

Painted Sky gala raises \$12,000

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — There are always worries when you try something for the first time. A large turnout of well-dressed Grant County residents put those worries to rest for the Painted Sky Center for the Arts on Saturday, Nov. 12, when the nonprofit held its first holiday gala.

Dubbed “Deck the Halls,” the black tie-optional event took place in the Trowbridge Pavilion at the Grant County Fairgrounds and featured local youth performing Christmas songs and skits as well as a pair of silent auctions, one of works by local artists and the other of fully decorated Christmas trees. In addition to the colorful art and festive trees, the pavilion was decked out with Christmas lights and dinner tables clothed in a white, gold and black theme.

The event was a fundraiser for Painted Sky, which teaches arts and crafts classes for both children and adults. Proceeds from the gala will be used to cover scholarships, operating costs and programming for the art center. Oregon Trail Elec-



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

Children from Painted Sky Center for the Arts perform Christmas songs for attendees at the Deck the Halls gala on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022.

tric Cooperative was the chief sponsor.

A dinner of roast beef, mashed potatoes and broccoli was served before each table group had the opportunity to place money into numbered envelopes to bid on a dessert for the entire table. The highest-bidding tables got first choice of dessert.

Musical numbers performed by children who regularly attend Painted Sky included “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” “Jingle Bells” and a duet of “Silent Night.” Following the music, the children performed a short skit about elves making shoes followed by a rendition of

“The Night Before Christmas” in the form of a skit.

Cowboy poet Kathy Moss was the master of ceremonies for the gala and treated attendees to one of her best-known poems.

“I think, really, for the first event it exceeded our expectations,” said Allison Field, one of the organizers of the gala. “We had approximately 150 people that came to the event, and it just showed a lot of community support out there.”

Field added she was happy the people in attendance came formally dressed for the most part. “That was great to see,” she said. “I think people were

excited to do something a little different and have a reason to dress up. Being out here, you just don’t get the opportunity as much.”

The gala raised just over \$12,000 for the art center between ticket sales and auction items, according to Field.

“We didn’t want to have super-high expectations, like \$30,000 or anything, so we kept it between 10 and 12,” she said. “It was great to see the community come together ... hitting that fundraiser mark,” Field said.

Painted Sky Center for the Arts intends to make the gala an annual event and is already planning the 2023 event.



Oregon Aglink/Contributed Photo

Oregon Aglink has named Myron and Dotty Miles, of Miles Ranch in North Powder, the 2022 Agriculturists of the Year.

N. Powder couple earn ag honor

By BRENNA WIEGAND
For the Capital Press

NORTH POWDER — Sustainable grazing and top-notch genetics are key for beef cattle raised at Miles Ranch in North Powder.

It was here Myron Miles grew up before meeting Dotty, from Klamath Falls, while they were attending Oregon State College — now Oregon State University.

The couple, both in their early 80s, married in 1962 and spent years hopscotching around the state for work. Myron was a county extension agent in Josephine County, operated a small feedlot in Klamath Falls, and even found his way back to Baker County as a dairyman.

That last arrangement didn’t last, with Myron quipping, “Everyone should have to milk cows once in their life — it’s all up from there.”

Finally, in 1980, the couple returned to North Powder for good after buying a 1,400-acre property. Today, Miles Ranch runs 250 head of mother cows.

The couple will be recognized by Oregon Aglink as the 2022 Agriculturists of the Year during the organization’s annual Denim and Diamonds dinner and auction fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 18.

Myron also has a breeding program, using artificial insemination. He works with American Breeders Service Global, a company that sells semen from bulls, carefully choosing genetic traits that will allow his cows to grow bigger, faster and produce higher-quality meat.

Cows at Miles Ranch are rotated regularly in pastures to avoid overgrazing and spreading invasive weeds. A smaller portion of the land is dedicated to growing alfalfa, with mini-

mal tillage and cover crops to prevent soil erosion.

“You need to protect the environment and our resources, so our kids and grandkids will still have food,” he said.

Away from the ranch, Myron is a board member for the Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and has spent 60 years advocating for ranchers with the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association. He was president of the Baker County Livestock Association when the county adopted its right-to-farm ordinance, protecting growers from nuisance complaints.

Meanwhile, Dotty remains active as a board member for Blue Mountain Community College and the local Baker City Rotary Club.

“We wouldn’t know how to act if we didn’t have a calendar that was completely clogged up with things to do,” Myron said.

The couple said they are pleased and honored to be recognized as Agriculturists of the Year by Oregon Aglink.

“Not only do we pride ourselves on how we run our ranch,” Myron said, “but we think that we’ve helped others along the way to improve their cattle and way of life, too.”

Oregon Aglink is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to agricultural education and outreach. Denim and Diamonds raises money for programs such as Adopt a Farmer, pairing farms with middle school classrooms for field trips and activities.

Every year, Oregon Aglink selects a group, business or individual as its Agriculturist of the Year, recognizing outstanding contributions to the agriculture industry as a whole.

Rodeo court coronation Saturday

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The members of the 2023 Grant County Fair & Rodeo Court will make their official debut this weekend at a fundraising dinner and auction in their honor.

