

Grant enables free art classes

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — Painted Sky Center for the Arts has received a grant large enough to provide free summer art classes for a large number of children in the county.

The Oregon Community Summer Grant awarded to the art center totaled \$180,367 and is described as being significantly larger than grants the center has received in previous years. Due to the size of the grant, the art center can now provide art classes to 60 more kids than are enrolled at this time.

The center was operating on a tuition-based attendance model before the grant funding but will now be able to offer summer art classes free of charge from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Ryan McKnab of Painted Sky said the goal of the art center is to accommodate working families and families that want to participate in summer activities that may not be compatible with children.

“Sometimes they want to go play golf or enjoy the summer, and kids won’t always be compatible with that. I want to accommodate family lifestyles and, of course, bring kids in to learn art techniques. We’re learning about art cultures from all over the world. In rural areas like this, where there isn’t much diversity, I’m trying to bring the diversity to them,” he said.

Art classes have moved from the art center to Humboldt Elementary, 329 N. Humboldt St. in Canyon City. The arrangement allows kids in Humboldt’s summer school program to attend the classes put on by the art center after summer school classes end at noon.

Alicia Griffin of Painted Sky said the move to Humboldt allowed the center to serve more kids and accommodate them for longer hours.

“We were brainstorming and came up with the idea, why don’t we bring



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

Students from Painted Sky’s summer arts classes attend music lessons at Humboldt Elementary on Friday, June 24, 2022.

SUMMER EVENTS AT A GLANCE

July 25-27, 10 a.m. to noon: Toddler event @ Painted Sky Center for the Arts, 118 S. Washington St., Canyon City

Friday, July 29 and Aug. 5, time TBD: Ceramics event for tweens (ages 8-13) at the Painted Sky ceramics studio, 118 S. Washington St., Canyon City

Friday, Aug. 19 and 26, time TBD: Teen ceramic days at the ceramics studio, 118 S. Washington St., Canyon City

TBD: “Pop-up” events at the Canyon City Farmers Market

Saturday, July 9 and 23, Aug. 6 and 20 at dusk: Family movie nights collaboration with Parks and Recreation @ Grant Union High School football field, 911 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day

Movie list:

Saturday, July 9 — “Boss Baby: Family Business”

Saturday, July 23 — “The Mitchells vs. the Machines”

Saturday, August 6 — “Bad Guys”

Saturday, August 20 — “Clifford the Big Red Dog”

our operations to Humboldt and fill that gap for parents that need to drop off their kids at 8 o’clock instead of 9 o’clock and can’t come at noon to pick up their kid after summer school?” she said.

“So we’re filling that gap for those kids, but bringing it here opened up big opportunities to add more kids and teachers and accommodate for those kids.”

McKnab said the current teacher to student ratio at summer art classes is 15 to 1.

Youth summer events coordinator Sharon Henry said the grant has also allowed the art center to offer more things to the community for free. Activities will include a toddler event at Painted Sky on July

25-27, separate ceramic events for preteens and teens at the Painted Sky ceramics studio, and a group of family movie nights that will take place at the Grant Union football field in a collaboration with the John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District and the Grant County Library.

The largest of the events, which Parks and Recreation is calling “Fun in the Sun,” will be held on July 23 at the Grant Union High School football field. Griffin said the event is part of the “Go Outside” campaign and will feature cornhole, slip-and-slide kickball and a nighttime movie with popcorn, cotton candy and snowcones. The nighttime movie will be family-friendly and will start at dusk.

Fourth festivities planned

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

GRANT COUNTY — Several communities around the county will be holding celebrations of the 246th birthday of the United States in the county.

Prairie City’s Fourth of July celebrations will kick off early the morning of Independence Day, Monday, July 4. Dayville’s celebrations will start on Saturday, July 2, and continue through Independence Day. And Monument’s observances will take place Saturday and Sunday, July 2 and 3.

Highlights of the Dayville celebration include a tour of the newly reopened Community Hall at 11 a.m. on Saturday, followed by a tri-tip meal prepared by Guyon Springs from 4 to 7 p.m. and karaoke from 6 to 9 p.m. The tri-tip meal and karaoke will take place at the Fish House Inn.

Sunday will start with a church service at the Dayville Community Church at 11 a.m. followed by goat roping at Letosky’s Corral at 1 p.m. From 4 to 6 p.m., hot dogs and hamburgers will be served at the Fish House Inn, where the band Red Headed Step Child will perform from 5 to 9.

Dayville’s Independence Day festivities kick off at 7:30 a.m. Monday with a breakfast at the Community Church that lasts until 9 a.m. A Fourth of July parade at 9:30 a.m. will be followed by a classic car show and a baked goods auction at 11:30 a.m. The Jackpot Horseshoe Tournament will kick off at 11:45, with goat roping at Letosky’s Corral bringing events to a close. Goat roping starts at 1 p.m.

Dayville also has a host of Fourth of July contests, including patriotic lamppost decoration, home decorating, coloring, Dayville rocks and sidewalk chalk art, as well as a hometown treasure hunt. Details can be found at the Dayville City Hall. Prizes for contests will be awarded after the baked goods sale.

Prairie City’s Fourth of July celebration gets underway with a 5k fun run at 7:30 a.m. Monday. Those not participating in the fun run can partake in a pancake breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. at the Teen Center. A flag folding ceremony at City Park at 11:30 a.m. will be followed by a parade at noon. A barbecue at the park with various activities will take place from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Vendors will be out on Front Street from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

with cow pie bingo starting at 1 p.m. on the Prairie City High School ballfield. Prairie City kids will put on a dramatic performance at the Prairie City Community Center at 2 p.m.

