

## WORKMAN: Current house has many necessary upgrades

Continued from 1A

very, very much.”

After Les passed, Workman said, a series of caregivers failed to work out, with one only lasting a few days.

“There’s a problem with communication,” she said. “If the person doesn’t know sign, I have to write stuff down.”

Without a care provider, Workman can do some things on her own, such as cooking some small items and washing a few dishes. But she needs help for basic care. Segraves recalled bringing Workman some food on Thanksgiving and finding her stuck in her kitchen. She needed help with food and personal hygiene, but hadn’t had it since her previous care provider left weeks earlier.

Segraves teared up. “I told her, ‘Never again,’” Segraves said. “Call me. I’m here for you.” Workman added that she hasn’t had any care providers, except for Segraves, that have known any sign language.

### A different kind of communication

Workman communicates in American Sign Language, and is eager to share it with those who are interested. She teaches twice-weekly classes in downtown Heppner, where she attracts students young and old.

“My nine-month old granddaughter is learning sign language from Lelia,” Segraves said, adding that the baby was fascinated by Workman’s hand movements from the time she was just a month old.

But she also communicates with friends in other states via a video phone. If she’s talking with other friends who are deaf, they can just sign back and forth. But if she’s talking to someone that doesn’t understand ASL, a video interpreter will be present and translate to the person with whom Workman is talking.

Her classes are full-immersion in the language. Students can’t speak verbally to each other and must communicate completely through sign.

“I love teaching,” she said.

### A friendship

Segraves, a restaurant



Workman does not have a wheelchair-accessible bathroom, which makes bathing difficult and potentially dangerous.



Lelia Workman pets her service dog, Sam, a seven-year-old chocolate Lab, in the kitchen of her home in Heppner on Tuesday. Workman cannot reach the stove-top for cooking and has no microwave so she is forced to do all of her cooking in the oven.

owner in Heppner, met Workman about 15 years ago, around the time they both moved to town. But they didn’t really get to be good friends until a few months ago, when Workman started teaching sign language classes.

“She has a big heart,” Segraves said. “And she asks for nothing. She has very little, but needs a lot. And I’m going to help her get it.”

Though she has four children, Workman is not in contact with any family members. But she has many friends and well-wishers throughout Heppner.

Before her wheelchair broke, she would go downtown several times a week, where the employees of Murray’s Drug and Breaking Grounds Coffee look forward to seeing her.

“She’s always so happy,” said Tayllor Brannon of Breaking Grounds. “We all know the hand signs — and she has a usual back here.”

That “usual” is a large strawberry Italian soda with cream and whipped cream.

“My little brothers in the winter go grocery shopping for her,” Brannon said. “And with the sign language classes she’s doing, the whole town’s involved.”

“She could really throw a pity party,” said Jodi, a Murray’s Drug employee. “But she doesn’t. She’s such an inspiration.”

### Problems

But issues remain. Her home, where she’s lived for five years, is not ADA-friendly.

Segraves has set up a GoFundMe page, with a goal of raising enough money to either redo parts of

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— Jodi, a Murray’s Drug employee

Workman’s house to make them ADA-compliant, or to find her a new place to live.

“Right now, we’re in a catch-22,” Segraves said. “We’re praying, hoping, that maybe there’s a house for us.”

Workman’s current house needs many upgrades. The ramp needs to be repaired. Outdoor lighting, a new gate and an upgraded fence need to be installed. She also needs new locks on her doors, and doorways must be widened so they are easier for her wheelchair to navigate.

Perhaps one of the most important changes, Segraves said, is making the bathroom handicap-accessible. As of now, she has to be moved into a tub on a transfer board.

Lelia’s GoFundMe website is available at <https://www.gofundme.com/lelia-project>.

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Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein speaks before a House Committee on the Judiciary oversight hearing on Capitol Hill, Wednesday in Washington.

