



# Schools back to routine after lockdown

## Police say caller threatened violence

Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — Grant County schools went back to normal Monday after an anonymous threat triggered emergency response at three campuses last week.

Sgt. Damon Rand of the John Day Police Department said the events began about 1:35 p.m. Thursday, when

Prairie City School received an anonymous call saying someone was coming to the school to shoot some of the kids.

School officials called police and put the school on lockdown, telling students to stay in their locked classrooms.

A short time later, the students were sent to the gym, where they were told to call their parents to pick them up from school. The school also sent word to parents to pick up their children immediately.

One student said his class at first assumed it was a drill, but realized there was a threat as the lockdown continued.

The school was cleared and police searched the building, but found nothing of alarm, Rand said.

The situation also triggered a precautionary external lockdown at John Day's Grant Union Junior-Senior High School and Humbolt Elementary in Canyon City.

All the lockdowns ended without incident.

Rand said an initial investigation traced the phone call to an IP address,

indicating it came from a computer. That means the caller could have been local — "or from anywhere," he said.

Rand said that while it could be someone's idea of "a very bad joke," police were continuing the investigation. He said the caller, if found, would face charges.

John Day Police were joined by the Oregon State Police and Grant County Sheriff's Office in dealing with the unfolding situation at the three schools.

Sheriff Glenn Palmer said that while there was no threat at the John

Day campuses, the lockdown was done as a precaution.

The activity brought an early end to the four-day school week.

School officials canceled all Grant Union athletic practices and activities Thursday afternoon, as a further precaution.

The Special Olympics vs. Law Enforcement basketball fundraiser game, which was going to be held that night at Grant Union, also was canceled. Organizers said this week they are working on a new schedule for the event.

## Board hires new GU principal

Ryan Gerry, now at PC, starts new job July 1

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Prairie City's Ryan Gerry will take the helm at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School on July 1.

Members of the Grant School District No. 3 School Board voted to hire Gerry for the principal's job at their April 15 meeting, held at Seneca School.



Ryan Gerry

He will succeed Curt Shelley, who is becoming district superintendent in July — replacing Mark Witty, who is leaving for the superintendent's post in Baker County School District.

Gerry is the current superintendent and principal of Prairie City School District, and he was a 1995 Prairie City High School graduate.

He said this week he's looking forward to the "opportunity and challenges that come with being part of a larger district."

"Grant Union Junior-Senior High School has a lot of good things going on that are both exciting and encouraging," he said. "Prairie City School District has been a great place to work over the past 16 years, and I believe there are a lot of great things going on in this district as well, which has made this decision a very difficult one."

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Eagle photos/Cheryl Hoefler

Prairie City resident Karla Teague, accompanied by her son, Anthony, on guitar, sings the Bette Midler ballad "The Rose."

## LET US ENTERTAIN YOU!

### An array of performers shine in annual show

By Cheryl Hoefler  
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — Like a good ol' family potluck, the April 18 "Evening of Entertainment" offered something for everyone.

With whimsical poetry, comedy skits, a patriotic reading, and a variety of musical performances, local entertainers dazzled the nearly packed house at the Prairie City Community Center.

The evening kicked off with young Riley Gregg belting out "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Musicians on the bill included Joy Waterhouse playing a medley of "golden oldies" on the piano; Karla Teague singing "The Rose," accompanied by her son, Anthony, guitarists Les Church and Bill Evans, each offering a couple of tunes; Marta Faulkner and Rebecca Bogardus with a flute duet of a prelude by Joseph Haydn; and a piano quartet of "When the Saints Go Marching In" by Karla and Kimberly Teague, Joy Waterhouse, and Rose Coombs.

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Les Church rouses the crowd with Van Morrison's "Brown-Eyed Girl."



The Prairie City Easter Ensemble reprised their musical offertory from the Prairie City Easter service. From left, Karla Teague, Rose Coombs, Chris Lewallen, Maxine Day, Carolyn Bertalotto, Vonnice Blasing and Virginia McMillan.

## Group orders Court to act on roads

Frustrations rise in road debate

By Scotta Callister  
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — Members of a public lands access group issued an ultimatum to the Grant County Court last week, reiterating their stand against any road closures on the national forest.

Jim Sproul told the Court people are unhappy with the current state of discussions about roads and access on the Malheur National Forest.

"We're sick and tired of you sitting on your hands and doing nothing," he said. "By June 1, there will be action out of this Court, or we will take it to the next step."

He said that was a "solemn promise," not a threat.

Sproul and others complain the Court is not heeding the county ordinance passed in 2013 that requires agencies to get access changes approved by the Court and the sheriff. They also referred to a 1995 vote to keep all roads open.

Ron Phillips asked, "When are you going to get behind the people who elected you?"

He and others took umbrage at hearing officials had described them as "a vocal minority."

Asked about the commissioners' position on access, County Judge Scott Myers said the Court is having discussions with the Forest Service about roads, and following the ordinance.

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## STUDENT ART



Jaynee Cave  
Grade 8  
Long Creek School  
Teacher: Cindy Wimer

## JD says no to ban, but limits pot shops

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The John Day City Council backed off from a proposed ban on medical marijuana dispensaries last week.

In a 4-3 vote at its April 14 meeting, the council voted against establishing an outright ban.

The council approved a companion ordinance that will limit the hours, location and manner of operation of such businesses in the city.

That measure needs slight revision, however, because it referred to the ban.

The ordinance will be up for final approval at the April 28 council meeting. It is proposed as an emergency measure, which would make it effective immediately.

The city is one of 142 across the state that adopted one-year moratoriums on medical marijuana dispensaries, a delay allowed by the Legislature. Those moratoriums expire May 1, however, and most of

the cities were considering restrictions on such businesses as their next step.

Among other things, the measure will bar medical marijuana outlets within 1,000 feet of a school or a site used for "youth development activities" — a category including sports, music lessons, and tutoring.

Such businesses also will face a city application process and requirements for bookkeeping and background checks.

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National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 19-25 2015

If you have questions about your rights as a victim of crime, please call the Grant County District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Program at 541-575-4026. For more details, see page A10.



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