant Union
Abby Lusco, second, Grant Union
Tyler Voigt, third, Grant Union
Division III, grades 7-8
Amelia Hall, first, Grant Union
Riley Robertson, second, Grant Union
Carson Weaver, third, Grant Union
Division II, grades 5-6
Madelyn Bailey, first, Humbolt
Monel Anderson, second, Seneca
Logan Randleas, third, Humbolt
Bradley Smith, third, Seneca
Division I, grades 3-4
Sarah Smith, first, Seneca
Vincent Raschio, second, Humbolt
Brooke Taynton, third, Seneca

gional and finally to the national contest.

Hope 4 Paws provides discount vouchers for pet spay, neuter procedures

Blue Mountain Eagle

and there is no needs test or income restriction.

Hope 4 Paws: Grant County has launched its Spring Into Action spay/neuter discount campaign.

The campaign promotes Hope 4 Paws' voucher program, which provides discounts for spay or neuter procedures scheduled at either of the two Grant County veterinary clinics.

Pet owners who call Hope 4 Paws before making their appointments can get voucher letters that cut their bill by \$15 or \$25 for cats and \$30 or \$50 for dogs, depending on the procedure.

"This is our way of encouraging pet owners to do the responsible thing to prevent unwanted or accidental litters," said Scotta Callister, Hope 4 Paws board chair. "As spring arrives, we start getting more calls for help with these litters, and there simply aren't enough homes here that are able to take in more pets."

Hope 4 Paws volunteers often hear pet owners say they meant to get their dog or cat "fixed," but just hadn't gotten around to it or couldn't afford it. The voucher program was created as an incentive to get the job done. It is available to all Grant County pet owners,

The program, which began two years ago, is funded by the generous donations of community members through events such as the annual Spay-ghetti Dinner, held earlier this month at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

This year, Hope 4 Paws also was awarded a \$2,500 grant from an Oregon charitable foundation, the Maybelle Clark MacDonald Fund, to increase the voucher program to reach more pet owners. The grant is expected to cover about half of the costs of an expanded voucher program in 2018.

Pet owners are cautioned that, to get the discount, they must obtain their voucher letter from Hope 4 Paws before showing up for the vet appointment. The clinics do not have vouchers to issue.

To obtain a voucher letter, call Hope 4 Paws at 541-575-0500 and leave your contact and pet information.

Hope 4 Paws is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing pet rescue, spay/neuter assistance and pet owner education in Grant County. For more information about the mission, visit hope4pawsgrantcounty.com.

Monument conservation district awarded \$47,000 to fight leafy spurge

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The Oregon State Weed Board awarded \$47,708 to the Monument Soil & Water Conservation District for its North Fork John Day Leafy Spurge-Phase III project at their February board meeting in Salem.

The award was one of 49 regular grant program awards totaling \$1.4 million provided to local organizations statewide to fund projects that restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat, watershed function, water quality and overall watershed health from invasive noxious weed impacts, according to a press release.

"This grant award is crucial to continuing the work that the North Fork John Day Watershed has done to treat leafy spurge along Fox/Cottonwood Creek for the past seven years and over 20 years of treatments that Grant Weed Control has assisted with along the 120 miles of river downstream from Kimberly," said Bryan Vogt, district manager of the Monument Soil & Water Conservation District.

The North Fork John Day Leafy Spurge-Phase III grant award will see to treatments along 15 miles of the river from Monument to Kimberly, along with roughly 38 miles of Fox/Cotton-

wood Creek. Leafy spurge is both a state- and county-listed noxious weed. Treatments are expected to begin in May and continue through the fall of 2018. Certified applicators from the district will conduct treatments along the river and lower Cottonwood Creek with additional work being contracted out to Grant Weed Control for treatments in upper Cottonwood Creek and Fox Creek.

This will also be the first year that targeted grazing with sheep and goats is used as an integrated treatment approach on one large patch of spurge along the river. Partners for the project include Grant Weed Control,

the North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Agriculture — Noxious Weed Control and multiple private landowners.

For more information about this project, contact Vogt at mswcd@centurytel.net or 541-934-2141. For more information about the Oregon State Weed Board Noxious Weed Grant Program, contact Tristen Berg at tberg@oda.state.or.us or 503-986-4622.

CHESTER'S AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Chester's Thriftway Operations Manager Bill Wyllie presents a \$1,000 scholarship check to Brittany Smith March 9. This is Smith's second scholarship since starting work at the Chester's office in John Day about six months ago. A mother with three kids, she is studying online at Eastern Oregon University. Wyllie said Chester's employees are eligible for the scholarship once per term to help improve themselves.

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