

FOR THE RECORD

Jan. 1
12:29 a.m. — A 911 caller reported an assault that had occurred in Wallowa.
5:16 p.m. — 911 call reported a fire at a residence in rural Joseph.
9:57 p.m. — Michael Don Gamboa, 31, of Joseph, was arrested on a Union County Warrant for failure to appear. Original charge DWS - misdemeanor. He also had a Deschutes County warrant for probation violation. Original charge DUI. He was transported to Union County Jail.
Jan. 2
12:49 p.m. — 911 call reporting a tractor on fire in rural Joseph.
3:03 p.m. — Computer crime reported in Enterprise.
Jan. 3
10:21 a.m. — Theft of services was reported at Wallowa Lake. The owner spoke with the subject and it was determined no crime was committed.

3:06 p.m. — Animal neglect reported from Joseph.
Jan. 4
5:40 p.m. — Todd Kevin McCoy, 56, of Wallowa, was arrested by Enterprise Police for probation violation. Original charge was DUI. He was transported to Umatilla County Jail.
Jan. 5
9:37 p.m. — A 911 caller reported a domestic disturbance in rural Enterprise. Sheriff's office investigated.
Jan. 6
8:55 p.m. — A harassment incident was reported in Enterprise.
10:05 p.m. — Report of overdue hunters was received. Search and Rescue was called out. Subjects were located and were fine.
Jan. 7
11:30 p.m. — A 911 caller received a verbal domestic in Joseph.
Jan. 8
5:45 a.m. — Dispatch received a call saying a deer in the roadway on Hwy. 82 needed to be dispatched.

State officials quick to react to Attorney General's new pot policy

By Claire Withycombe
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Top Oregon politicians were quick to criticize news Thursday that U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions is rescinding an Obama-era stance on states that have legalized recreational marijuana. Although marijuana remains illegal under federal law, the policy, referred to as the Cole Memo, set out guidelines for federal prosecutors in states that had legalized marijuana to focus their resources on larger-scale concerns such as trafficking and continue to rely on state and local law enforcement to act in accordance with state laws and regulations.

Recreational marijuana has been legal in Oregon for more than two years now, and in August, state economists predicted that Oregon could bring in about \$142 million in marijuana tax revenue through mid-2019. Sessions on Thursday said he would let federal prosecutors in each state decide where they would focus their enforcement actions, but that states that have legalized marijuana were not exempt from federal drug laws. However, it's not clear that the announcement will lead to drastic changes in the way that federal officials in Oregon handle pot. Billy Williams, U.S. Attorney for the district of Oregon,

said the memo directs U.S. attorneys to use "the reasoned exercise of discretion when pursuing prosecutions related to marijuana crimes." "We will continue working with our federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement partners to pursue shared public safety objectives, with an emphasis on stemming the overproduction of marijuana and the diversion of marijuana out of state, dismantling criminal organizations and thwarting violent crime in our communities," Williams said in a statement Thursday. Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said the state Department of Justice would "continue to make sure Ore-

gon's marijuana industry thrives under our carefully considered state regulatory requirements." Rosenblum, who characterized Sessions' decision as overreach, made no indication of specific next steps other than she "valued her working relationship" with Williams and looked forward to working with him. "This is an industry that Oregonians have chosen — and one I will do everything in my legal authority to protect," Rosenblum said. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said in a statement that her office would "fight to continue Oregon's commitment to a safe and prosperous recreational marijuana market."

HERB

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The Jan. 23 special election on Measure 101 will address the issue. The legislature approved a

law asking insurance companies and hospitals pay small fees to finance a continuation of expanded coverage, which began in 2014. A portion of the law was successfully referred, allowing voters to have the final say on the tax.

Statewide, more than 366,000 Oregonians are impacted and 700-800 Wallowa County residents by one estimate. These are low-income adults, children, families and individuals with disabilities who were covered when the Affordable Care Act expanded Medicaid coverage to those earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. For Herb, it was a life-saver. Herb is a retired special education teacher but because she worked her entire 25-year career in Oregon for a non-profit, she wasn't enrolled in the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System. Private insurance often was not affordable. She and her partner of 23 years, Karen Sternadel, 64, and their adopted daughter, Bella, 9, all moved to Joseph in 2015, so that Bella could be raised in Wallowa County. The couple hadn't planned on adopting, but one thing led to another, and Bella came into their life. "I love having Bella," Herb

