

'Buckaroo' benefits local senior center

By RICHARD F. LAMOUNTAIN
For the Blue Mountain Eagle

MONUMENT — Some 200 attendees kicked off autumn on Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Monument Senior Center's Buckaroo Festival and Harvest Auction with raffles, live and silent auctions, and an elk and salmon dinner.

The event netted the center \$17,000 — enough, said Judy Harris, the event's fundraising chairman, to fund its operations for an entire year.

The money came not a moment too soon. The Buckaroo, held annually between 2016 and 2019, had been scuttled for two years by COVID. As a result, senior center volunteer Soo Yukawa wrote in last week's Eagle, "we were running in the red." The funds raised Saturday will go toward the center's general operations, which, according to fundraising committee member Jeanne Strange, include "heat, insurance, maintenance and keeping the lights on."

Despite its name, the Monument Senior Center is not just a facility for the elderly. It long has served, said Harris, as the vital "hub of the community," hosting events as diverse as "bingo, bridal showers and funeral services."

Saturday's event began at noon. On the center's sun-bathed back lawn, members of the North Fork Community 4-H Club served a taco lunch. Face painters adorned children (and the occasional adult) with colorful designs. Silent Wave Horse Rescue — a nonprofit organization whose mission, according to its brochure, is "to rescue horses, mules, and donkeys from neglect, abuse, and abandonment" — distributed literature and sold clothing.



Richard F. LaMountain/For the Blue Mountain Eagle

A volunteer with Silent Wave Horse Rescue talks about the group's work at the Monument Buckaroo Festival and Harvest Auction on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022.

Music was provided by local singers and guitarists who spontaneously dubbed themselves "Jimmy and Tom and the Cover Girls."

After lunch came the fast-moving live auction. Eager bidders landed, among other items, a copper fire pit, craft and kitchen baskets, ATV gun cases, firewood — and even bales of triticale hay.

Inside, silent-auction items filled the center's foyer and library. They included earrings, necklaces, paintings, sculptures, scented soaps and picnic backpacks.

Auction items donated

Individuals and companies donating auction items included Breanna Skeem of Mandala Farms, Todd Lyche of Desert Moon LLC, Matt Allen of Apricot Apiaries, artist Lynn Bean, Thomas Orchards of Kimberly, Mosier's Home Furnishings, Len's Pharmacy and Russell's Custom Meats and Deli.

At 5:00 p.m., in the center's dining room, attendees were served a volunteer-prepared meal of elk (donated by Harris and her family) and salmon (caught by Native American fishermen near Celilo Village on the Colum-

bia River). A dessert auction followed.

Named as the Buckaroo's honorary "grand marshal" was Jimmy Cole, a longtime Monument resident who passed away earlier this year. "His life revolved around the senior center," said Harris. "It was like a second home to him." Though stricken with crippling arthritis and other maladies, Cole "always looked on the bright side of things," remembered Julie Erickson, Harris' daughter and an event volunteer. "He was always laughing."

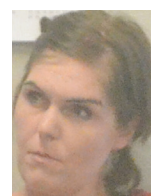
Also honored were Bob Cockrell, president of the Monument Senior Center board, and his wife Sylvia. "They put their heart and soul into our community and senior center," remarked Harris, who presented the couple a gift basket.

The Monument Senior Center is one of three in Grant County; the others are in John Day and Prairie City. On Tuesdays at noon, the center sponsors an all-ages lunch that routinely draws 30 and more diners.

Richard F. LaMountain is chairman of the Grant County Senior Citizens Advisory Council.

Mobley loses police certification

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle



Mobley

SALEM — Abigail Mobley, the former Grant County sheriff's deputy at the heart of the "sex talk" scandal, has been stripped of her law enforcement certifications for 10 years by the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

According to draft minutes from the DPSST's Aug. 4 Corrections Policy Committee meeting, Mobley's case came under review after the agency received an amended report that documented Mobley had resigned from Grant County Sheriff's Office due to the 21-month investigation into allegations of misconduct.

