

# Quilters craft compassion

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Grant County quilters, who believe every child should have a warm bed, made and donated roughly 20 quilts to a nationwide nonprofit that builds beds for children whose families cannot afford one.

The Strawberry Mountain Quilt Guild hosted its annual Sleep in Heavenly Peace Sit-n-Sew April 30 at the Nazarene Church in John Day.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a nonprofit group with over 200 chapters across the country that builds bunk beds for families in need.

The guild, formed in the winter of 2018, officially began holding the Sit-n-Sews for Sleep in Heavenly Peace in 2019, according to Sammi Bell, the group's edu-



Members of the Strawberry Quilt Guild hold up quilts the group made and donated to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nationwide nonprofit that builds beds for children in need. The nonprofit, established in 2013, has donated dozens of beds to families in Grant County.

Contributed Photo

cation and event coordinator. The events yield roughly 18 to 20 quilts, she added.

Last month Susie Brown, chapter president of Sleep in Heavenly Peace's Eastern Oregon and Western Idaho region, dropped by the all-day event to pick up a

dozen quilts from last year's Sit-n-Sew.

Bell said the Brown would be back in Grant County for the Quilt Show in late October. According to Bell, the guild will present her with an additional 10 quilts during the two-day event.

Bell said many of the quilts the group donates to Sleep in Heavenly Peace go to children in Grant County.

"I was really shocked that we had kids that were sleeping on the floor," Bell said.

According to Bell, Sleep in Heavenly Peace works with children who have been abused and are in protective homes.

"They'll make beds for these kids and make sure that they have a quilt," Bell said.

The guild, which has 25 members, also holds sewing events for other charities. For instance, Bell said they would be working with the John Day Elks Lodge for an event to support a children's hospital in the summer.

Bell said the guild's goal is to hold one event a month.

"It is something we all try and get together and do," Bell said.



From left, students Delaney Coombs, Isaiah Hagopian and Emily Finley wear masks in Andy Lusco's government/civics class at Grant Union High School on March 2, 2022. The Grant School District is considering a \$24.3 million for 2022-23.

## Grant school budget up 18%

By JUSTIN DAVIS  
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — The Grant School District's proposed budget for 2022-2023 is 18% higher than last year despite having fewer students enrolled in the district.

The budget for the coming fiscal year is \$24.3 million, compared to \$20.6 million for 2021-2022. The budget was announced at the Wednesday, May 4, school board budget committee meeting in Canyon City.

Grant money made up a significant portion of the added funds in the 2022-2023 budget, according to district business manager Heidi Hallgarth. There were also carry-over funds from High School Success Career and Technical Education, Student Investment Account and "title" funds. The district also budgeted the remainder of its COVID-19 funds, a seismic grant at Humbolt Elementary and legislative money at both Humbolt and Grant Union Junior/Senior High School, Hallgarth said.

Enrollment in the Grant School District was 490 in March of this year and is expected to drop to 467 for 2022-2023. The figures mark a sharp drop in enrollment from the same time last year, when there were 520 students in schools throughout the district and enrollment was projected to rise to 545 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Despite the drop in enrollment, however, the district is adding the equivalent of 13 staff positions. The proposed 2022-23 budget calls for 99.45 full-time-equivalent positions and 106 employees overall, up from 86.2 FTE positions and 96 employees overall.

The district has heard a number of proposed changes in personnel and other areas related to student and staff support by the budget committee. The committee proposed funding for a guidance counselor, an intervention specialist for high school reading and math, and support for teaching resources i-Ready and Dibles, according to Superintendent Bret Uptmor.

Both the general fund and special funds increased in comparison to fiscal year 2021-2022. The general fund accounted for \$11,353,602 of this year's budget, with special funds making up the remaining \$9,259,248. The general fund budget for next fiscal year is \$12,282,073, with the special funds being slightly less than that at \$12,053,810.

The budget committee will hold another budget meeting on Wednesday, May 18, to approve the proposed 2022-2023 budget. The budget will go into effect in July if approved by the committee.

## Volunteers sought for bike trail work

By JUSTIN DAVIS  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Eastern Oregon Trail Alliance is looking for volunteers to help build and maintain mountain bike trails near Magone Lake.

The volunteer event will last from

Thursday, May 19, until Sunday, May 22. Camping, dinner and trail building will all be on the agenda over the course of the weekend in what EOTA is calling "The Big Event."

Crews will be working from Friday through Sunday with the bulk of the work being done on Saturday and

Sunday.

Other groups participating in the event are the Blue Mountain Land Trust's "Blues Crew" and the U.S. Forest Service.

Anyone interested in volunteering can go to [www.eotatrails.com](http://www.eotatrails.com) to sign up and get more information.

