

# Opinion / Local

— EDITORIAL —

## Supporting Sheriff Hanlin

In the wake of the Umpqua Community College shootings, KGW-TV's big story this week was an attack piece on Douglas County Sheriff John Hanlin, vilifying him for items he'd shared on his personal Facebook page without any grasp of how or why he'd shared them.

Hanlin, an outspoken Second Amendment supporter, much like many sheriffs and law enforcement officers across Oregon, found himself the focal point of several such attacks

in the Portland media this past week— primarily because he opposed nonsensical gun control laws that would have taken guns away from law-abiding citizens following other mass shootings.

Considering that Hanlin was in the center of a huge multi-agency response, handling a tragedy with multiple layers of responsibility, we hope he wasn't aware of the Portland media's efforts to discredit him while he was in the midst of executing his job.

Not only would this poor excuse for media coverage have been a distraction for Hanlin, but it diverted attention from the facts at hand for those in the public who might actually want to know the who, what, where, when and why of events.

Hanlin's personal beliefs on a myriad of issues have nothing whatsoever to do with the Roseburg shootings. Some of us out here in MediaLand get that.

—*The Baker County Press Editorial Board*

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

### Ignore Obama's Executive Orders

To the Editor:

Unless you are a federal employee, federal Executive Orders (EOs) do not automatically apply to you. They can only become your "law" when you knowingly locate yourself within a federal territorial zone, or, sign a treasonous private contract/agreement that subjects you to federal jurisdiction.

EOs should mean nothing to us unless the county sheriff has signed some private federal agreement or contract which in substance voids his obligation to protect the people's rights, including the right to self-defense.

The White House has confirmed that Mr. Obama is preparing "executive actions" to control our guns. Last century, tyrant dictators confiscated guns prior to murdering 122 million innocent people. The reputed "killings" at Sandy Hook is an example of a totally fabricated and highly-publicized event, complete with actors and script, at an abandoned school building. Yet it accomplished its socialistic purpose, and we all know what that is.

To further the objective of destabilizing our personal security, federal agencies have been shown to create a terrorist event to justify stricter gun laws. What they can't pass through congress, Obama deceptively tries to make into "law" by EOs. As some feds continue to create these terrorist events and target schools to intentionally warp the psyche of young people and accomplish the socialist goal of disarming our population, we must recognize these situations as acts of war. What else would you call them? And what are you going to do about these treasonous acts? Educating yourselves about the true limits of federal authority is a good place to start.

YouTube has some excellent videos. Take a look. Overcome your lifetime of brainwashing by the public school system, the media, and the entertainment industry. Consider becoming an OathKeeper. Take a stand against all that is wrong!

I was dismayed to watch a YouTube video of a "constitutional" sheriff telling of his confusion with Obama's Executive Orders, trying to decide which ones were within the purview of his local authority. He did not seem to understand that none of them are! His education is lacking. Federal authority and jurisdiction are clearly limited and enumerated in the federal constitution.

**Jim Iler**  
*Baker City*

### Co-sleeping deaths are absolutely preventable

To the Editor:

My only purpose as Baker County Medical Examiner is to try and prevent deaths from occurring in this county. I wrote a letter several years ago after we had three

infant co-sleeping deaths in a short period of time. This letter urged readers to avoid co-sleeping with infants. Some people thought this was an unnecessary intrusion into family affairs.

Fortunately, doctors at Eastern Oregon Medical Associates (St. Luke's Clinic in Baker City) agree that there is a significant risk of death to young infants sleeping in the same bed with their parents. Medical personnel at EOMA counsel every parent of children born in Baker City to not co-sleep with their infant children.

Two more co-sleeping deaths have occurred in Baker City in the past four months. This has nothing to do with sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), which is not a preventable cause of death. Co-sleeping is a 100 percent preventable cause of death. If a child is not present in the parents' bed, it will not die from co-sleeping. Parents do not think that they will roll over onto their child and prevent it from breathing. However, an infant lying wedged next to a parent may not be able to lift and turn its head and may suffocate. Parents who are sleeping very soundly because of taking drugs or alcohol provide an additional risk of infant death.

There is nothing wrong with cuddling an infant in bed or on a couch. When it is time for the parents to sleep, the infant needs to be put in a crib or cradle. It is no different than using a car seat for the child. It is what provides life-saving protection from asphyxiation.

**Dr. James Davis**  
**Baker County Medical Examiner**  
*Baker City*

### ORP meeting didn't hit on socialist agenda

To the Editor:

I attended the (ORP) Tour last night thinking it was a Convention of States meeting. To my chagrin it was regarding transparency in the Oregon legislature.