## Rosenstein defends Mueller, sees no cause for firing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, facing congressional questions about anti-Donald Trump text messages exchanged between two FBI officials assigned to the Russia probe, defended special counsel Robert Mueller on Wednesday and said he had seen no cause to fire him and had not been pressured to do so.

Rosenstein appeared before the House Judiciary Committee one day after the Justice Department provided congressional committees with hundreds of text messages between an FBI counterintelligence agent assigned to Mueller’s team and an FBI lawyer who was on the same detail.

Those messages, which occurred before Mueller was appointed in May to investigate potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign, show the officials using words like “idiot” and “loathsome human” to characterize Trump as he was running for president in 2016. One of the officials said in an election night text that the prospect of a Trump victory was “terrifying.”

The disclosures of the text messages added to concerns among members of Congress that Mueller’s team is tainted by political bias.

But when Rosenstein was asked by lawmakers if he had seen good cause to fire Mueller, whom he appointed and whose work he oversees, he replied that he had not. Rosenstein also defended the credentials of Mueller, a former FBI director, and said he was an appropriate choice to run the Justice Department’s Russia investigation after the firing of FBI

Director James Comey.

“The special counsel’s investigation is not a witch hunt,” Rosenstein said in response to questions about whether he agreed with Trump’s characterization of the probe. “The independence and integrity of the investigation are not going to be affected by anything that anyone says.”

Peter Strzok, a veteran FBI counterintelligence agent, was removed over the summer from Mueller’s team following the discovery of text messages exchanged with Lisa Page, an FBI lawyer who was also detailed this year to the group of agents and prosecutors investigating potential coordination between Russia and Trump’s Republican campaign.

“When we have evidence of any inappropriate conduct, we’re going to take action on it. That’s what Mr. Mueller did here. As soon as he learned about this issue, he took action,” Rosenstein said.

Hundreds of the messages, which surfaced in a Justice Department investigation of the FBI’s inquiry into Democrat Hillary Clinton’s use of a private email server, were being provided to congressional committees and were reviewed by The Associated Press on Tuesday night.

Rosenstein acknowledged in response to Democratic questioning that reporters were invited to the Justice Department to review the messages — which was unusual given that they were part of an ongoing watchdog report — but said that decision was acceptable because the information was determined to be “appropriate for public release.”

## COUNCIL: Milton-Freewater, Pilot Rock open meetings with prayer

Continued from 1A

the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause, which bars the government from favoring one religion over another.

But a 2014 ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court made legislative prayers legally permissible.

In *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, the court considered the case of a separation of church and state group suing a New York town over its practice of having local chaplains lead the council in prayer. By a 5-4 vote, the court determined that prayers were allowable at public meetings as long as they met a certain set of conditions.

“In a nutshell, they rationalized that it’s a part of our history and our First Amendment doesn’t require non-religion,” Kerns said.

If the Pendleton City Council were to adopt invocations at its meetings, Kerns had a lengthy set of recommendations to ensure the council complied with the supreme court’s ruling.

According to a memo written by Kerns, a member of the city council or municipal employee could not lead the invocation because it would give the appearance of endorsing a religious viewpoint.

Instead, the city would need to invite a rotating group of religious leaders to perform each opening prayer. Kerns said the council would need to appoint someone to maintain a list of people to deliver the invocation.

Even obscure religions, like Rastafarianism, would be eligible for the list, Kerns said.

The prayers themselves



Pendleton mayor asks about the possibility of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance before city council meetings during a Pendleton City Council work session on Tuesday in Pendleton.

needed to be “brief, solemn and respectful in tone,” and could not reference a specific deity, like Jesus Christ.

The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners don’t do an invocation, and neither do the four cities on the west side of the county — Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield and Echo.

But both Milton-Freewater and Pilot Rock open their legislative meetings with prayer.

Both cities have been doing invocations at public meetings longer than their top administrators have worked there, although their practices stray from Kerns’ suggested guidelines.

Milton-Freewater City Manager Linda Hall said members of the city council lead the invocation on a rotating basis.

