

Community Connection Housing Resource Center receives \$10,000

Blue Mountain Eagle

Wells Fargo has awarded Community Connection of Northeast Oregon Inc. a \$10,000 grant to their Housing Resource Center for their work on pre-purchase, financial capability and foreclosure avoidance counseling and education.

Community Connection provides pre-purchase counseling to people interested in purchasing a home. Their HUD-certified housing counselor helps position folks for lender approval by addressing budget, credit, debt and educates prospective homeowners of available loan products, as well as ensures that they can sustain housing costs on a comfortable financial basis. Community Connection also offers Individual Development Accounts for first-time homebuyers, allowing prospective buyers to save up to \$12,000 toward a down payment. In 2019 there have been three home purchases through the IDA program and 18 more in process.

Community Connection's certified foreclosure intervention and default counselor counsels homeowners at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure by reviewing options and strategies to retain ownership of their homes. This includes available programs for loan reinstatement, mortgage payment reduction and property tax reinstatement. Also included is financial capability counseling which involves current budgeting and creating a sustainable projected budget. This year, Community Connection's efforts in foreclosure avoidance counseling has saved homeowners a total of \$724,344.44 and saved 36 homes from foreclosure.

Humbolt students receive respect awards

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Humbolt Elementary students will enjoy a little recognition, with Character Counts awards, when they are "caught" displaying respect and kindness.

The school's Six Pillars of character include: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

There were 28 students recognized Nov. 5 at a school assembly for consistently showing respect by following the Golden Rule (treating others the way they wish to be treated), being tolerant and accepting of differences, using good manners and language, being considerate of the feelings of others and dealing peacefully with anger or disagreements.

Students receiving awards, with permission for their names to be in the paper, include: kindergartners Charlee Oakes, Davey



Contributed photo

Humbolt Elementary students in grades 3-6 receive 'Character Counts' certificates at the Nov. 5 assembly at the school in Canyon City.



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Humbolt Elementary students in kindergarten through second grade hold up their 'Character Counts' certificates.

Archibald, Cleo McKnab and Ty Ashley; first-graders Josie Hollowell, Braydon Ackerman and Avery Toy; second-graders Kaitlynn Charette, Asher LaDuke, Aubri Judd and Zerik Bogan; third-graders

Shasta Askerman, Nolan Mobley, Natasha Lewis and Colton Lindsay; fourth-graders Haven Giffin, Sam Cole, Ashlyn Archibald and Trevor Sasser; fifth-graders Abril Ceja, Jerett Waddell, Ember

Dutcher and Ritter Rookstool; and sixth-graders Aaliyah Judd, Taylor Thomas, Mayley Saul and Brion Thompson.

Awards will be given out periodically throughout the school year.

Elks members, community, honor veterans at Seventh Street Complex

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

A Veterans Day ceremony presented by members of John Day Elks Lodge 1824 began at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month at Seventh Street Complex in John Day, the presentation ending with a gun salute and the playing of "Taps."

Exalted Ruler Mark Womer spoke about many acts of service for veterans in the history of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, including a 700-bed reconstruction hospital in Boston, built in 1918 to accommodate wounded and maimed veterans.

Trustee Tom Winters presented flags from each of the military branches as other Elks members spoke of the sacrifices made by the veterans.

Audience members joined the presenters in singing the national anthem and "God Bless America" as well as reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Veterans in the audience were asked to stand as State Elks Southeast District Veterans Chairman



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Members of the American Legion Ellis Tracy Post 77 honor Veterans Day with a gun salute, including, from left, Commander Art Pereira, First Vice Commander Jason Leighton, member Dale Stennett and Adjutant Emily Lippert. At right, is Ed Heiple with his trumpet, ready to play "Taps" in honor of the fallen. A crowd was on hand for a Veterans Day ceremony presented by the John Day Elks Lodge 1824 at the Seventh Street Sports Complex in John Day.

Bob Van Voorhis recognized them for their service.

He said that all the schools in Grant County are inviting veterans to speak this week.

"That is a thank-you to us, and there comes a time when we as veterans need to say thank you to our communities," he said.

Van Voorhis noted that, thanks to the Grant County Court Judge

Scott Myers, the county has been recognized as a Purple Heart county.

He said the John Day Elks Lodge works to support and assist veterans, with activities such as a weekly coffee time at 9 a.m. each Wednesday at the Lodge, fly tying classes, equine therapy and tele-health to help veterans communicate



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

John Day Elks Lodge 1824 Trustee Tom Winters presents flags from the military branches as other Elks share information about the contributions of each.

with their doctors for follow-up appointments.

"There are a lot of organizations that will talk the talk — we walk the walk," he said.

The ceremony, attended by more than 60 locals, ended with a gun salute presented by the American Legion Ellis Tracy Post 77 and Ed Heiple playing "Taps" on the trumpet.

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Helping hands lighten load

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

A group of Grant Union High School students answered a call to help and

made a difference for one Canyon City resident with a large yard.

Members of Grant Union Junior-Senior High School's leadership class, led by Jor-

dyn Young, a junior, raked leaves, pruned trees and hauled off yard debris on Nov. 11 for Mary Walker, who's late husband, Jim, was an Army veteran.

Grant Union softball coach Zach Williams supervised the teens, including softball team members Young, Sequoya Swearingen, Baylee Combs, Tiler Voigt and Taylor Allen, plus Rylee Browning.

Walker was impressed by their efforts.

"They worked, and they never stopped," Walker said. "I couldn't have gotten it done. I appreciate what they did."

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