

Merkley calls for more wildfire assistance

Fire season has increased by 60 days, senator says

By Nancy McCarthy
Blue Mountain Eagle

LONG CREEK — Just a day before the Canyon Creek Complex fire forced residents to evacuate from their homes, Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley told those attending a town hall meeting in Long Creek that more assistance is needed to fight wildfires in the state.

"Here we're in the middle of a bunch of fires" and there are too few resources to spread around, Merkley said at the Aug. 13 meeting

at the Long Creek Community Center.

"Sen. (Ron) Wyden (D-Ore.) and I have been advocating for a fix to this," he added.

The two Democratic senators are seeking a federal budget amendment that would increase funding for firefighting by 100 percent of the average cost to fight fires over the past 10 years, Merkley said.

He noted that the fire season has increased by 60 days and that changes in climate and forest manage-

ment and a "lack of investment" in thinning national forests pose a higher threat of fire than ever.

Cellphone service

Responding to a question about how cellphone service can be improved in rural areas, Merkley agreed that the inability to use cellphones created a public safety issue as well as an economic issue.

He said federal funding is being dedicated to increase universal broadband in rural areas, but little was

available for cellphone service. Merkley said he would look into the problem.

Other questions

Merkley also discussed the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, supported by President Barack Obama. He said that after reading the agreement, he had several concerns about minimum wages, environmental and labor standards in the other participating countries and the economic liability the proposed agreement might

generate for the United States.

The senator also fielded questions involving the proposed international agreement with Iran, the polarization of Congress and how Grant County can prepare for the large number of tourists expected during the total eclipse in 2017.

WOTUS

As he was wrapping up the town hall, Merkley was interrupted by Long Creek cattle rancher Sharon Livingston, who has been a vocal critic of new rules defining the waters of the U.S. protected under the federal Clean Water Act,

known as WOTUS.

Livingston told Merkley that Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy should be fired.

"Bring water rights back to Oregon and get EPA and Gina McCarthy out," Livingston said to loud applause.

Merkley responded that the EPA was instituting a "whole series of protections."

The EPA, he added, would "ensure that farming and ranching are not unfairly impinged upon" and still have an adequate water supply.

COPS & COURTS

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.

Circuit Court

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Circuit Court reported the following fines and judgments:

- Lynette Judith Doughton, 50, pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of intoxicants. She was sentenced to jail for 35 days and bench probation for 24 months and fined \$2,300. On one count of reckless driving, she pleaded guilty, was sentenced to bench probation for 24 months and was fined \$500. Her driver's license was revoked for life.

Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Aug. 7-13:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 10
- Average inmates: 11
- Bookings: 7
- Releases: 12
- Arrests: 1
- Fingerprints: 9
- Civil papers: 13
- Warrants processed: 6
- Asst./welfare check: 5

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 182 calls during the week of Aug. 10-16. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

John Day Police:

- Aug. 10: Hit-and-run reported at the Grant County Fairgrounds.
- Aug. 11: Theft reported on North McHaley Street in Prairie City.
- Aug. 13: Cited a Boise, Idaho, man for speeding; arrested a John Day man for fourth-degree assault; responded to a reported fight at Riverside Mobile Home Park.
- Aug. 14: Second theft reported on North McHaley in Prairie City.
- Aug. 15: Responded to reports of shots fired on Ferguson Road

in John Day; cited a Ft. Collins, Colo., man for speeding; arrested a Baker City man for a restraining order violation.

Aug. 16: Arrested a John Day man for a restraining order violation.

Grant County Sheriff:

- Aug. 10: Hit-and-run reported at Boyer's Store in Monument.

John Day ambulance:

- Aug. 11: Dispatched for a man with chest pain.

- Aug. 12: Requested for a man who fell; responded for a 19-year-old man with signs of heat distress.

- Aug. 14: Responded for a 20-year-old man involved in a bicycle accident.

- Aug. 16: Responded for a 59-year-old man with hypertension and weakness.

Prairie City ambulance:

- Aug. 13: 92-year-old woman with possible heart problems.

Justice Court

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

- Use of cellphone while driving: Brad Lee

Hartwick, 38, Canyon City, fined \$160; Rodney Cole Wilson, 20, John Day, fined \$160.

- Violation of the speed limit: Timothy D. Emmel, 20, Echo, 49/25 zone, fined \$260; Philip James Merna, 60, West Yellowstone, Mont., 76/55 zone, fined \$260.

- Violation of the basic rule: Samuel Richard Carlton, 69, Walla Walla, Wash., 76/55 zone, fined \$160; Bailee M. Gularte, 24, Imperial Beach, Calif., 65/35 zone, fined \$260; Mary A. Miller, 65, Goshen, Ind., 77/55 zone, fined \$260; John R. Heinzkiu, 82, Eugene, 75/55 zone, fined \$160.

- Driving while suspended-violation: Vincent Rex Tietjen, 50, Mt. Vernon, fined \$435.

- No seat belt: Jordan Christopher Ackerman, 20, John Day, fined \$95; Ricky Dale Weickum Sr., 58, John Day, fined \$95; Brandon M. Lambeth, 23, John Day, fined \$95.

- Driving uninsured: Christine N. Daum, 26, Kimberly, fined \$260.

- Michael Dillon Griffith, Seneca, was convicted of minor-in-possession of alcohol. He was fined \$260, and his driver's license was suspended for one year.

Crash kills 18-year-old driver

Blue Mountain Eagle

Leonard John Radinovich, 18, died in a single vehicle crash Saturday on U.S. Highway 26 near milepost 152 in Grant County.

At 5:12 a.m. Saturday, a silver Toyota 4-Runner was traveling eastbound on Highway 26 near milepost 152 when Radinovich, the driver, lost control of the vehicle, according to the state police.

The vehicle veered off the

highway, rolled and came to rest in a nearby field. Radinovich was not restrained by a seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash.

The passenger, a 15-year-old juvenile, was properly re-

strained and not injured.

Alcohol is being investigated as the contributing factor of the crash.

The Grant County Sheriff's Department, John Day Police Department and the Oregon Department of Transportation assisted at the scene.

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Shaun decides to take the day off and have some fun and gets a little more action than he bargained for.
FRI & SAT (4:20)

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1960's CIA & KGB Agents work on a joint mission against a mysterious criminal organization.
FRI & SAT 7:00 9:30
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\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth

CASA training for new advocates
The training will be held at the Grant County ESD, September 11th, September 12th, September 25th, and September 26th. Anyone interested in attending or obtaining more information Call Tracey Blood at (541) 575-5574

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BRAD AVAKIAN
Commissioner of Labor & Industries

- Overview of BOLI's work
- Efforts to get Young People involved in apprenticeships and well-paying careers
- Technical Assistance for Employers program to field calls from employers dealing with employment issues
- Update on BOLI's work to expand access to 21st Century shop class
- Look at last legislative Session
- Question & Answer Session

Prior to BOLI, Commissioner Avakian served in the Oregon Senate, where he was named Consensus Builder of the Year in 2007 for his work championing the Oregon Renewable Energy Act to grow the state's clean energy sector. In the private sector, Commissioner Avakian managed a successful civil rights law practice for 15 years.

The mission of the Bureau of Labor and Industries is to protect employment rights, advance employment opportunities, and protect access to housing and public accommodations free from discrimination.

For more information contact:
Sally Bartlett with Grant County Economic Development
541 575 1555 • gced@centurytel.net

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