



Contributed photo

The driver was not injured, but power was disrupted Tuesday afternoon when this truck went off the highway and into a pole.

Truck wreck disrupts power in JD area

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – A pickup truck pulling a flatbed trailer crashed into a power pole Tuesday, June 16, in west John Day, resulting in a citation for the driver and causing power outages in the area.

Oregon State Police said the incident occurred about 12:28 p.m. as a 1998 Dodge pickup and trailer were eastbound on Highway 26, about two miles from the city limits. The truck left the roadway, rolled and struck the utility pole.

The impact knocked the power lines to the ground, sparking a fire at the vehicle and in nearby vegetation.

OSP said crews from John Day and the Bureau of Land Management extinguished the blaze.

OSP Sgt. Tom Hutchison said the driver, who was uninjured, apparently fell asleep at the wheel. Taylor D. Meliza, 18, of Salem was cited for careless driving.

OSP was assisted by the Grant County Sheriff's Office, Blue Mountain Ambulance and the John Day Police Department at the scene.

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative crews also responded to replace the pole and restore power. The outage affected customers in Long Creek, Mt. Vernon and parts of west John Day.

Sales tax could yield more revenue, cheaper pot

By Hillary Borrud
Capital Bureau

SALEM – An economist for the Oregon Legislature offered two tempting reasons on Thursday for lawmakers to pick a sales tax on marijuana instead of a harvest tax: Cheaper pot, and more tax revenue.

Mazen Malik, a senior economist in the Legislative Revenue Office, said the 17 percent sales tax in legislation that lawmakers are considering would still result in lower prices for recreational marijuana in Oregon as compared to Washington and Colorado, which impose higher taxes at multiple points in the production process.

Oregon lawmakers want to replace the weight-based excise tax the state would charge growers under Measure 91, the initiative voters passed in November to legalize marijuana, with a sales tax that would raise the same amount of revenue.

Malik said that retail recreational marijuana prices would be lower with a sales tax when compared with a harvest tax, because a harvest tax would increase the markup cost of cannabis before it reaches consumers. Malik estimated the change would lower the cost of retail recreational marijuana in Oregon from approximately \$300 per ounce, to \$277 per ounce.

As for the amount of revenue the proposed sales tax would raise, Malik estimated it would eventually be more than the state would receive if it maintains the harvest tax. However, Malik

told lawmakers that anticipated delays in licensing pot retailers would also mean less tax revenue for the state in the early years.

For the budget year starting in July 2016, the Legislative Revenue Office estimated the 17 percent sales tax would generate a net total of \$4.6 million, after start-up and administrative costs for the legal pot system. That is based on retailers opening in January 2017. Oregon might not fully launch its retail pot system until late 2016, although adults age 21 and older can legally possess the drug starting July 1. Pot sales tax revenue could increase to a net total of \$61.4 million for the two-year budget starting July 2017.

Last fall, the Legislative Revenue Office projected the harvest tax in Measure 91 would generate net revenue during the first year in the range \$6.5 million and \$12.8 million, after start-up and administrative costs for the legal pot system. For the two-year budget that will begin in July 2017, economists estimated the harvest tax would generate a net total of \$40.9 million after administrative costs.



John Day Police Chief Richard Gray presents dispatcher Cammie Haney with an intermediate certificate as a certified telecommunicator.



Contributed photos

John Day Police Chief Richard Gray presents dispatcher Shiela Kowing with an advanced certificate as a certified telecommunicator.

Dispatchers receive certificates

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Two dispatchers at the John Day Police Department have received certificates from the State of Or-

egon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

Shiela Kowing, who has been with the department for 10 years, earned an advanced certificate as a certified

telecommunicator.

Cammie Haney, with nine years at the department, was awarded an intermediate certificate as a certified telecommunicator.

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY – The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of June 12-18:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 11
- Average inmates: 11
- Bookings: 9
- Releases: 13
- Citations: 3
- Fingerprints: 12
- Civil papers: 12
- Warrants processed: 4
- Asst./welfare check: 1
- Reid Capon, 40, Keizer, cited for driving without a license and driving uninsured.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 127 calls during the week of June 15-21. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- **John Day Police:**
 - June 17: Took a report on a hit-and-run on South Canyon Boulevard.
 - June 19: Arrested a Union County man on a parole violation.
 - June 20: Cited a Lakeview woman for speeding west of Prairie City.
 - June 21: Cited a John Day man for driving-while-suspended/misdemeanor.

Grant County Sheriff:

June 16: Dispatched for a vehicle accident and power pole down west of John Day; hit-and-run reported in Long Creek.

June 17: Responded to a single vehicle accident on Cupper Creek Road.

• **John Day ambulance:**

- June 18: Paged for a person who was weak and having trouble eating.
- June 20: Responded for a 78-year-old woman with difficulty breathing; 47-year-old man with diabetic problems.

Justice Court

CANYON CITY – The Grant County Justice Court reported the following fines and judgments:

- Violation of the basic rule: Shawn H. Holland, 18, Mountain Home, Idaho, 75/55 zone, fined \$160; Darrell A. Gruner, 34, Kennewick, Wash., 76/55 zone, fined \$160; Penelope Jean Hamilton, 73, Klamath Falls, 83/55 zone, fined \$260; Todd Malcolm Winegar, 38, John Day, 78/55 zone, fined \$220; Barbara Louise Bryant, 58, Prairie City, 79/55 zone, fined \$260; Leslie R. Crawford, 17, Riddle, 75/55 zone, fined \$135; Hilary Jane Imhof, 23, Pendleton, 72/55 zone, fined \$160.
- Carry loaded firearm or bow on ATV: Eric Earl Ewing, 63, Hermiston, fined \$260.
- Burning without a permit: Danny R. Jefferies, 69, Mt. Vernon, fined \$95.
- Careless driving-accident: Britney Ella Gulick, 27, Halfway, fined \$370.

COPS & COURTS

• Failure to properly secure child: Andrea Opal Barnes, 39, Canyon City, fined \$95.

• Driving while revoked-violation: Gerald Dewayne Roe Jr., 53, John Day, fined \$435.

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