

# Benefits set to help John Day woman

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle



Tanni Wenger Photography Studio/Contributed Photo

**The Clarry family: Jaclyn and husband Justin, seated at center, surrounded by their children, clockwise from top, Tristan, Natalie, Ginny and Gavin.**

MT. VERNON — Two fundraisers are being held over the next two months for a John Day woman waiting for a new kidney.

At 5 p.m. on Friday, April 1, students from Grant Union Junior-Senior High School's Class of 2026 will hold a taco feed and bingo night at the Mt. Vernon Community Hall, 640 Ingle St., with a portion of the proceeds going to help Jaclyn Clarry get a new kidney.

The eighth-graders had previously scheduled the event to help fund a class trip to Lincoln City, according to organizer Heather Rookstool. However, when the students learned about Clarry, whose daughter Natalie is a member of their class, they told Rookstool that they had already earned enough to cover the cost of the trip.

"The kids are the ones who

came to me and said, 'We want our next fundraiser to go to them,'" Rookstool said. "It was a neat moment."

The proceeds from the taco feed are going to help the Clarry family with medical expenses and related costs, and the money from the sale of bingo cards is going to the Class of 2026.

Grant County residents Patty Ross and Bonnie Cearns are organizing a benefit dinner, auction and raffle for the Clarry family at 5 p.m. on May 7 at the John Day Elks Lodge, 140 NE Dayton St.

For more information or to donate auction items, call Cearns at 541-571-3284 or Ross at 541-620-4841.

In the meantime, Clarry is still searching for kidney donor, someone with Type A or O blood. To find out if you might qualify, visit [mayoclinic.org/livingdonor](http://mayoclinic.org/livingdonor).

Clarry said the community in Grant County "works miracles" when someone needs help.

"They are extremely supportive," she said. "No matter what the issue is."

Clarry, a mother of four, said she was completely taken aback by the gesture by the youngsters.

"I was floored that they had even thought about me to do something like (the benefit)," she said. "It made me cry for hours that, you know, there's such amazing people in this community that are willing to do that for me."

The family has also started a GoFundMe account to help with expenses. Those who wish to make a donation can go to <https://tinyurl.com/2yf2whxa>.

# Street fair mixes business and pleasure

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
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JOHN DAY — Grant County kicked off the spring season with the first Friday Street Fair of the year in downtown John Day on Friday, March 25.

The event, held on Dayton Street just south of Main, was one of a monthly series of street fairs that the Oregon Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network will host in Grant County communities over the next several months.

Zach Denney, the Grant

County venture catalyst for Oregon RAIN, said the street fairs will be held on the last Friday of each month through September and will rotate between John Day, Prairie City and Canyon City.

The next fair will be from 3 to 7 p.m. on April 29 in downtown Prairie City, followed by one in the same time slot on May 27 in downtown Canyon City, and then it's back to John Day in June.

Oregon RAIN is a nonprofit organization that goes into a community and hires a venture catalyst, a local entrepreneur

who will connect other entrepreneurs to various resources, such as access to capital or training programs.

The fair, which featured 14 vendors and included a food truck, saw roughly 200 visitors, according to Denney. While music played over a PA system, people browsed the vendor booths, sat down at tables to eat and drink, or played cornhole in the closed-off street.

Denney said the fair went better than he had anticipated, given that events scheduled for March in Eastern Oregon stand a chance of having a couple of inches of snow on the ground.

Denney said the most significant impact of the Friday Street Fair is to get people out in the community to spend money at local businesses.

Denney said all of Oregon RAIN's services are free

of charge, including having a booth at one of the upcoming street fairs in Prairie City, Canyon City and John Day.

He said Oregon RAIN had been invited to those Grant County cities to help businesses. Denney emphasized that even though government dollars back RAIN, he and others from the organization are entrepreneurs themselves.

"You're not having some government guy that doesn't know the first thing about starting a business trying to help business owners," Denney said. "You've got actual entrepreneurs that have done it."

Those interested reserving vendor space at an upcoming street fair or learning more about RAIN's services can reach Denney by phone at 541-589-5565 or via email at [zach@oregonrain.org](mailto:zach@oregonrain.org).

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### Applications open for MV scholarships

MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Scholarship Fund is accepting applications from area students who will finish high school this year and plan to attend an accredited vocational/technical school, college or university.

Applicants must live within the former Mt. Vernon School District, bounded by Laycock Creek on the east, Fields Creek on the west, Malheur National Forest on the north, and Harper and Ingalls creeks on the south.

