



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

FFA members served dinner during the fourth annual St. Patrick's Day benefit dinner.

CASA fundraiser brings in \$16,000

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant-Harney County CASA celebrated another St. Patrick's Day benefit dinner with music, dinner and laughter, but it was an event that highlighted the growing generosity and support from the Grant County community.



Hannah Hinman

Community members came together for the fourth annual Court Appointed Special Advocates St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Auction on March 6 and managed to raise an estimated gross income of \$16,839, which is about \$2,000 more than last year.

Executive Director Hannah Hinman was happy at the response from the community with tickets being oversold, businesses donating and great sponsorships. She feels humbled by the amount of support provided from the community every year.

"Every year I'm always kind of stressed coming into this fundraiser, but every year I am reminded of the generosity and support the community has for us," Hinman said.

This fundraiser was important since it gave the community an opportunity to show their support, which helps complete requirements for grants and state and federal dollars that require a demonstration of community support.

"When we go to write



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Carson McKay takes bids for the fourth annual Court Appointed Special Advocates St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Auction on March 6.



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Grant-Harney County CASA celebrated another St. Patrick's Day benefit dinner on March 6.

a foundation grant, we have to be able to demonstrate that we have community support," said Hinman. "Events like this also give us an opportunity to share what we're doing and to

build awareness — whether that means someone will become a future member or a more committed donor, it's an important awareness opportunity."

The night included

information shared about CASA's work — being advocates for children in the court system — and the importance of volunteering for CASA. The event also featured silent and live auctions.

Carson McKay had the opportunity to auction off some of the big prizes of the night and thought the event went really well. He was also happy at the amount of people that showed up to support CASA.

"I'm thrilled with the turnout, generosity and support that was demonstrated by our community," Hinman said.

For more information about CASA or how to volunteer, contact Hinman at 541-575-5574 or casa@granted.k12.or.us.



Eagle file photo

Grant County Special Olympian Elizabeth Swarouth takes aim during halftime warmups against the law enforcement team in 2019.

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, March 11

Government Contracting Basics and Certification Workshop

• 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Grant County Extension Office, Suite 1, 116 NW Bridge St., John Day

Eastern Oregon University is hosting the training featuring multiple state agencies. This class is free, but preregistration is required. To register, call 541-962-1532.

Lenten luncheon

• 11:30 a.m., St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 139 Washington St., Canyon City

The lunch will be followed by a service at 12:15 p.m. Next week's lunch will be at First Christian Church in John Day. For more information, call 541-575-0104.

Thursday, March 12

Coronavirus public meeting

• 6:30 p.m., Grant County Fairgrounds, John Day
Grant County has activated an emergency operations center in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Oregon. The public is invited to learn more.

Saturday, March 14

Grant County Library pie auction

• 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Grant County Library, 507 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day
A cake walk, pie auction and activities for kids are planned.

Monday, March 16

American Legion Auxiliary Ellis Tracy Unit 77 meeting and potluck

• 6:30 p.m., Alec Gay Hall, 172 SE Dayton St., John Day
The Ellis Tracy Unit will honor the winners of the 2020 Americanism essay contest sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. They will also recognize the two girls who attended Girls State in June 2019. Potluck meat will be provided. The public is invited to attend. For questions, call Sherry Feiger at 541-575-0766 or Ruth Harris at 541-575-0076.

Tuesday, March 17

Book Club

• 5:30-6:30 p.m., Painted Sky Center for the Arts, Canyon City

The first book will be "Murder of Ravens," part of Paty Jager's Gabriel Hawke mystery series. The book can be purchased at this first meeting or at online retailers.

Tuesday-Wednesday, March 17-18

American Red Cross blood drive

• 1-6 p.m. Tuesday
• 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday
• The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, John Day
Register by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

Thursday, March 19

Special Olympics basketball game with local law enforcement

• 6 p.m. Grant Union High School gym, John Day
The Special Olympics basketball team will face off against local law enforcement for a fundraiser. For more information, contact Deronda Lallatin at 541-620-4295 or Kathy Gill at 541-620-2186.

Friday, March 20

Richardson Brothers and Friends show

• 6:30 p.m., Prairie City Senior Center
A performance is planned at the Prairie City hall with proceeds benefiting the Prairie City Cemetery and the Prairie City Senior Center.

Saturday, March 21

Grant County Genealogical Society seminars

• 8:30 a.m., OSU Extension office, conference room, John Day
Professor Kate Eakman of Gresham will give a hands-on genealogy seminar. The class begins at 9 a.m. and will conclude at about 3:30 p.m. with a break for lunch. Bring a laptop or tablet to add historical context to a genealogy. For more information, call 541-932-4718.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Community Credit Union to purchase three stores from Umpqua Bank

Coquille, Oregon (March 11, 2020) – First Community Credit Union (First Community) announced today that they have entered into a purchase and assumption agreement with Umpqua Bank to acquire three store (branch) locations in Oregon. The branch locations included in the transaction are located in John Day, Burns, and Lakeview. The agreement is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to close in June of this year.

"We are excited to expand our services to these wonderful communities. We understand rural Oregon because it's where most of our members live and work. We are also delighted to welcome the Umpqua Bank employees at these branches to the First Community team," said David Elmer, President/CEO of First Community.

"As customer preferences change how we deliver banking services, Umpqua's commitment to supporting our communities remains strong," said Brian Read, Umpqua's executive vice president and head of retail banking. "We're pleased that First Community has agreed to purchase these three locations and will continue providing financial services to local customers."

About First Community

Headquartered in Coquille, First Community serves nearly 80,000 members (customers), operates 28 branches in Oregon, employs over 300 employees and has approximately \$1.2 billion in assets. Helping individuals, families, and small businesses achieve their financial goals is central to their mission. Supporting its communities through innovative and ethical banking practices is at the heart of First Community's philosophy.