

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.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Food bank distribution day

• 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Grant County Food Bank
The Grant County Food Bank will hold its monthly food distribution day on the third Wednesday instead of the fourth because of the holidays. The food bank is located at 530 E. Main St., Suite 9, in John Day. For more information, call 541-575-0299.

Grant Union winter music program

• 6:30 p.m., Grant Union Junior-Senior High School
The Grant Union combined choir and junior and senior high school bands will present their winter music program in the school's old gym. Admission is free.



Tuesday, Dec. 25

Christmas dinner

• 12:30 p.m., John Day Senior Center
Sheriff Glenn Palmer and his wife, RoseAnn, will host a free community meal, including turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, rolls, vegetables, drinks and dessert.

Thursday, Jan. 10

Quickbooks for Ag seminar

• 4-8 p.m., Extension Office classroom
Space is limited to 20 people. RSVP by Jan. 4. The price is \$10 per person. For more information, call 541-575-1911 or stop by the office at 116 NW Bridge St. in John Day.

Friday, Jan. 11

Cancer benefit dinner

• 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m., John Day Golf Club
The dinner will support gastrointestinal stromal tumor cancer research. There will be two dinner times at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Dinner includes chicken or beef enchiladas, Mexican rice, refried beans, chips and salsa with flan for dessert. The cost is \$15 for singles, \$25 for couples and \$7 for kids 7 and under. For more information, call Linda McClellan at 541-620-2352 or call 541-575-0170.

Grant County's CASA hit by perfect storm

County court hears plea for funding

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

CASA of Grant County is recovering from a perfect storm that included skyrocketing needs and 100 percent staff turnover.

Since Hanna Hinman became executive director, 15 court-appointed special advocate volunteers have been trained to meet needs in Grant and Harney counties that have doubled in just two years.

According to her presentation to the Grant County Court on Dec. 12, the number of children in foster care in Grant County increased from 20 in fiscal year 2016 to 40 this year. In Harney County, the number increased from 29 to 76, she said.

A number of fac-



Grant County Roadmaster Alan Hickerson informs the Grant County Court on Dec. 12 about an opportunity to lease a new road grader at an unusually low price.



Hannah Hinman, executive director of CASA of Grant County, updates the Grant County Court on Dec. 12 about an increasing need for services and a request for funding.



Andrea Officer, the Grant County Victim Assistance director, informs the Grant County Court on Dec. 12 about funding for an intervention specialist.

tors explain the dramatic increase, Hinman said. The state Department of Human Services' move to a new policy called differential response separated many children from parents and siblings.

On top of that was the opioid epidemic that trended nationwide and a sudden influx of people with domestic troubles in Harney County, she said. Making matters worse is a current shortage of foster parents.

Hinman has been suc-

cessful in training up a new batch of CASA volunteers to represent the children's needs, but some court cases are old and complicated and beyond the abilities of the new advocates.

She is also facing a potential budget shortfall.

Hinman projects \$134,600 in revenue this year, with 60 percent from state and federal sources, 24 percent from community and foundation grants, 12 percent from fundraising events and 4 percent from individual donations.

She expects the state CASA organization will go to the legislature next year to lobby for increased funding. In the meantime, she asked the county court to provide \$6,700, or 5 percent of the local CASA budget. She said she will ask Harney County for the same.

Commissioner Rob Raschio spoke highly of the CASA volunteers and commended Hinman for her work. The court agreed to prepare a budget resolution on her request for their next meeting on Dec. 19.

In other court news:

• Grant County Victim Assistance Director Andrea Officer had good news for the court. Funding for a victim intervention specialist was lost when the county was not awarded a federal Violence Against Women Act grant.

A total of \$42,120 in funding for the position was accessed instead from the federal Victims of Crime Act through the state using a \$5,000 match provided by the county court.

The position will be filled by Kimberly Neault, who has served as a victim advocate for two years. She has a bachelor's in sociology and community health and more than

75 hours of specialized training.

• The court agreed to approve a lease agreement with Western States Equipment for a Caterpillar road grader that Roadmaster Alan Hickerson called a "midnight moonlight special" and "smoking deal."

If the county meets the requirements of the lease agreement for five years, Western States will buy back the nearly \$200,000 grader at \$4,000 less than what the county paid for it. The court expressed interest in acquiring a second grader if one becomes available.

• The court turned down a memorandum of understanding with the Social Security Administration in which the county would inform the federal agency about people receiving Social Security payments while incarcerated in exchange for a small payment.

Calling it a "bounty on the mentally ill," Raschio noted that people who were in jail awaiting trial would lose benefits before they were found guilty.

Lost benefits would translate into lost housing and lost payments to landlords, which could affect the local economy, he said.

• The court approved providing \$10,000 to John Day for 911 dispatch service. Raschio noted that because of funding the city was able to get from the legislature to pay for local 911 for two years, the county saved \$110,000.

Public Notice

Request for Proposals

Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. is accepting proposals for an agency-wide single audit conducted in accordance with Code of Federal Regulations Title 2 Part 200 for the period ending June 30, 2019.

Licensed CPAs may request a copy of the RFP from Diana at 541-963-3186 x1004. Deadline for submission is January 15, 2019.

Prairie City Post Office

Dec. 21st
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For more information please call 541-820-4476

Customer Appreciation

- Santa Cider
- Holiday Cocoa Bar
- Mrs. Clause Cookies
- Kris Kringle Crackle Candy

Embrace the spirit this holiday season as you celebrate the miracle of His birth with us

Prairie Baptist Church
238 N. McHaley
Prairie City
Christmas Eve
Traditional
Candlelight
Service.....8:00pm
541-820-3696

UNITED METHODIST
126 NW Canton
John Day
Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service.
Monday, December
24th at 7:00 pm

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, Dec. 23
Breakfast.....9:00 am
Service.....10:00 am

Christmas Eve Service
at 6:00 pm
Old-Fashioned Christmas

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
110 Valley View Dr. • John Day

Bible Classes (all ages)
Saturday at 9:30 am

Worship
Saturday at 11:00 am

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

12/23 Sunday service @ 10 a.m.

Christmas Eve - Traditional candle light service with lessons and carols 12/24 at 7 p.m.

541-575-2348

Please join us for a Christmas Candlelight Communion Service
Dec. 23rd - 5:30 pm

Living Word Christian Center
Hwy 26, Mt. Vernon
541-932-4910
www.livingwordcc.com

The Church of the Nazarene
521 E. Main • John Day

December 24th
Morning Worship begins at 10:45am
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services at 6pm

ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christmas Eve Mass
John Day, Dec. 24
5:00 pm with Children's Live Nativity.

Christmas Day Masses
John Day, Dec. 25
9:00 am
Monument, Dec. 25
12:30 pm

KJV VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
108 S. Washington St. • Canyon City

...the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. I John 4:14

SUNDAY, DEC. 23RD

Sunday School.....9:45 am
Sunday Preaching & Junior.....11:00 am
Sunday Evening.....3:30 pm

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
139 Washington St.
Canyon City

Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service

Carols and Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm
541-620-1436

Santa, you know better!

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J. TABOR
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1913 Main Street • Baker City
524-1999 • Monday - Saturday 9:30 - 5:30

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Blue Mountain Chiropractic HEALTH CLINIC
155 NW 1st Ave. • John Day