Laramie Kiser is next year’s queen and her twin sister, Lavina, is the princess. The girls live in Mt. Vernon and are juniors at Grant Union High School.

They will be crowned at the Cowboy Christmas Coronation Dinner and Auction on Saturday, Nov. 19, in the Trowbridge Pavilion at the Grant County Fairgrounds, 411 NW Bridge St. in John Day. Doors open at 5 p.m. for a happy hour and auction preview.

The grand marshal of the 2023 Grant County Fair & Rodeo Parade, Tinka Oliver, will also be introduced at the event.



Contributed Photos

Queen Laramie Kiser, left, and Princess Lavina Kiser will be installed as the 2023 Grant County Fair & Rodeo Court on Saturday, Nov. 19. The twins live in Mt. Vernon and are juniors at Grant Union High School.

A tri-tip dinner prepared by Toni Clark will be served, the Snaffle Bit will staff a no-host bar and DJ Chris Gibson will provide the music. The cost for dinner is \$18 per person or \$34 per couple, and live, silent

and dessert auctions will be held.

Proceeds from the event will go toward clothing, travel and other expenses for Queen Laramie and Princess Lavina, who will be representing

Grant County in the months leading up to the 2023 Grant County Fair & Rodeo. The rodeo is scheduled for Aug. 4 and 5, and the fair will run Aug. 9-12.

Whitney Richey, adviser to the fair and rodeo court, said the Kiser sisters will be making numerous official appearances around Oregon and the Northwest, as well as at local events such as the Timber Truckers Light Parade. Richey also noted that the twins have rodeo royalty in their family tree, with both their older sister and their mother having served on the court in years past.

Donations for the live, silent and dessert auctions are still being accepted and can be dropped off at the fairgrounds office during business hours. To make other arrangements, call Richey at 541-228-4604 or fairgrounds manager Mindy Winegar at 541-620-8058.

Volunteers needed for Thanksgiving feast

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — At least 40 volunteers are needed to help prepare, serve and deliver meals for the annual community Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the John Day Elks Club.

The dinner will be served from 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 24, at the lodge, 140 NE Dayton St. in John Day. Volunteers are needed to help with cooking, setup, cleanup and meal delivery that day, and others are needed to help with prep the day before.

To volunteers, call 541-575-1824 or stop by the Elks Lodge to sign up for a shift.

On the menu will be a traditional Thanksgiving feast of ham, turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, sweet potatoes, rolls, stuffing, cranberries and pie.

The meal is free to all Grant County



Bennett Hall/Blue Mountain Eagle, File

Flora Cheadle of Dayville, right, waits for her food while volunteers, from left, Raymond Sousa, Leslie Traylor and Charlie Caughlin dish up green beans on Thanksgiving Day, 2021, at the John Day Elks Lodge.

residents, who are welcome to eat at the lodge or take their food home with them. Delivery is available for disabled and homebound community members. To request a delivery, call the lodge at 541-

575-1824 and leave a message with your name, address, phone number and how many meals you will need.

Last year the club prepared and served 300 Thanksgiving dinners.

GRANT UNION STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: SEPTEMBER 2022



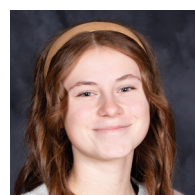
Seventh grade
Adalyn Judd
Parents: Jesse & Marci Judd



Eighth grade
Keira Stiner
Parents: Nick & Amy Stiner



Ninth grade
Kingdon Mitchell
Parents: Ken & Kelilu Kirby



10th grade
Karly VanLoo
Parents: Randy & Melissa VanLoo



11th grade
Abbie Justice
Parents: Ken & Julia Justice



12th grade
Jasmine Bryers
Grandmother: Lisa Hunter-Kennedy

DEATH NOTICES

Vernon E. ‘Chip’ Rehder Jr.

Vernon E. “Chip” Rehder Jr. died suddenly on Oct. 14 in Sutherlin. He was 67 years old. Chip was the son of Vernon and Kathleen Rehder of Mt. Vernon. There will be a celebration of Chip’s life in Roseburg in April. Details will be published in the Eagle two weeks prior to the event.

Rheanna Cheyenne Cartner

Rheanna Cheyenne Cartner, 24, passed away on Nov. 11, 2022. A celebration of life will be held at a later date, at a time and place to be announced. Memorial donations in memory of Rheanna to help defray funeral expenses may be made at www.GoFundMe.com or through Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, PO Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneral-home.com.

CORRECTIONS

The Blue Mountain Eagle strives to ensure accuracy. If you see an error in one of our stories, please contact us at editor@bmeagle.com or 541-575-0710.

Last Week’s Temps

Day	HI/LO
John Day	36/18
Wednesday	36/18
Thursday	39/18
Friday	41/20
Saturday	41/19
Sunday	42/20
Monday	40/18
Tuesday	45/23

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 NOV. 16-22

Day	Forecast	High	Low
Wednesday	Sunny	47	22
Thursday	Partly cloudy	38	18
Friday	Partly cloudy	39	17
Saturday	Sunny	42	18
Sunday	Partly cloudy	45	23
Monday	Mostly cloudy	45	28
Tuesday	Rain/snow	45	30