The scholarship was established in 2003 by the Mt. Vernon High School classes of 1955-59.

Application forms are available from area high school counselors or by writing Rick Hehn, 7827 Mountain Aire Loop SE, Olympia, WA 98503.

May 1 is the deadline to apply.

### Students can apply for Idaho Youth Rally

BAKER CITY — Applications are being accepted from local high school students to attend the Idaho Youth Rally, a summer leadership camp on the campus of the College of Idaho.

Sponsored by the Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association, the weeklong camp brings together high school sophomores from seven Western states to learn about leadership, government, drug and alcohol issues and the electric utility industry.

The Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative will provide scholarships for up to four students from its service territory in Grant, Baker, Harney and Union counties.

The Idaho Youth Rally will be held July 11-16, and the deadline to apply is May 9. Applications are available online at [otec.coop/Idaho-youth-rally](http://otec.coop/Idaho-youth-rally).

### Time to take off those studded tires

SALEM — Thursday, March 31, is the deadline to remove studded tires, the Oregon Department of Transportation announced.

Studded tires are allowed in Oregon from Nov. 1 through the end of March, but ODOT says they're hard on roads, causing by \$8.5 million in damage annually. The agency recommends other types of traction tires or tire chains instead.

Drivers with studded tires on their vehicles after the deadline can be cited for a traffic violation.

### EOU slates Entrepreneur Day April 19

LA GRANDE — The Eastern Oregon University Small Business Development Center will host Entrepreneur Day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 19.

The free, virtual event will feature a half-dozen speakers presenting on a variety of topics.

The keynote speaker will be Ian Galloway, vice president and regional executive of the Portland branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Other speakers and their topics will include:

- "A State of Flux," Mark Gregory, director of the Oregon Small Business Development Network.
- "How to Start a Business and Understand Cash Flow," Greg Smith, director of the EOU Small Business Development Center.
- "Digital Marketing," Sarah Frink, Real Marketing Solutions.
- "Hiring, Motivating and Retaining the Right Staff," Shari Carpenter, EOU marketing and business professor.
- "Opportunities for Women and Minorities in Business," Irene Gonzalez, U.S. Small Business Administration.
- "Making the Numbers Make Sense: Understanding Basic Financial Statements," Yvonne Robers, Connected Professional Accountants.

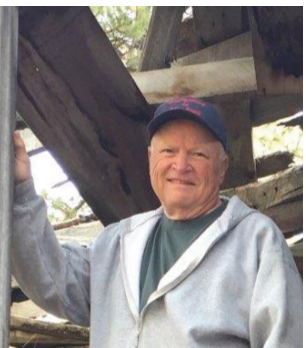
To register and obtain the Zoom link for Entrepreneur Day presentations, call the center at 541-962-1532 or email [cousbdc@gmail.com](mailto:cousbdc@gmail.com).

— Blue Mountain Eagle

### Steven Warren McKern

February 20, 1952 - January 6, 2022

Steve McKern, age 69 of Sumpter, Oregon passed away suddenly at his home on January 6, 2022. A celebration of life will be held on Friday, May 27th 2022 starting at 1pm at the Grange in Mt. Vernon (across from Holiday Park). Food and coffee will be provided courtesy of the Saffle Bit. Come join us and share some stories.



Steve was born February 20, 1952, to Melvin (Shorty) and Marilyn McKern in Canyon City, Oregon. Steve grew up in Mt. Vernon along with his brother Duane. After graduating from Mt. Vernon High School, he joined the National Guard, and alongside his parents built and opened the Arco gas station, which went on to become McKern's Texaco. This was known as the hub of Mt. Vernon, where you would go to get the morning gossip, drink some coffee and share hunting stories!

Steve was an avid hunter with not only a full curl ram's head to show for it, but countless elk and deer stories. He had many passions; he was at greatest peace in the mountains, just sitting on a mountain ridge gazing into open mountain space. He loved jumping on the 4-wheeler and going for a ride just to cut a load of fire wood or build fence. In the spring you could always find him out looking for morels!

He loved to go fishing with his buddy Doug or his brother, and though his granddaughter Raychelle would always out-fish them, he would always want to go again.

Steve was a jack of all trades, and could fix anything, from big rigs and lawn mowers to chainsaws and fishing reels; nothing was too complicated for him. His greatest accomplishment was building houses and he would always make his home so warm and inviting, which is exactly what he wanted.

