

Empathy

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Hannah added that her family was supportive and did not want to make her any more scared than she already was.

In times of trouble, Heather said, everyone in their family always comes together, and they all told Hannah that, no matter what, everything would be OK. She said her husband, Mike, was the anchor of the family and stressed that everyone not get ahead of themselves.

“He was our rock,” Heather said, “and the more level-headed one.”

Hannah said that her dad provided comic relief to lighten the situation. When she looks back, she said, that was what really helped keep her mind off of it.

Raising her game

There is a one-in-eight chance that a woman in the United States will develop breast cancer, making it the most common cancer for women in this country.

Hannah said that from here on out, should she ever recognize any kind of abnormality, she will have to go in to see a specialist.

“It is something that I will have to deal with for the rest of my life,” she said. “So knowing that, (my experience) helps me to realize that I know I’m not alone, but also other people in the world or the community are not alone.”

Motivated by her own close call, Hannah, a volleyball player who had always wanted to get involved in her school’s annual Dig Pink game, said the experience confirmed that desire all the more. So last fall, she made it her senior project.



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Hannah Wall, right, with her mother, Heather Wall. When her daughter found a lump in her breast four years ago, Heather said, it was “terrifying.”

The Dig Pink game is organized by the Side-Out Foundation, a nationwide project that hosts over 9,000 events across the country and helps programs raise money to donate to breast cancer research.

Both Grant Union and Prairie City high schools have organized Dig Pink games for a number of years to increase awareness of breast cancer, and proceeds from the games recently helped purchase

a 3D mammography machine for Blue Mountain Hospital.

While Hannah said she always knew that the Dig Pink games were for breast cancer, she said her mind was blown by the amount of time and dedication required to pull off the fundraiser.

That dedication, she said, included help from each of her teammates and Teri Bowden, owner of A Flower Shop N More

in John Day, who donated pink balloon decorations and a great deal of her time.

Heather put a fine point on it when she said there would not have been a Dig Pink game without Bowden.

Blue Mountain Hospital District CEO Derek Daly said the Dig Pink games create awareness around breast cancer, which he said is an important topic.

“Obviously,” he said, “we are thrilled and fortunate to benefit from some of the proceeds from those fundraisers.”

Moreover, Daley added, Blue Mountain Hospital is one of a small number of rural hospitals with a 3D mammography machine.

That technology, he said, “has enabled us to provide a big-city type of service in Grant County.”

Internet

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Unity, Mt. Vernon and Dayville, according to Bott.

Monument City Recorder Dorthy Jordan says the community wasn’t interested in the project at first, but as more residents became aware of the plan, excitement for the deal began to grow. “We can’t wait.”

Jordan says the fiber optic network will be a significant improvement over the satellite internet service the community largely relies on now. “Internet is at best very slow. It’s been a hindrance to this community because there are a lot of people that work from home and rely on the faster internet to work from home.”

Jordan also says people would pass Monument by as a place to live if they have to work from home due to the slow or nonexistent internet service currently available in the community. The fiber optic network will also be boon to students in the local school, allowing them to conduct research at a much faster pace than they do now,

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Nick Green, John Day City Manager

according to Jordan.

“I personally think it will be an asset to the community,” Jordan said. “I haven’t heard a negative thing yet.”

The addition of the fiber optic network could lead to growth for Monument as well, as people decide to move to the small and scenic community to work from home after the addition of high speed internet.

Green says the Grant County Digital Board of Directors needs to ratify the agreement with the city in order for the deal to go through. “We ratified the deal on Tuesday (April 12). Grant County Digital will ratify the deal next Tuesday (April 19), and then we can wire the funds to Oregon Telephone.”

Green says the forgivable interest on the loan was a

necessity to ensure the work gets done in a timely fashion. “It’s an incentive to get the project done on time. We’re prepaying a million dollars for something that we don’t have.”

Bott acknowledges the \$8 million price point sounds high, but he says it is really a bargain considering the number of communities served by the project.

“An \$8 million project to serve the number of locations and the mileage — I won’t say it’s unheard of, but it is an extremely good deal to deliver fiber to the home to as many places that are there,” he said. “We’ve been in business for over 100 years and we have a pretty good reputation for providing high-quality services at a reasonable price.”

Budget

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of linking county road fund money to police services.

For his part, citizen budget committee member and chairman Bob Quinton said last month that commingling road fund dollars and police services was a nonstarter for him.

McKinley said there still is hope that John Day might be able to transfer a three-year, \$375,000 federal Community Oriented Policing Services grant to the Grant County Sheriff’s Office.

McKinley said the COPS grant would pay for one patrol deputy per year. He said he would know more about the viability of the grant after a conference call with the grant administrator this week after the newspaper’s press time.

In a letter submitted to the budget committee, McKinley said the Grant County Sheriff’s Office is fielding 20 calls per day that it must respond to. He said these calls typically fall on one patrol deputy.

“The ability to handle those calls, with some expertise and with some care, is getting greatly diminished because you have one individual responding to those calls,” he told the committee.

McKinley told the committee that the office now has to prioritize calls, responding



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County Commissioner Jim Hamsher speaks during a county budget committee session on Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

first to emergency calls when there is reason to believe a threat to life exists.

Kreger asked if the county could go out for a bond levy to help fund the Sheriff’s Office.

She said a bond levy could be a long-term, stable solution where each community would be paying a fair share of the cost.

County Commissioner Jim Hamsher said that would not be fair to some outlying areas that do not have very many law enforcement issues.

Kreger replied that when those smaller outlying areas need the police, they need the police.

County Judge Scott

Myers said asking people to pony up for law enforcement services at this point might be an unpopular idea.

Quinton said the county has non-mandated departments costing thousands of dollars a year that many residents likely do not use. That money, he said, could be used for law enforcement.

“I guess the citizens of the county need to decide do you want police patrols,” he said, “or do you want a department that very few people use but costs the county a lot of money?”

The budget committee’s next meeting will be held at 9 a.m. May 11 at the Grant County Courthouse, 201 S. Humbolt St., Canyon City.

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EFSP

Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program

GRANT COUNTY AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS

ARPAP SSA ALLOCATION OF THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM

Grant County has been selected to receive an award of \$4,953 for the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a National Board that is charged by the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Council of Jewish Federations, Catholic Charities USA, National Council of Churches of Christ USA, and United Way of America. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the county.

The Local Board will determine how Grant County’s award is to be distributed among emergency food and / or shelter programs run by local service agencies. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive federal funds made available through the ARPAP SSA Allocation.

Under the terms of the National Board award, local organizations chosen to receive funds must be a private voluntary non-profit or unit of government eligible to receive federal funds, with an accounting system and federal employer identification number. Organizations must demonstrate the capability to deliver qualified emergency food and/or shelter programs. Private voluntary organizations must have a voluntary board and practice non-discrimination. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

Grant County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously to the Grant County Food Bank, Prairie City Baptist Church Food Bank and Monument Food Bank. These agencies were responsible for providing food to qualifying local citizens. Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds under the ARPAP SSA Allocation may request an application by contacting 541-575-0059, Grant County Court Office, 201 S. Humbolt Street, No. 280, Canyon City, OR 97820. Completed applications are due before 5:00 pm Wednesday, April 27th, 2022.