

COMMISSIONERS

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Veteran Dispatcher Receives Commendation

There is one dispatcher block of time where only one dispatcher is on duty, from 3-6 a.m., a normally quiet time. This was not the case on the morning of Jan. 17. For 55 minutes veteran dispatcher Mandy Wirth took on a constant flood of calls, dispatching emergency personnel and made notification phone calls during the horrendous multi-vehicle accident on that morning. On behalf of the Commission, Harvey plans to present Wirth with an commendation for her efforts that morning. Wirth has already received a letter of commendation from the Dispatch Center along with a President's Coin.

Dental Care Identified as a Need

Charlotte Dudley and Marji Lind are the Baker County representatives of the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO), which is the health plan for the residents who are on the Oregon Health Plan within eastern Oregon.

Results of a recent study done in the county revealed the major healthcare gaps which residents felt needed to be addressed. The Local Community Advisory Council (LCAC) was formed in response so qualified individuals and organizations can be notified and brainstorm different ways to solve those deficiencies.

Dental care was identified as the chief need, especially for younger children and the elderly population. The most remarkable reason for this is due to there only being one dentist in Baker County who will provide services to the 3,476 people who are on the Oregon Health Plan. In order to help bridge the gap in dental care needs, the First Tooth program was created for young children to get their teeth checked, and get sealants if necessary, while at their primary care provider's facility and at the Health Department. For the elderly population, the Oregon Dental School in La Grande has provided free minor dental services.

This reporter posed a question for Lind, asking if any steps were being taken to attract or bring in another dentist who will take Medicaid insurance.

Lind responded, "I know that they are looking at that at the EOCCO level...and Advantage Dental is trying to recruit more providers to come on the panel. I don't know where that stands right now, but they know that it's a need, and it's not just in Baker. It's a need throughout Eastern Oregon."

More Dollars Available for Transportation by Community Connection

Community Connection provides special transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The State of Oregon's Department of Transportation provides grant money via its sub-recipients, allocating them as the Special Transportation Fund (STF). Due to the increasing number of aging and disabled individuals, as well as a large influx of individuals utilizing medical transportation benefits they gained when the Affordable Health Care Act was enacted, Community Connections lobbied their case, and Congress listened. Their STF will be increased by \$11,332 for the 2013-2015 biennium, payable through Baker County.

"We are certainly looking at expanding some services," Mary Jo Carpenter said.

The Board will meet again for its regular session on Feb. 18 at 9 a.m.

Letter

Restore Veterans Second Amendment Rights

To the editor:

When I was 19 my country gave me a used M14 and quite a bit of ammunition free and they even gave me \$55 extra a month to shoot at some people. The ammo supply was usually adequate, but just in case it wasn't, they gave me a foot long knife to attach to the end of my rifle barrel. I survived and came home and now I go to the Veteran's hospital in Boise for medical treatment.

Things have changed. Evidently some people, who I suspect were not veterans wrote some laws and I am greeted by one of them in great big letters as I enter the VA grounds that promise a year in jail should I possess a weapon. The practical effect of that is that even though I am a veteran and a non-criminal I have to travel 168 miles one way unarmed because my final destination is the VA. Inside I am greeted with some more signs that I don't quite know how to take. Maybe they are for comic relief or maybe they are just some more of well-meaning liberal stuff, probably one of the war protesters at Berkley or Haight and Ashbury finally graduated and got a government job. It reads "for your protection no guns or knives are allowed." How the world has changed. Combat veterans remember relying on guns and knives for protection and would like to have one in our personal cars instead of relying on leftist signs.

I did mention this to Greg Walden in one of his town meetings and he took notes but I am still waiting to see if does any good to elect a Republican when it comes to rolling back the liberal gun agenda. It sure would be nice to see some push back in Oregon when Ginny Burdick drops five or six gun bills in the legislature but Oregon's law making body is decidedly short of any veteran perspective, both on the state and federal levels. I would like to see a "Veterans Second Amendment Restoration Act" introduced in this congress and become an issue during the 2016 election cycle. It probably won't get a lot of traction, until ISIS shows the left wing that you can be attacked here, right in your shopping mall and maybe even at a VA hospital. The idea that those who fought them over there might be attacked here for revenge is not inconceivable. And like they say, "When seconds count the police are only minutes away."

Steve Culley
Richland

Scam Calls - How to Safeguard Yourself

Recently, the Oregon State Police has taken reports from people who have been scammed out of money by people posing as law enforcement officers on the telephone.

Scammers have called and claimed to be members of a police department or sheriff's department and that the victim missed jury duty, had outstanding fines, or a warrant for their arrest that could be taken care of over the phone with a payment. Callers may instruct the victims to purchase re-loadable cards and call them back with the numbers. Similar scams have been reported in the past year where callers claim to be with a utility or other government agency.

The Oregon State Police reminds you to be aware that:

- * The Oregon State Police or any other legitimate law enforcement agency does not call community members seeking payment for outstanding traffic citations or warrants.

- * The Oregon State Police does not call individuals and demand money from community members under any circumstances.