Steve loved to yard sale, rummage sale, and estate sale. Anything sale-related he was there! He loved to make a deal. He would buy the strangest things and get the biggest kick out of it.

Steve was an excellent mechanic and a fantastic log truck driver. He loved every aspect of logging. Especially the slash piles he could burn come spring!

Steve and his ex-wife Denise raised two children, which has given him five granddaughters and three great-granddaughters. He is survived by his brother Duane (Lillian) McKern, Redmond, OR; daughter Mindy (Ray) Ross, North Pole AK; son Dusty (Ellen) McKern, Hamilton MT; five beautiful granddaughters, Alyssa, Raychelle, Haylee, Ashlynn, and Kassidee, and three great-granddaughters. Nephews Seth, Luke and Gabriel McKern and two great-nephews. He was a great man, father and friend, he is greatly missed

Those who would like to make a donation in memory of Steve may do so to either the Mt. Vernon (Grant County) or Sumpter Quick Response Units through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home, PO Box 543 Halfway, Oregon 97834. Online condolences may be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com). Paid for by the family of Steve McKern.

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### BIRTHS

#### Rylan Edward Hicks



Rylan Edward Hicks was born at 5:54 a.m. March 20 in John Day to Eddy and Jordyn Hicks of Mt. Vernon. He weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and measured 19½ inches. Grandparents are Dean and Barbara Hicks of Canyon City and Jason and Becky Johnson of Butte Falls. Siblings are Paige, 12; Taylor, 10; and Everleigh, 11 months.



#### Daniel Lee Smith

July 4, 1946 ~ March 20, 2022

Daniel Lee Smith passed away at his home in John Day, Oregon on March 20th 2022 at 75 years old. Daniel was born July 4th 1946 to Lenora and Garland Smith in Portland, Oregon. He had three siblings.

Daniel married Vaughn Ford in 1979, and they raised three daughters together in the Portland area, until moving to central Oregon in 1991.

Daniel did many things in his career life but the bulk of it was driving for United Grocers/Unified for over 30 years until he retired. During his retirement, he and his wife Vaughn spent time traveling to Alaska and enjoying fishing. They kept their home in central Oregon as a home base to be close to their kids and grandkids. In the last few years they spent their winters in Quartzite, Arizona, exploring the area with friends. Daniel enjoyed hunting in the Strawberry Mountains, fishing, exploring on the side-by-side ATV, and spending time with family and friends. He loved classic cars and old western movies. Over his lifetime he loved to share his knowledge and skills with others. Daniel had a great big heart and loved many nieces and nephews as his own.

Daniel was preceeded in death by his father, mother and sister. He is survived by his wife, Vaughn Smith, daughters, Candy Sutton, Rebecca Smith and Julanne Shafer, brother, grandsons and many nieces and nephews.

As per Daniel's wishes, there is no service planned. A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Redmond, Oregon. Paid for by the family of Daniel Smith.

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### SERVICE NOTICES

#### Clay Claughton

A celebration of life for Clay Claughton will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 2, in Keerins Hall at the Grant County Fairgrounds, 411 NW Bridge St. in John Day. Claughton, 91, passed away on Dec. 4, and a graveside service took place at that time. Driskill Memorial Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

### CORRECTION

A story about a legal challenge to a pool bond measure that appeared on page A3 of the March 23 edition incorrectly identified the court affiliation of Union County Circuit Judge Wes Williams. The Eagle regrets the error.

### Beverly Ann Curtis

February 20, 1946 ~ March 18, 2022

Beverly Ann Curtis, age 76, of Prairie City went to be with her Lord on March 18, 2022. She was born in Portland, Oregon on Feb. 20, 1946 to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Skiens of Seneca, Oregon. I would like to thank all the people at Blue Mountain Hospital and Hospice that gave Bev such good care...Clayton C. Curtis.

No memorial services are planned at this time. To light a candle in honor of Beverly, or to offer online condolences to her family, please visit [www.driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://www.driskillmemorialchapel.com) Paid for by the family of Beverly Curtis.

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### Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Wednesday .....	70/40
Thursday.....	62/39
Friday .....	68/42
Saturday .....	66/42
Sunday .....	58/47
Monday.....	58/41
Tuesday .....	60/37

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY

162.500 MHZ

### WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 30-APRIL 5

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Mostly cloudy	Mostly cloudy	Mostly cloudy
<b>51</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>31</b>