Mobley quit her job in December 2020 in the wake of the investigation, which found she had committed no fewer than eight vio-

lations of the department's code of conduct ranging from abuse of her position to conduct unbecoming an officer and neglect of duty.

DPSST had initially opened up a professional standards case after receiving notification that Mobley had been arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants in February of 2020. Mobley resigned before the case concluded.

The committee found Mobley had committed a number of moral fitness violations, including dishonesty, although the minutes do not include specifics of her deception.

In addition, the committee found that Mob-

ley misused her position of authority as a public safety professional to carry on a relationship with an inmate at the Grant County Jail. Mobley's relationship with the inmate, the minutes radd, threatened the efficient operations of the sheriff's office and put her coworkers at risk.

The committee also concluded that Mobley's conduct violated the Prison Rape Elimination Act. Additionally, the committee found that Mobley's behavior put her family members — which include her husband, Grant County Undersheriff Zach Mobley, and her brother, Sgt. Danny Komning — in a "bad position" because of hostility from their peers due to her conduct.

The vote to take away Mobley's public safety certification for 10 years was unanimous.

Eagle announces staff changes

Blue Mountain Eagle



Chiotti



Mitchell

JOHN DAY — This edition of the Blue Mountain Eagle marks a changing of the guard as the newspaper welcomes one reporter while saying goodbye to another.

Tony Chiotti joined the newspaper on Wednesday, Sept. 21. He succeeds Steven Mitchell, whose last day on the job was Tuesday, Sept. 27.

Mitchell started with the Eagle in January 2020 and covered a wide variety of assignments for the paper, including sports, county government and natural resources. He is moving to Southern Oregon to be closer to family and will be working remotely as a reporter for the Malheur Enterprise.

Chiotti brings a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Ore-

gon and a master's of fine arts in creative nonfiction from Portland State University to his new position.

Originally from St. Helens in Columbia County, Chiotti has a varied resume that includes work for several small community nonprofits in the Portland area and stints as a wildland firefighter, cab driver and pinball machine repairman.

For the past five years he has lived in Europe, primarily in the United Kingdom, working as a freelance writer and live events producer.

While this will be his first full-time newspaper

job, Chiotti has written for a number of publications over the years (his first published article appeared in 1998 in the Buffalo Chip Gazette, a periodical associated with the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota).

"I've always had a bit of a romantic notion (about being) a small-town newspaper reporter," he said. "Growing up in a small town, I have a sense of how important the paper is to small town life."

Chiotti's interests include fly fishing, camping and photography.

"That's one thing I'm excited about, coming back (to Oregon), is to go camping and find some fly fishing around here," he said.

Chiotti joins reporter Justin Davis, who has been part of the Eagle newsroom since March.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 28 Business Oregon Finance Committee

• 8-11 a.m., Grant County Regional Airport, 72000 Airport Road, John Day

The committee will discuss development funding for Heritage Brand and industrial development bonds for Krefting Properties and the EPCOR foothills water project, then go into a retreat.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 29 Parks and Rec board meeting

• 4 p.m., Parks and Rec office, 845 NW Bridge St., John Day

The John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District board will hold its regular monthly meeting.

Yoga in the Park
• 6 p.m., Canyon City Park, Highway 395 North at Park Street



Instructors Ashley Stevick and Amanda Moss of Namaspa Yoga Community lead this free yoga class for people of all skill levels.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 30
John Day Street Fair**
• 3-7 p.m., Pit Stop, South Canton and Main streets, John Day

Oregon RAIN will hold its last street fair of the year at the new John Day Pit Stop.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 6
Triple P Positive Parenting Program**
• 5:30-8 p.m., Painted Sky

Center for the Arts, 118 Washington St., Canyon City

Free parenting program that combines four evening sessions with personal phone calls to help with individual implementation. Sponsored by Families First, Community Counseling Solutions and Frontier Early Learning Hub. Free dinner and free child care available. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/bdevzm6s>. For more information, call 541-575-1006.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 13
Triple P Positive Parenting Program**
• 5:30-8 p.m., Painted Sky Center for the Arts, 118