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said. "She's a big piece of my life." Since then, they've lived on their joint retirement savings and Joni's part-time work as a window washer. They were making it work, bringing up a daughter in the best environment they could and becoming active in the community. Then, last spring Joni felt a lump in her neck. She set aside checking that out to deal with her mother's passing, and it was August before she went in. Dr. Ken Rose performed a biopsy of the lump at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. She learned she had a very rare cancer: squamous cell carcinoma, or cancer of the tonsils. Herb doesn't smoke or drink, the most common causes, but says she took plenty of second-hand smoke growing up. Soon she was off to Walla Walla for PET scans, CAT



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain
Joni Herb of Joseph gets a "top up" of liquids for dehydration at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. Thanks to her expanded OHP coverage, Herb was able to obtain treatment for a cancer with a 90-95 percent cure rate.

scans, surgery — the works. Her ear nose and throat specialist chose aggressive treatment. She's been in treatment since the first week of December. She is now just two weeks away from the end of chemo and a five-days-a-week rege-

min of radiation. "This is where it gets real tough," she said. Although squamous cell carcinoma will kill you if not treated, the survival rate is high if treated. "We would have had to sell our house," Herb said. "I don't think I should have to sell our house to afford treatment. Had I not had OHP, I wouldn't have been able to do treatment." Joni had 11 nodules taken out in Walla Walla and chemo and radiation followed. The chances are Joni will be fine, thanks in large measure to her access to Medicaid. "Oh my gosh, OHP has supported me through this much better than any private insurance I had," she said. "I've worked since I was 10 and paid into my company's health plans all my life. Nothing has been as good as this. This has been remarkable insurance." She's 40 pounds lighter due to chemo, pretty much weak as a kitten and tied to yearly checkups for the rest of her life. But she is alive and on the road to recovery.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Trace Evans

This week's athlete of the week is Enterprise High School wrestler Trace Evans. The 14-year-old freshman took second place in the 132 lbs category at the Jo-Hi Invitational wrestling tournament in Joseph over the past weekend. Evans, with an 18-9 record, battled his way through several matches before meeting up with teammate and reigning state champion Cole Farwell. Evans lost the match, but put up a good struggle. His coach, Troy Farwell, said he looked for Evans to become a worthy successor to Cole Farwell. Evans makes regular appearances on the school honor roll and participates in FFA, football and track.

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101 on Measure 101

WHAT IS MEASURE 101?

Measure 101 is a fee on hospitals and insurance companies that will help fund Medicaid, which provides healthcare coverage to 1 in 4 Oregonians.

DO OTHER STATES HAVE A SIMILAR FEE?

Yes, all other states in the country assess a similar fee because it allows them to receive federal matching dollars for healthcare.

HOW WILL FUNDS FROM MEASURE 101 BE USED?

The money from 101 will be used to ensure every child in Oregon has access to healthcare, protect healthcare for working families, seniors and people with disabilities and will stabilize healthcare costs and insurance premiums for people who buy their own insurance.

WHO SUPPORTS MEASURE 101?

Over 160 trusted organizations across Oregon endorse a YES on Ballot Measure 101. Including Providence Health & Services, MODA and 5 other leading insurers in Oregon. Our own EOCCO, in addition to AARP and the Oregon Medical Association support Measure 101.

WHAT WILL MY VOTE DO?

A "yes" vote protects health care for one million Oregonians on the Oregon Health Plan, and lowers the cost of health insurance by \$300 per year on average for 210,000 Oregonians buying coverage on the individual market. A "yes" vote ensures Oregon maintains federal matching dollars for health care, potentially protecting nearly \$5 billion in federal funds for Oregonians' care.

A "no" vote slashes funding for the Oregon Health Plan, jeopardizing access to health care for one out of every four Oregonians, including low-income children, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities without other viable coverage options. It also removes cost protections for 210,000 Oregonians buying individual health insurance. A "no" vote means a potential loss of nearly \$5 billion in federal funds that pay for Oregonians' health care.

HOW WILL MEASURE 101 IMPACT WALLOWA COUNTY?

If Measure 101 does not pass, 1,600 Wallowa County residents would be in immediate jeopardy of losing their health care coverage while even more would face higher premiums.



BALLOT MEASURE

BALLOTS DUE JANUARY 23RD

For more information visit our Facebook page 101 on Measure 101. Websites yesforhealthcare.org and ocpp.org