

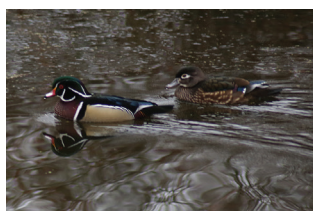
100 Mountain Bluebirds seen during Christmas Bird Count

Northern Pintail, Osprey, Red-breasted Sapsucker among other highlights

By Tom Winters
For the Blue Mountain Eagle



Contributed photo/Karen Jacobs
From left, Jamison and Azadae Soupir participate in the 2020 Christmas Bird Count Dec. 19.



Contributed photo/Tom Winters
A pair of wood ducks on the pond at Clyde Holliday State Park near Mt. Vernon during the 2020 Christmas Bird Count.

Ryan McNab keeping track of their yard birds.

Birds seen: Canada Goose (131), Trumpeter Swan (3), Wood Duck (17), Gadwall (2), American Wigeon (5), Mallard (125), Northern Pintail (1), Ring-necked Duck (5), Green-winged Teal (36), Hooded Merganser (18), California Quail (406), Wild Turkey (155), Pied-billed Grebe (2), Great Blue Heron (13), Osprey (1), Northern Harrier (7), Golden Eagle (3), Sharpshinned Hawk (4), Cooper's Hawk (5), Bald Eagle (17), Red-tailed Hawk (47), Rough-legged Hawk (45), Virginia Rail (1), American Coot (4), Rock Pigeon (40), Eurasian Collared-Dove (257), Mourning Dove (59), Barn Owl (2), Great Horned Owl (3), Belted

pecker (7), Hairy Woodpecker (5), Northern Flicker (19), American Kestrel (13), Loggerhead Shrike (1), Northern Shrike (2), Steller's Jay (2), Blue Jay (2), California Scrub Jay (30), Black-billed Magpie (81), American Crow (8), Common Raven (80), Black-capped Chickadee (25), Mountain Chickadee (24), Red-breasted Nuthatch (10), Brown Creeper (1), Pacific Wren (2) Marsh Wren (1), American Dipper (4), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (15), Mountain Bluebird (100), Townsend's Solitaire (42), Hermit Thrush (2), American Robin (3,641), European Starling (604), Bohemian Waxwing (2), Cedar Waxwing (118), Dark-eyed Junco - Oregon (250) and slate-colored (5), White-crowned Sparrow (14), Song Sparrow (5), Spotted Towhee (1), House Finch (37), Cassin's Finch (21), Pine Siskin (9), Lesser Goldfinch (17), American Goldfinch (16) and House Sparrow (123).

Only one species was seen during count week (the three days prior and after the count day) that was not seen on the count day, that being some Bushtits.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

From left, volunteers serving Christmas dinners include Tony and Amy Franklin, Squeeze-In owner Shawn Duncan, John Day Chief of Police Mike Durr, Pam Durr, Levi, Luke, Noah and Will Blood, Patty and Glen Ross and Kristi O'Brien.

Squeeze-In serves up nearly 400 Christmas dinners

Blue Mountain Eagle

People in Grant County filled their bellies this Christmas.

According to Squeeze-In Restaurant and Deck owner Shawn Duncan, her staff and volunteers served up nearly 400 meals via pick up and delivery.

Duncan said the dinners were made possible by Russ and Tara Young, Grant County Seniors and an anonymous donor.

"I am just grateful that we were in a position to feed so many people," she said.

Duncan said a line of people snaked around the building at one point.

She said the meals included turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, stuffing and a dessert.



Eagle photos/Steven Mitchell

Amy Franklin scoops up green bean casserole for a to-go dinner Friday as the Squeeze-In fed nearly 400 people on Christmas Day.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

From left, Patty Ross, Kristi and Cassi O'Brien pose during the Squeeze-In's Christmas dinner event.