Washington St., Canyon City

Free parenting program that combines four evening sessions with personal phone calls to help with individual implementation. Sponsored by Families First, Community Counseling Solutions and Frontier Early Learning Hub. Free dinner and free child care available. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/bdevzm6s>. For more information, call 541-575-1006.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 20
Triple P Positive Parenting Program**
• 5:30-8 p.m., Painted Sky Center for the Arts, 118 Wash-

ington St., Canyon City

Free parenting program that combines four evening sessions with personal phone calls to help with individual implementation. Sponsored by Families First, Community Counseling Solutions and Frontier Early Learning Hub. Free dinner and free child care available. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/bdevzm6s>. For more information, call 541-575-1006.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 10
Triple P Positive Parenting Program**
• 5:30-8 p.m., Painted Sky Center for the Arts, 118 Washington St., Canyon City

Free parenting program that combines four evening sessions with personal phone calls to help with individual implementation. Sponsored by Families First, Community Counseling Solutions and Frontier Early Learning Hub. Free dinner and free child care available. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/bdevzm6s>. For more information, call 541-575-1006.

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.

Robbins Farm Equipment
3850 10th St. Baker City 541-523-6377
62302 Pierce Rd. La Grande 541-963-6577
1160 S Egan Burns 541-573-6377
86812 Christmas Valley Hwy. Christmas Valley 541-576-2160

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NEW PACIFIC SOURCE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS FOR 2023!!!

MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE SAVE THE DATE
Name/Nombre: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6TH
JOHN DAY SENIOR CENTER
NOON COME FOR LUNCH 1:00 pm DISCUSSION ON
2023 Pacific Source Medicare Advantage Plans
Entitled to/Con derecho a: **Plans** Coverage starts/Cobertura empieza
OPEN ENROLLMENT STARTS OCTOBER 15th 2022
ENROLLMENT ENDS DECEMBER 7th 2022

Or schedule your FREE private consultation with Donna Steele, Local Pacific Source Medicare Broker
Phone: 541-575-3518

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PAINTED SKY CENTER FOR THE ARTS
CANYON CITY, OR

FALL TERM CLASSES
CANYON CITY, OR

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Open Studio Ceramics Monthly Pass Full month access	Pumpkin with Burlap Flowers (Paint Party) Saturday, October 01, 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Thanksgiving Mandala Flower Friday, November 04, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Full-Time Art Club 2022 August 29 - June 16	Baby Moccasins (Leather) Tuesday, October 04, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Hanging with the Gnomies (Paint Party) November 05, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Sunflowers and Butterflies (Paint Party) Thursday, September 01, 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Coco-inspired Couple (Paint Party) Friday, October 07, 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Christmas Tree Gnome or Votive Christmas Tree (make-and-take ceramics) Saturday, November 12, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Custom Hey Dudes (Leather) Fridays, September 09 - September 30, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Pumpkins with Holly Berries (Paint Party) Wednesday, October 12, 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Highlander Christmas Cow (Paint Party) Wednesday, November 16, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Make a Breast Collar (Leather) Mondays, September 19 - October 31, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Macrame and Leather Tote Bag October 14 - October 15, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Wool Applique Christmas Gnome Saturday, November 19, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Introductory Japanese for kids (8-18) Mondays, September 12- November 14, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Soft Macramé Leaves (Fabric) Tuesday & Wednesday, October 25 & October 26, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	
Beginning wheel and hand building Mondays & Thursdays, September 12 - October 06, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Pop Art Pup Black Light Paint Party or "Caticorn Jack O'Lantern" Friday, October 28, 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM	
Introductory Japanese Adult class Thursdays, September 15 - November 17, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Autumn Lanterns (Paint Party) Saturday, September 24, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM	
Black Light Paint Party Friday, September 16, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Beginner Wheel Throwing Saturdays, October 29 - November 12, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	

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