

PATRIOT

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taking advantage of failing rural Oregon economies where a loss of jobs has resulted in crumbling infrastructure and law enforcement. Campbell talked about the 2015 occupation in Josephine County, painting the picture of a community suffering from a failing timber economy and drastic cuts to law enforcement. She described people attempting to get restraining orders and being told, by the judge, to get a gun.

In April of 2015, Oathkeepers and members of the III% occupied the Sugar Pine Mine in Josephine County following demands by the Bureau of Land Management to provide a plan of operations for the mine. The incident ended the following month without bloodshed, and the miners were allowed to continue mining.

Campbell said these patriot groups gain influence from the inside by passing resolutions, running candidates and recruiting local law enforcement,



The Eagle/Ryland Boggs

Jessica Campbell (right) presents information about the "patriot movement" in Oregon at the Canyon City City Hall on Friday, Sept. 7. Campbell has been traveling with a group called the Rural Organizing Project on a tour to inform communities about the movement in Oregon. Canyon City was the seventh stop on their 10-stop tour.

while simultaneously gaining influence from the outside by using threats and intimidation and militia as community infrastructure.

Not everyone in attendance agreed, however. Grant County resident and

self-described patriot Dave Traylor wrote in a letter to the editor that the meeting "could have been informative except for the one-sided narrative on just what a patriot is." He asserted patriots were cast in a negative light with an "ap-

proach with caution" label attached.

Following the meeting, Traylor stood and read dictionary definitions of "patriot." "A person who loves, supports and defends his or her country and its interests with devotion — a

"Rural communities are vulnerable to agendas driven by a national movement. We didn't want to see that happen here more than it already has."

Kay Steele, Grant County Positive Action member

person who regards himself or herself as a defender especially of individual rights, against presumed interference by the federal government."

During a question-and-answer session that followed the presentation, Traylor said only a few questions were answered and many people's queries, including his own, were simply ignored.

Traylor said he wanted to pose the question, "How does one tell the difference between a good patriot and suspect ones that were mentioned?" He attributed the selective answering of questions to the Rural Organizing Project's inability to answer some questions.

Grant County Positive Action member Kay Steele said she thought the meeting was a success.

She was pleased with the turnout and described the presentation as balanced and non-inflammatory. The group's goal had been to shine a light on the patriot movement in the area and let people draw their own conclusions, she said.

"Rural communities are vulnerable to agendas driven by a national movement," Steele said. "We didn't want to see that happen here more than it already has."

Steele said the questions had been screened to avoid causing a disruption during the question and answer session.

"We didn't want to see this turn into a political fight," she said. "We wanted it to be nothing more than giving people the opportunity to see what's happening and what has happened."

POLICE

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Police Chief Richard Gray said the recommendations are all still applicable to John Day.

Gray says the changes won't drastically affect the day-to-day workings of the department, but the community may see social media activity, such as a Facebook page, from the department. Gray said social media is a tool that could be used to better serve and protect the community.

He also wants to improve the department's transparency, stating if someone had a problem with an officer there is a good chance the interaction was recorded. If an issue with the way an officer handled a situation arises, a complaint can be filed and it will be looked into, Gray said.

One pillar Gray highlighted was safety and wellness. He said he regularly checks

up on his own officers' well being as well as responders in other departments. He ensures they are doing well mentally and physically and aren't affected by post-traumatic stress disorder.

Gray has personal experience with the dangers police work can involve. In May of 2003, Gray and another officer, Jason Rehling, were wounded in a shootout in Long Creek. Gray was shot in the back and neck, and Rehling was shot in the face. Both officers recovered, and Gray received a purple heart and medal of valor. Though violence like this is hardly an everyday occurrence, it is something of which officers must always be aware.

"I don't think the public really realizes what we go through," Gray said.

He emphasized working with the community and building trust so people felt comfortable enough to report problems to the police.

"The job is a hard job to do, so if we can use the public to help us do the job that's great, that's more eyes," he said.

He cited a recent example of a stolen truck that a citizen had seen and called in. Gray said the caller stayed on the line and guided police units to the stolen vehicle, allowing it to be returned to the owner.

Sgt. Damon Rand has been with the JDPD for 15 years and grew up in the area, something he said has helped enormously with building trust within the community. In that time, he has seen a noticeable increase in drug related violence.

"I haven't seen anyone get shot that you couldn't trace back to drugs, sex or money, and with drugs, you're usually talking about all three," Rand said.

He said combating the drug problem in the community is a difficult and expensive battle filled with long hours and astronomical over-

time costs. Rand said profitability will always exist in the illegal drug market, which adds to the problem.

"It's kinda like a river: You can dam it up, but it will find an alternate route," he said. "You can slow it down, but I don't think we're ever going to get it stopped."

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 FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:10 9:45
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OULJA: ORIGIN OF EVIL PG-13
 A mother and her daughters add a new stunt to bolster their seance scam business and unwittingly invite authentic evil into their home.
 FRI & SAT (4:20) 7:20 9:50
 SUNDAY (4:20) 7:20
 MON-THURS (4:20) 7:20

THE ACCOUNTANT R
 As a math savant uncovers the books for a new client, the Treasury Department closes in on his activities and the body count starts to rise.
 FRI & SAT (4:00) 7:00 9:40
 SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00
 MON-THURS (4:00) 7:00
\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth

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Burke sentenced to more than 3 years

Blue Mountain Eagle

David Wesly Burke was recently sentenced to more than three years in prison for charges related to a stolen pickup.

Burke pleaded guilty Sept. 22 to unauthorized use of a vehicle, possession of methamphetamine, first-degree criminal mischief and driving under the influence of intoxicants in Grant County Circuit Court.

On Oct. 13, Judge William D. Cramer Jr. sentenced Burke to 20 months in prison for the unauthorized use of a vehicle charge, 18 months in prison for the criminal mischief charge, 30 days in jail for the intoxicated driving charge and 10 days in jail for

the possession of methamphetamine charge. He was also sentenced to 18 months of supervised probation, and his license was suspended for three years. He was ordered to pay \$2,988.75 to the victim and fined \$1,755.

Burke was stopped by police Aug. 30 while driving a

white GMC pickup that had been reported stolen from the 100 block of Second Avenue in John Day.

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