A few people attended and the tone was pessimistic, hampered by political correctness in not stating that the People of Oregon have been sold down the river by Democrats, really socialist, and Republicans fumble over their lack of understanding and inability to assess the real situation happening not only in Oregon but the Country on a whole!

Since I moved to Oregon in 1991, the State government, including the judiciary, has ramrodded the socialist agenda down our throats with no accountability.

Even referendums are overturned by the courts while the Republicans sit idle, silence is their collusion.

I wish I had breached the Convention of States and spoken of the ideals they stand for. For that, I am to blame.

**Paul Yackey**  
*Baker City*

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## Wallowa-Whitman National Forest seeking public comments for proposed fire salvage projects

BAKER CITY, OR – The Whitman Ranger District of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest would like to hear your concerns, suggestions, and questions regarding project proposals to address roadside danger trees and fire salvage within the Cornet/Windy Ridge, Eldorado, Eagle Complex, and Dry Gulch fire areas. Your comments will help us identify issues to be considered in the environmental review of these proposals.

### Background

In August and September of 2015, four large fires, the Cornet/Windy Ridge, Eldorado, Eagle Complex, and Dry Gulch, burned across portions of the Whitman Ranger District in Baker County. Collectively the fires burned just over 152,500 acres on state and private lands, and lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service. Of the total acres burned, approximately 31%, or 48,725 acres, were on National Forest System managed lands. The district is considering a variety of management opportunities across each of these fire areas including looking at salvage of fire killed trees and removal of hazard trees on or near the impacted Forest Road systems for safety of the public and employees.

### Proposed Actions

The proposed projects will look at both opportunities for salvage logging operations and danger tree removal across the lands managed by the Forest

Service and impacted by these four fires. Salvage projects would increase the possibility for economic recovery of fire killed timber and reduce the potential for an insect outbreak. The proposed danger tree removal projects will provide for improved public and employee safety by felling danger trees located along Forest Roads. These roads are considered primary routes for public and administrative access in the fire areas. Felled danger trees may be removed as timber products or left in place depending on the management direction for the areas they are located and the associated environmental effects.

At this time it is anticipated that these projects can be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. A project file will be prepared to document the environmental effects of these projects. Submitting written comments during this scoping period would establish eligibility to object to these projects under 36 CFR 218.5, should an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement be prepared.

How to Participate and Submit Comments  
You are invited to comment on the proposed actions and your comments will help identify issues to be considered in the environmental review. Please submit your written comments by October 16, 2015 so they can be considered

in the analysis. Implementation is expected to begin in Fall 2015. Any comments received will be placed in the project file and shall become a matter of the public record (36 CFR 215.6 (b) (2)).

Please submit your comments to:

Jeff Tomac, Whitman District Ranger, 1550 Dewey Ave, Suite A Baker City, OR 97814  
Ph: 541-523-1350  
FAX: 541-523-6394

Those submitting hand-delivered comments may do so during the regular office hours of 7:45 to 4:30 Monday through Friday except legal holidays. Please be sure to include Whitman Fires Danger Tree Removal and Salvage as the subject for your written comments.

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, rich text format (.rtf), Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf), or Microsoft Word to comments-pacific-northwest-wallowa-whitman-whitmanunit@fs.fed.us. Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for these proposals and will be available for public inspection (Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21).

If you have any questions, additional information can be provided by contacting Melissa Shelley, Environmental Coordinator at (541) 523-1350.

## Dry Gulch fire reimbursement meetings scheduled in Halfway

If you had expenses from the Dry Gulch Fire and are an eligible agency and you want reimbursement for expenses you should attend the meeting.

What: FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) kick off meetings  
When: Tuesday October 13  
Time: 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Halfway City Hall

For those eligible agencies (Any county, city, village, town, district, or other political subdivision

of any State and includes any rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity for which an application for assistance is made by a State or political subdivision thereof.

Other State and local political subdivisions may be eligible if they are formed in accordance with State law as a separate entity and have taxing authority. These include, but are not limited to, school districts, irrigation districts, fire districts, and utility districts)

that had expenses from the Dry Gulch Fire.

Oregon Department of Forestry personnel will present information regarding the FEMA FMAG program, eligibility, and eligible expenses.

All you need to bring are your questions, your agency Tax ID number and your agency's DUNS number (if you do not have a DUNS, you will be provided information at the meeting on how to get one).

— CONTACT US —

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