## BMHD aims to identify county's health care needs with survey

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Blue Mountain Hospital District is looking for feedback about health care needs in Grant County through a community-wide survey.

Under the Affordable Care Act, every three years BMHD conducts

a Community Health Needs Assessment Survey to identify health care needs, priorities, concerns and any barriers within the county, the district's primary service area.

Jena Knowles, public relations director with BMHD, said the survey is open to anyone who lives in Grant County.

The survey is available online at [surveymonkey.com/r/M8H5BS7](http://surveymonkey.com/r/M8H5BS7).

Knowles said the district is looking to expand its reach and get as much feedback as possible to help better understand the community's health needs. With that, she asked that people share the link with others in the county after taking the

survey.

"(The survey) is an opportunity for the county to share a little information so we can determine what we need to work on over the next three years," Knowles said.

Those with questions can reach Knowles at 541-575-1311, extension 2213, or [jknowles@blue-mountainhospital.org](mailto:jknowles@blue-mountainhospital.org).

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

**FRIDAY, MAY 13**  
**'62 Days planning meeting**  
• 7 p.m., Sel's Brewery, 113 Washington St., Canyon City

Regular weekly meeting of the Whiskey Gulch Gang to plan this year's '62 Days festivities. Anyone who wants to help is welcome. For more information, call Colby Farrel at 541-620-0874.

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 14-15**  
**Blue Mountain Hospital Auxiliary yard sale**  
• 8 a.m., Keerins Hall, Grant County Fairgrounds, 411 NW Bridge St., John Day  
Annual benefit for Blue



Mountain Hospital. Proceeds will go to purchase equipment and supplies. Yard sale begins at 8 a.m. each day and goes till 4 p.m. on Saturday and noon on Sunday.

**FRIDAY, MAY 20**  
**'62 Days planning meeting**  
• 7 p.m., Sel's Brewery, 113 Washington St., Canyon City  
Regular weekly meeting of

the Whiskey Gulch Gang to plan this year's '62 Days festivities. Anyone who wants to help is welcome. For more information, call Colby Farrel at 541-620-0874.

**SUNDAY, MAY 22**  
**Ghost Town Blues Band**  
• 6 p.m., Diamond Hitch Mule Ranch, Highway 19, Kimberly

The award-winning blues band will play a concert at the Diamond Hitch Mule Ranch. Street tacos from Guyon Springs will be available for purchase. Patrons are advised to bring their own chairs and drinks. Admission is \$20 at the gate, and camping is available for a \$15 fee.

For more information, call 541-934-2140.

**FRIDAY, MAY 27**  
**'62 Days planning meeting**  
• 7 p.m., Sel's Brewery, 113 Washington St., Canyon City

Regular weekly meeting of the Whiskey Gulch Gang to plan this year's '62 Days festivities. Anyone who wants to help is welcome.

For more information, call Colby Farrel at 541-620-0874.

Do you have a community event you'd like to pub-

licize? Email information to [editor@bmeagle.com](mailto:editor@bmeagle.com). The deadline is noon Friday for publication the following Wednesday.

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**DR. STRANGE**  
**MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS** (PG-13)  
Friday 4:10, 7:10  
Sat & Sun 1:10, 4:10, 7:10  
Mon-Thurs 7:10

**EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE**  
**ALL AT ONCE** (R)  
Friday 4:00, 7:00  
Sat & Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00  
Mon-Thurs 7:00

**THE BAD GUYS** (PG)  
Friday 4:20, 7:20  
Sat & Sun 1:20, 4:20, 7:20  
Mon-Thurs 7:20

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**Jennifer Smith**

Name of graduate: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Message: \_\_\_\_\_

**High School Name**  
Congratulations Jen!  
We are so proud of you!  
Love, Mom & Dad

2x3 example size

Call Kim or Alix 541-575-0710 or email [kkell@bluemountaineagle.com](mailto:kkell@bluemountaineagle.com) or [ahand@bluemountaineagle.com](mailto:ahand@bluemountaineagle.com)

**MAY 21 SATURDAY**

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
*Of The Membership*

**8:30 AM DOORS OPEN\*\***  
**10:30 AM BUSINESS MEETING**  
**12:00 PM LUNCHEON**  
**12:30 PM PRIZE DRAWINGS**  
**1:00 PM MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT**

**JOIN US!**  
**DRAWINGS & GIVEAWAYS**

**LOCATION: BAKER HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2500 E ST. BAKER CITY, OREGON**  
**\*\*Visit the community booths & enter raffles**

Members in John Day can sign up for a free bus ride to the Annual Meeting!  
Just call the John Day Senior Center at 541-575-1825. Limited seating available