

## Puckett moving to Central Oregon



Contributed photo  
**Grant County Court Administrative Assistant Kim Puckett put in her last day with the county after more than two years of service. Puckett, who is relocating to Central Oregon, said she appreciated all of the support from the commissioners and her coworkers during her tenure.**

## Houser earns Doctor of Physical Therapy

Blue Mountain Eagle

Rayce Richard Houser of Canyon City graduated with distinction from Pacific University in Oregon in May 2021 with a Doctor of Physical Therapy from the College of Health Professions.

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# Assistant librarian takes director position

Ostberg plans to continue expanding services for community

By Steven Mitchell  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

As Grant County Library Director Vicki Bond retired last week after 30 years at the helm, the county tapped Bond's longtime assistant to take her place.

New librarian Chris Ostberg said she "got lucky" when she brought the kids she was babysitting to the library's story time hour 15 years ago and got to know everybody at the library and applied for the assistant position when it opened up with the county.

Both Ostberg and Bond said they have seen many changes at the library over the years, and the services it offers are essential to the county in so many different respects.

Ostberg said the computers are open later hours than other places in the community, such as the employment office or anywhere else. In addition, she pointed out that the library is open until 7 p.m. on both Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Bond said the story time hour teaches the community's children to get ready for kindergarten and is a big help for working parents who might not have the time to prepare them for school. She also said the library helps with adult literacy in the community.

Bond said, by far, the most significant change to the library that she has seen is digitization.

She said every book is barcoded and on the internet. Before, she said, if someone wanted to order a book, she would have to fill out a handwritten triple carbon copy and mail it to the state library and the state would send it back through the mail. Now, she said, it can all be done online.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

**Incoming Grant County Library Director Chris Ostberg, left, and retiring director Vicki Bond.**

Ostberg said the library has done a good job and has been upgrading to make a more comprehensive array of services available for the community.

Bond credited the Grant County Court and the community as a whole with building up services for the community.

"Vicki has brought us closer, and more things are available in this library now," Ostberg said. "Hopefully, I will be able to increase that and bring even more things into the library."

The library is open from 1-5 p.m. Mondays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, 1-5 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-7 p.m. Thursdays.

## Thadd's Place awarded OHSU Knight Cancer grant



Eagle file photo

**Michelle Gibson, a licensed clinical social worker with Thadd's**

Grief center serving those affected by cancer

By Steven Mitchell  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Thadd's Place, Grant County's grief support center, received \$24,400 from the Knight Cancer Institute's Community Partnership Program to expand its services to include cancer patients and their families.

Tirza Shaffer, Thadd's Place president, told the Eagle that cancer has always been at the forefront for Thadd's Place.

"Thadd passed away from cancer, and cancer affects such a large population in Grant County," she said. "Most people you know have

been touched in one way or another by cancer so it has been a goal of ours to be able to provide support for anyone faced with a diagnosis or loss from cancer."

Shaffer said Thadd's Place's grant writer, Pastor Michael Harvey, worked to find a grant that would "fit the bill" for Thadd's Place and serve the county.

She said the Knight Cancer Institute had been a "dream to work with."

Shaffer said the new program will offer cancer patients and their families 10-week grief support group classes focusing on Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt's "Understanding Your Grief." She said in these groups participants will learn healthy ways to walk through their grief.

She said there will also be one-on-one assistance available from trained Thadd's Place companions. Shaffer said Thadd's Place has 18 companions trained from Dr. Wolfelt's "Companioning the Bereaved."

Additionally, she said, there will be ongoing peer support groups focused on cancer-related deaths for adults and children.

She said staff are currently working on the programming for the support groups and hope to have their first group operational by the end of August.

Lastly, she said the funding would allow Thadd's Place to hire a part-time administrative assistant and build new counseling rooms and purchase curriculum books for all participants.

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