Entry forms for the parade can be found at Prairie City Hall. A \$1 donation is suggested for the drama performance.

In Monument, the senior center will hold its annual rummage sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3.

The Monument Jubilee, traditionally held on the Fourth of July, will take place on Sunday, July 3, in the city park. Breakfast will be served to the public from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the city park.

A horseshoe tournament with a \$5 entry fee will begin at 9 a.m. The silent auctions will open at 9 a.m. as well.

Vendor booths will open at 9:30 a.m. with a parade shortly after at 10 a.m. Family games including cornhole and a duck race will start at noon and continue throughout the day.

A community picnic will take place at 5 p.m. and will coincide with the closing of the silent auction. A dessert auction followed by a live auction gets underway at 6 p.m. Fireworks over the river will begin at 10 p.m.

Prairie schools get funding boost

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — The Prairie City School District is getting a funding boost.

The budget for the 2022-2023 school year is set at \$19,971,191. The proposed budget is a 55.76% increase from last year’s \$11,137,393 figure and a more than 200% increase from the \$5,914,105 budget from fiscal year 2020-2021.

Prairie City Schools Superintendent Casey Hallgarth said the increase in funds came in the form of federal and state money like ESSER (elementary and secondary school emergency relief) funds, capital improvement grants and an increase in enrollment.

“The big increase for the

budget is our sponsorship of our online school, Oregon Connections Academy Prairie City,” Hallgarth said. “Of that funding we receive 2.2% for being the sponsor school.

“Other funding that helps out our district is our Student Success Account (SSA), Student Investment Account (SIA) and High School Success (HSS),” he added.

The school district received \$15,324,278 in funds from state sources for the 2022-2023 school year.

A seismic grant in the amount of \$2.5 million was awarded to Prairie City School District but is not in the budget due to the grant being awarded after the district’s budget hearing. The grant is for improvements

to the high school wing and main building. The district also received a \$430,000 capital improvement grant for the Bates Building.

Hallgarth said he is excited about the direction the school is moving toward.

“We are putting some important pieces in for staff, and our retention rate is 100%. We are fortunate to keep all our great staff. My goal is to set up Prairie City School District financially so that we can compete with salaries and compensation for staff. We are right there now, and the retention of staff shows that,” he said.

The Prairie City School District budget was adopted and approved at the district’s budget meeting held on June 21.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29

“In a Landscape: Classical Music in the Wild”

• 6:30 p.m., Cant Ranch, 32651 Highway 19, Kimberly
Classical pianist Hunter Noack will perform the second of two concerts on the grounds of the Cant Ranch at the John Day Fossil Beds. Tickets start at \$35 but are available free to Grant and Wheeler County residents with registration. Tickets

available online at <https://tinyurl.com/52pn66w5>. More information at <https://www.inalandscape.org/>.

FRIDAY, JULY 1

Dayville Community Hall reopening

• 3:30-9 p.m., Highway 26, Dayville
This celebration marks the grand reopening of the old community hall, which has undergone a major renovation. The festivities begin with a ribbon cutting at 3:30 p.m., followed by building tours, a program at 4:30, a potluck at 5:30 and music by the James Gang starting 6:30.



TUESDAY, JULY 5

911 User Board meeting

• 6:30 p.m., John Day Fire Hall, 316 S. Canyon Blvd.
The Grant County Emergency Communication Agency 911 User Board will meet to discuss a dispatch radio console update and other matters. The meeting is open to the public. To listen in by phone, call 605-313-5406 and enter access code 889135#.

FRIDAY, JULY 8

Wheeler family benefit

• 5 p.m., Trowbridge Pavilion, Grant County Fairgrounds, 411 NW Bridge St., John Day

A pulled pork dinner, live and silent auction, and dessert auction to benefit the family of Adrian Wheeler, who has a rare form of colon cancer. The event will also feature live music and a no-host bar. Auction donations will

be accepted through June 25. Contact Winnie Browning at 541-620-0748 about donating items for the live or silent auction, and contact Teri Bowden at 541-575-2112 about making a donation for the dessert auction.

Do you have a community event you’d like to publicize? Email information to editor@bmeagle.com. The deadline is noon Friday for publication the following Wednesday.

‘America the Beautiful’
4th of July on the Prairie
Sponsored by the Greater Prairie City Community Association

7:30 am * 5K Fun Run at Depot Park
Registration starts at 7 am. Coffee, donuts & prizes afterwards. Donations to GPCCA.

7am-10am * Pancake Breakfast at the Teen Center

10 am-3 pm * Vendors on Front Street
* Cow Pie Bingo starts at 1 pm at the PCHS ballfield Purchase tickets from FFA students during the parade and at their food booth afterwards. \$25/square.

HOT DOG LUNCH - TEEN CENTER

11:30 am * Flag Folding Ceremony at City Park - American Legion

Noon * Parade (Get Entry Forms from City Hall)

12:30-3 pm * City Park BBQ and Activities

- * Pulled Pork Sandwiches - PCHS FFA
- * Beverages - PCHS Football Team
- * Strawberry Shortcake - Green Thumb Garden Club
- * Cotton Candy and Shaved Ice - PCHS Cheerleaders
- * Lots of Yard Games

Bring your lawn chair to sit and chat, eat lunch, and play a variety of Yard Games in the City Park!

2 pm * Drama performance by Prairie City kids at the Prairie City Community Center (\$1 suggested donation)

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