Along with asking about their food allergies and where to send their agenda packets, Hall said the city checks if incoming council members would be comfortable leading an opening prayer. If they are, they’re added to the rotation.

Teri Porter, Pilot Rock’s city recorder, said a local pastor leads the invocation for every meeting. If he’s not available, a representative for the pastor or a member of the council leads the prayer.

Neither Hall or Porter said they have received complaints from any community members about the invocations.

“Nobody has questioned it all,” Porter said. “It’s just common and expected.”

### Down a prayer, up a pledge

Despite Chalmers’ request, the councilors didn’t seem eager to incorporate prayers into their meetings.

Councilor Scott Fairley said he grew up in a secular household and had always been uncomfortable with prayers at public meetings.

On a less personal level, Fairley said he’s spoken with several citizens since the issue was brought up and the reaction was universally against invocations. He said the people he spoke to felt prayers were best left for people to do on their own

time rather than in public meetings.

Councilor Dale Primmer repeated some of the concerns Fairley heard and added his own thoughts.

“We came into this council fairly focused on goals,” he said. “I’m just afraid this will turn into a distraction and this will be something we’ll be responding to.”

For his part, Chalmers said he could have his own reflections on God and didn’t want to impose his own beliefs on anyone else.

“There’s no magic or whatever to an invocation,” he said. “That can happen 24/7 if you so choose.”

Chalmers said invocations didn’t need to be forced into the process, but he noted that it was “a sad state of affairs” that it wasn’t the norm.

While invocations weren’t gaining much traction with the council, another early meeting ritual drew more council support — the pledge of allegiance.

Councilor Becky Marks viewed it as a unifying experience.

“If we are able to stand together and say the pledge, then we know, at least for that one moment, we’re all together,” she said. “I think it makes our arguments stronger. I think it makes our compromises stronger.”

Some members of the council viewed it as a reaffirmation of the oath the council takes when they’re sworn in.

Mayor John Turner said he could add the pledge of allegiance to the agenda as soon as the Jan. 2 meeting.

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## MARIJUANA: Police found items used for making butane honey oil

Continued from 1A

Police found a handgun and ID card inside the vehicle and began following the clues, including speaking to several sources. That led them to the Sunland Apartments at 1630 W. Sunland Ave., Apartment B8, where they found Rhoades.

In the apartment police found a large stash of marijuana, packaging materials, scales, items used for a butane honey oil laboratory, two rifles and two handguns.

Butane honey oil is a marijuana extract created through a highly volatile process that can cause explosions.

Rhoades was arrested on charges of attempt to elude, reckless driving, hit and run, first-degree theft, illegal possession, delivery and manufacturing of marijuana, and felon in possession of a firearm. He was booked into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, where a charge of failure to appear was added on an unrelated warrant.

“Though Oregon has decriminalized marijuana, the amounts of marijuana being sold on the black market continues to be staggering as evidenced by this seizure,” Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said in the press release.

## SHOOTING: Reddington has been with Pendleton police for 11 years

Continued from 1A

District Attorney Dan Primus said his office has not stated what that conflict is, but Reddington’s wife, Brandi Reddington, is an investigator for the district attorney.

Lehman is a field training officer and the police dog handler for Pendleton. He worked for Pendleton police in 2011 from February to late December, when he resigned after a confrontation in a bar. The department hired him again in mid-2012.

Tyler Reddington has been with Pendleton police for 11 years. He is a member of the police department’s SWAT team, instructor for the state’s required physical abilities test and the director

of officer field training.

This is his second shooting.

Reddington shot and injured Timothy Jay Faria during a drug raid early in the morning of Dec. 6, 2012, at 411 N.W. Eighth St., Pendleton. Primus was the district attorney at the time and said Faria displayed a weapon and threatened the officer.

Hoisington, 38, remains in a Portland hospital, but is feeling well enough to make comments on social media and have visitors.

Umatilla County Circuit Court records show Hoisington has convictions going back to 2005 for driving under the influence of intoxicants, felony hit and run, felon in possession of a firearm, and recklessly endangering others.