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LOCAL CASA PROGRAM ANNOUNCES MANAGEMENT TRANSITION



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Douglas and Curry Counties has announced that a Douglas County native will take the helm of the local CASA program March 6 when longtime executive director Susan Knight retires.

Richelle Bryant has worked at Douglas Timber Operators since returning to Roseburg in June from Afghanistan, where she was a security specialist supporting the U.S. Military as well as partners with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) for more than 5 years.

Bryant brings diverse entrepreneurial business, education and non-profit experience to her new role. She has launched technical companies in Oregon and Nevada, served as a guidance counselor and community liaison at South Umpqua High School and held management roles in Las Vegas for the charitable foundations of actress Brooke Shields and tennis legend Andre Agassi. Both foundations focused on children's issues.

Bryant grew up in Myrtle Creek and attended schools in the South Umpqua School District throughout her youth. She is the only Myrtle Creek resident to have held the title of Miss Rodeo Oregon.

Knight will retire in March after 12 years as executive director of the local CASA program. She returned to Roseburg, where she grew up, after she retired as a vice president of Eddie Bauer. When she took on management of the Douglas County CASA program, it was a grassroots agency with two employees and a \$100,000 budget. During her tenure, she grew the staff to seven, the budget to more than \$630,000 and the children served from fewer than 100 to more than 400. In 2012, she added Curry County CASA to the Douglas County program.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are trained and judicially appointed citizen volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children to get them out of the foster care system and into safe, permanent homes quickly and effectively. Additional information about CASA in Douglas and Curry Counties is available by calling 541-672-7001 in Roseburg or 541-813-2272 in Brookings.