

Complaints pile up against proposed campground

By Tim Trainor
Blue Mountain Eagle

A proposed campground geared to motorcycle riders has elicited complaints from neighbors, and will need to go before the county planning commission before it can open.

Robert Ake had initially planned to open John Day Motorcycle Campground at 59154 Trafton Lane on July 1, in time for the big Fourth of July weekend. He owns 19 acres of property there, and wanted to develop five or six acres into 25 tent camp sites and market them to motorcyclists and bicyclists riding through John Day.

But Ake quickly found out starting a business is not as easy as just hanging an open sign on the door.

After he made thousands of advertising flyers, joined the Grant County Cham-



The Eagle/Tim Trainor
Robert Ake has cleared part of his 19 acres located on Trafton Lane, preparing to open a private campground for motorcycle and bicycle riders. Neighbors have complained about Ake's plan.

ber of Commerce and got in touch with cycling groups throughout the Northwest, Ake learned quickly that there were a few hurdles standing

between him and operation.

According to Shannon Springer, secretary at the Grant County planning department, six neighbors have

signed complaints against the proposed business.

Those complaints cited worries about increased traffic and noise, fire protection

issues, how increased sewage and garbage would be handled, as well as the general incompatibility of locating the business in a residential area.

Ake said he has received copies of the complaints, and that he was disappointed his neighbors didn't come to him first. He said there will be no motorcycle riding on the site, and no place for RVs or trailers to hook into electricity or septic services. He said for light travelers, his campground will offer a quieter, more private and more comfortable experience than the county fairgrounds. He hoped to soon be able to offer shower and bathroom facilities, but that would not be available immediately. He is working with the city of John Day to get additional water to the property, he said.

"I've been here for 20 years," said Ake. "I've al-

ready lost one son (who had to move away to find work). I want to start something that can allow me and my family to stay here."

Ake said after his initial advertising blitz, he received lots of inquiries, and believes there is a need in the area for a campground like the one he has proposed.

Those inquiries will have to go unfilled at least until August. Ake has been told that the business cannot open until it goes through the planning and zoning process and Springer said the August meeting is as soon as that can be completed. The process will begin at a meeting on July 14. People will also have the opportunity to testify for and against the project at that time.

—Tim Trainor is the interim editor of *The Blue Mountain Eagle*. He can be reached at ttrainor@eastoregonian.com.

SpaceX rocket carrying local science project ends in failure, erupts

By Blue Mountain Eagle and Associated Press

An unmanned SpaceX rocket carrying a Grant

Union Junior/Senior student team science project, supplies and a first-of-its-kind docking port to the International Space Station broke

apart Sunday shortly after liftoff. It was a severe blow to NASA, still reeling from previous failed shipments.

The craft, Dragon, was carrying 27 student experiments in all. The local project was designed by five Grant Union Junior/Senior High students — Zack Dieter, Elijah Humbird, Duane Stokes, Dante Valentine and Cauy Weaver. They were ninth-graders when they teamed up last fall to compete for a spot on the space rocket.

Sonna Smith, Grant Union Junior/Senior High science teacher, confirmed Sunday morning it was the rocket carrying their project.

Smith said, "This has happened before and the students were able to re-fly their project."

In October 2014 the same incident happened and they were able to send their project up again. Smith and the students are awaiting official word on if they will be given the opportunity to fly again. She hopes to hear within a week from the company.

The science project was to be returned to Grant Union Junior/Senior High after the estimated 42-day mission to be placed on display.

The accident happened about 2-1/2 minutes into the flight from Cape Canaveral, Fla. A billowing white cloud emerged in the sky, growing bigger and bigger, then fiery plumes shot out of where the rocket was supposed to be, and pieces could be seen falling into the Atlantic. More than 5,200 pounds

of space station cargo was on board, including the first docking port designed for future commercial crew capsules.

"We appear to have had a launch vehicle failure," announced NASA commentator George Diller. Data stopped flowing from the Falcon 9 rocket around 2 minutes and 19 seconds, he said. No astronauts were on board.

The rocket shattered while traveling at 2,900 mph, about 27 miles up. Everything appeared to go well in the flight until the rocket went supersonic.

SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk later said an over pressurization occurred in the liquid-oxygen tank of the rocket's up-

per stage.

Losing this shipment — which included replacements for items lost in two previous failed supply flights — was a huge setback for NASA in more than one way. The space agency is counting on private industry to transport cargo — and eventually astronauts — to the orbiting lab. The California-based SpaceX is one of the contenders.

This is the second failed station shipment in a row and the third in eight months.

Dragon had been carrying replacement food, clothing and science experiments for items lost in those two mishaps. The seven previous SpaceX supply runs, dating back to 2012, had gone exceedingly well.

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Interim editors take helm at Eagle for summer

Blue Mountain Eagle

Scotta Callister, editor of *Blue Mountain Eagle* for the past eight years, retired June 26.

The newspaper is currently interviewing for a full-time editor to replace Callister, and in the interim will em-

ploy some journalists from inside the EO Media Group to oversee the paper's news coverage.

Tim Trainor, deputy managing editor of the *East Oregonian* in Pendleton, covered the desk until July 1.

He will be replaced by Dave Fisher, who was owner of the *North Coast Citizen*, has served as editor-publisher of the *Estacada News* and worked at the *Capital Press*, which is owned by the EO Media Group. He will be in

John Day from July 8 until Aug. 5.

He will be assisted by Nancy McCarthy from July 29 through Aug. 29. McCarthy recently retired as editor of the *Cannon Beach Gazette* on the Oregon coast, another EO Media Group newspaper.

According to *Blue Mountain Eagle* publisher Marissa Williams, the group of interim editors are all experienced journalists, and will continue the high quality work that Callister instituted.

"The *Eagle* was fortunate to have someone of Scotta's caliber as editor for eight years," said Williams. "She was a champion for our communities and helped inform our readers. I am optimistic we will find a replacement who will follow in her footsteps."

"My goal is to find someone who values our community and way of life as much as we do, while upholding the integrity of the newspaper."

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- Photos will be judged for quality, content, viewer appeal. Remember, it's not the biggest fish — but the best fishing photo that takes the prize!
- Photos must be taken this summer in Grant County.
- Digital format is best - e-mail to kristina@bmeagle.com or bring in a disc to the Eagle office, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day.
- Deadline for submissions: Sep. 21, 2015 for the grand prize.

Fisherman's Name: _____
Where the fish was caught: _____ Date taken: _____
Fish Species: _____ Weight & Length _____
Contact phone number: _____
Contact e-mail address: _____

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