Over 400 Grant County students receiving wellness kits

Kits going out to students in all Grant County school districts in lieu of Teen Health Fair

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle



Eagle file photo

Grant Union High School students practice CPR on dummies during the high school's yearly teen health fair in 2018. The event, which is typically hosted by Community Counseling Solutions, was canceled due to COVID-19.

organization could not host a traditional teen fair. In lieu of holding the event, CCS and various community organizations sent out the health and wellness kits.

Weigum said the teen fair, which is an all-day event,

covers various health-related topics, including substance use disorders, mental health, healthy relationships, oral health and the importance of sleep, nutrition and exercise.

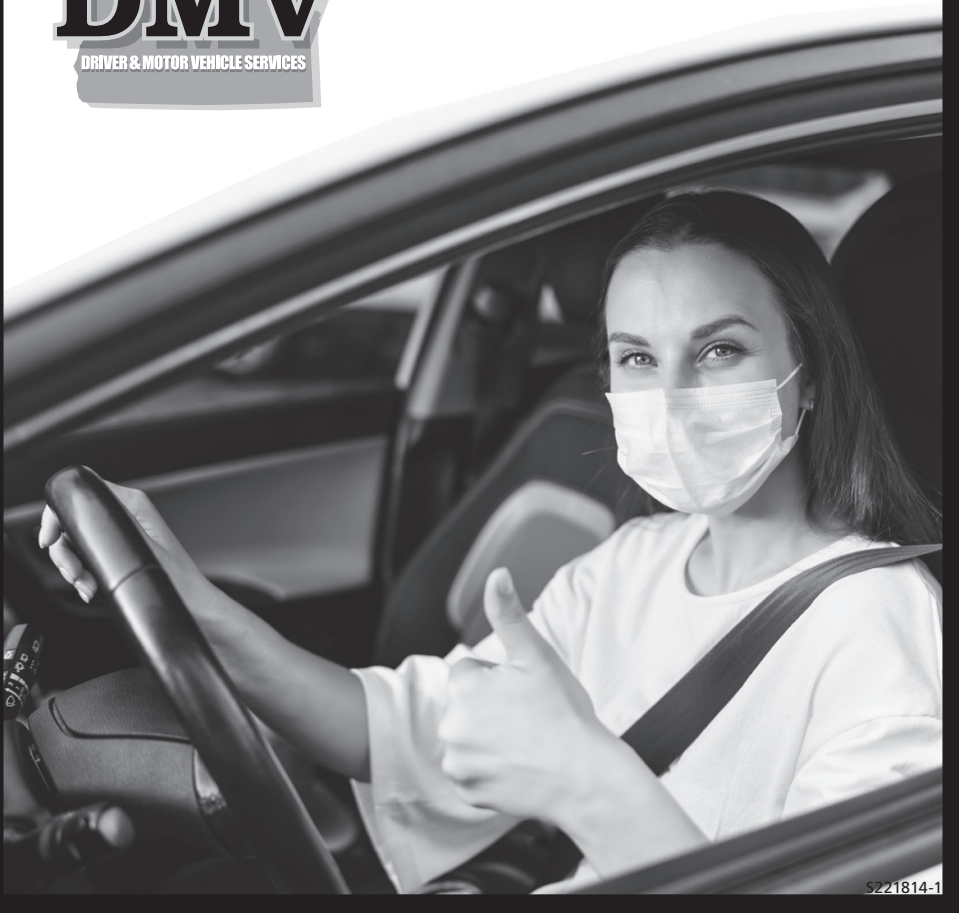
She said CCS and the other partners will keep the youth mentally, physically and emotionally healthy and connected to the community.

"We want our kids to know their community cares about them," Weigum said.

Other organizations that participated from the Grant County Community Health Improvement Coalition include Oregon State University, Open Campus; Families First; Advantage Dental; Department of Human Services; Grant County 4-H; Grant County Health Department; Blue Mountain Hospital; Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization; and Heart of Grant County.


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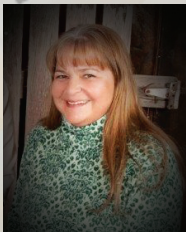


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We appreciate your business & support.



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