- * Individuals claiming to collect debts may try to instill fear in potential victims to persuade them to forward money.

Steps to help avoid becoming a victim to this scam include:

- * Never give personal or financial information to an unsolicited caller or email.

- * Be suspicious of callers who demand immediate payment for any reason.

- * Utility companies and government agencies will never contact you for payment by GreenDot, MoneyPak or Vanilla Reload.

- * Remember that anyone who has the number on a prepaid card has access to the funds on your card.
- * Never wire money, provide debit or credit card numbers to a stranger.

The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) advises that courts may use an independent collection service to collect unpaid monetary judgments and fines. **If someone believes they are being scammed regarding an alleged unpaid traffic citation or other court-imposed financial obligation they can:**

- * Ask the collector (caller) for information specific to the alleged warrant or unpaid traffic citation.

The caller should have the court case number, date of ticket and vehicle license number.

- * Verify the debt or confirm other details by calling the OJD collections hot-line at 1-888-564-2828.

- * Use OJD Courts ePay to directly pay money owed to state courts for most traffic citations, civil fees or criminal fines. (For more information go to <http://www.courts.oregon.gov/OJD/OnlineServices/ePay/Pages/index.aspx>.)

If you receive a similar call, disconnect without providing any information or taking any instructions from the caller. Contact your local law enforcement agency. You may also file a complaint with the Oregon Department of Justice Consumer Protection Office via the Consumer Hotline at 1-877-877-9392 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or complete an on-line Consumer Complaint Form anytime at <http://www.doj.state.or.us/consumer/Pages/complaint.aspx>

Re-visited by permission from and in cooperation with the Portland Police Bureau www.portlandoregon.gov/police/

Leashes Required on Leo Adler Pathway

Chief Lohner received a complaint from a local couple who were concerned about the volume of people on the Leo Adler Pathway who fail to keep their dogs leashed. The Baker City Police Department would like to remind all pet owners that they are required to keep their dogs on a leash when they are on public property. BCPD will begin conducting random foot patrols on the pathway in an attempt to contact pet owners in violation.

Postal Particulars

with Krista Dennis



Oops...I missed telling you about a very important day. Did you know that Feb. 4 was "Thank a Mail Carrier Day"? And they need all the support and appreciation that they can get. Over the past 200 years the USPS has grown and changed, but its mission is still the same...to promote open communication. It is hard work to deliver the mail, day in and day out. Let's not forget that no matter what the weather, our mail carriers are always there for you! I am sure a few kind words like "thank you" will go a long way even if it is not Feb. 4.

Our Priority is: YOU!

Burnt River 2nd Quarter Honor Roll

Seniors
Cody Belveal
Steven DUBY
Honorable Mention:
Kelsie Kezerle

Juniors
Kelly Kamonwong
Monique Lu
Shelby Swindlehurst
Julia Schuff
Honorable Mention:
Aryanna St. Amand,
Armando Garcia

Sophomores
Daniel Isenberger
Amy Nguyen
Honorable Mention:
Tyler Belveal, Oscar Heinrich,
Daniel Andersen

Freshmen
Hannah Hansen
Honorable Mention:
Shea Swindlehurst

Sixth Grade
Grace Isenberger
Kristin Cantrell

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EOU Delivers Online MBA Option

Beginning this fall, students will have the option to complete a master of business administration degree entirely online from Eastern Oregon University.

EOU's College of Business is piloting the program as a 20-student cohort. The decision to expand the existing MBA - which is offered on campus in La Grande and onsite in Gresham, Hermiston and Ontario - to include an online option was fueled by business student feedback.

"A survey revealed a large number of students are extremely interested in completing an MBA from EOU, but unfortunately, they are place-bound and unable to attend our on campus program," said Donald Easton-Brooks, dean of the Colleges of Business and Education. "We are responding to our students' needs by offering a completely online MBA."

Adding to the flexibility of the degree is the option to fulfill the required 45 credits in either five or nine terms. Online graduate tuition is \$372 per credit hour, including fees, which totals \$16,740 upon completion of the program.

Applications will be accepted through April 15. The form and instructions are available at eou.edu/cobe/business/mba/admissions. For more information visit eou.edu/cobe/business/mba, call 541-962-3772 or e-mail business@eou.edu.



My name is **Abner** and I'm a handsome and lively 2 1/2 year old Basset Hound. I'm a healthy and happy-go-lucky purebred Basset. I'm housetrained and will sit by the patio door and let my owners know when I need to go "potty." I can be left in the

house for long periods of time where I just sleep or look out the window. I get really excited when asked if I want to go for a walk. I am not a digger nor do I climb fences, but I do need a secure fenced yard for my safety and exercise. I do not get to go for very many rides, so it might take me awhile to learn that car rides might be fun. I am neutered, vaccinated and ready to go to a new forever home. If you would like to learn more about me, please call Carmen at 541-519-4530 or Best Friends of Baker, Inc. 541-519-7387.

Call Best Friends of Baker, Inc.

541-519-7387



Adopt a Friend!