

# Bass anglers give cold response to warmwater regs

## Bag limits to end on three major rivers

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**  
East Oregonian

Bud Hartman can sense 55 years of progress beginning to unravel.

As one of the original members of the Oregon Bass and Panfish Club in 1958, Hartman, of Portland, fought for the state's first ever bag limits on bass fishing to protect the species from overharvest.

On Sept. 4, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved sport fishing regulations for 2016 that includes removing bag limits on all warmwater fish — including bass, walleye, crappie, panfish and catfish — in the Columbia, John Day and Umpqua rivers, leaving Hartman deflated.

"I've been at the forefront of making sure these fish have the right to exist in Oregon," he said. "As of last Friday, I felt like all of these efforts we put in have all been in vain."

Hartman, who attended the commission's meeting in Seaside, said he felt his arguments against ending bag limits on warmwater fish fell on deaf ears.

He isn't worried the fisheries will become overly degraded, but said it simply sends the wrong message to anglers.

"To me, it devalues the resource," Hartman said. "It says to the angling public that (these fish) don't mean anything."

Eighteen percent of Oregon fishermen said they consider themselves

primarily warmwater anglers, according to a 2006 survey by the state Department of Fish & Wildlife. Another 26 percent said they fished for warmwater species at some point during the past year.

When it comes to bass fishing, Oregon has become a world-class destination. Last year, Bassmaster Magazine ranked the Columbia River 14th in its list of top 100 places to fish for bass in the U.S., while Field & Stream Magazine also named the John Day River as the best smallmouth bass river in the West in its May 2015 issue.

Lonnie Johnson, conservation director for the Oregon Bass Angler Sportsman Society, or B.A.S.S., said since most bass fishermen are catch-and-release only, and removing bag limits might open the doors to a potential cottage industry.

"We're very concerned about what's the writing on the wall here," Johnson said.

ODFW has said the proposal is meant to lower the rate at which bass prey on native salmon and steelhead smolts, especially in the John Day River where rising water temperatures have lured smallmouth bass higher into the watershed.

But Steve Fleming, of Mah-Hah Outfitters in Fossil, cited an ODFW study from 1999 that concluded smallmouth bass are not major predators of spring chinook and steelhead smolts in the John Day, since the bass are not particularly ac-

tive when smolts migrate in colder water.

On the other hand, northern pike-minnow prey on smolts year-round, Fleming said, and bass have actually helped decrease pikeminnow numbers in the river.

"I just don't see the science supporting this decision-making," Fleming said.

Fleming, who has guided fishing trips on the John Day for 27 years, said the vote to remove bag limits on warmwater fish was thoughtless. He doesn't expect his business to suffer, though he said the fishery, along with rural communities, will all be impacted.

"The word will get out that you can't find anywhere to fish on the John Day unless you have a boat," he said. "The summer traffic will die down."

The new rules are part of an effort to simplify warmwater and trout fishing regulations statewide.

Other changes adopted by the Fish & Wildlife Commission include eliminating the April trout opener and removing bag limits on non-native brown and brook trout in streams, with a few exceptions.

Johnson said Oregon B.A.S.S. will work with other groups to figure out what their options are moving forward.

"Needless to say, it's very frustrating," he said.

Contact George Plaven at [gplaven@eastoregonian.com](mailto:gplaven@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0825.

# Prineville man arrested after another man found dead in car

A 39-year-old man from Christmas Valley was found dead in a vehicle early Thursday, and Crook County authorities say a 25-year-old man has been arrested.

Crook County Under-sheriff John Gautney said in a statement that James

Ross Scott was found with a gunshot wound around 5 a.m.

According to the Associated Press, Michael Donovan, of Prineville, is being held without bail at the Crook County Jail on investigation of murder and other charges.

# Prineville man thrown from bull dies at Paulina Rodeo

A Prineville man died after he was thrown from a bull and stepped on at the Paulina Amateur Rodeo.

The Crook County Sheriff's Office reports 58-year-old contestant Richard Wayne Perry was competing in front of family and friends Saturday afternoon when the incident occurred.

Rager Emergency Services and sheriff's deputies responded to the scene and attempted

life-saving measures for 45 minutes, according to the Associated Press.

The rodeo was shut down for more than an hour.

KTVZ-TV reported that Perry's daughter Bailey posted on the news organization's Facebook page.

She said the day was hard for many and a shock for her, but that her dad died doing what he loved, which not many people get to do.

## 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:

- Earl McNally Binger Jr., 49, pleaded guilty to harassment. He was sentenced to bench probation for 12 months and 16 hours community service, and fined \$200.

- Christopher S. Williams, 47, pleaded guilty to second-degree disorderly conduct. He was sentenced to bench probation for 18 months and 40 hours of community service, ordered to have no contact with the victim or entry into the Dirty Shame, and fined \$200. The court dismissed one count of menacing.

- Jose Fabian Huer-ta-Lopez, 32, pleaded guilty to harassment. He was sentenced to jail for 60 days and bench pro-

bation for 18 months, ordered to have no contact with the victim and to pay \$200 per month to the victim, and fined \$200. The court dismissed one count of fourth-degree assault.

- Anthony Scott Steele, 50, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine, and was sentenced to jail for 10 days and 80 hours of community service, and fined \$600.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 135 calls during the week of Aug. 31-Sept. 6. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

### John Day Police:

Aug. 31: Report of a theft in the Hillcrest area.

Sept. 2: Trespassing reported on Front Street in Prairie City.

Sept. 3: Hit-and-run with property damage reported in the 200 block of North Canyon Blvd.; arrested a John Day man on a Grant County warrant.

Sept. 4: Cited a Prairie

City man for violation of burning restrictions.

Sept. 5: Cited a Redmond woman for speeding; report of domestic violence at Riverside Mobile Home Park.

Sept. 6: Cited a Salem man for speeding.

### Grant County Sheriff:

Sept. 3: Trespassing reported on Trafton Lane.

Sept. 6: Theft reported on Dog Creek Road.

### Prairie City ambulance:

Sept. 1: Responded for a person with breathing difficulties.

### Justice Court

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

- Failure to properly use safety belt: Zane Lynn Rookstool, 30, John Day, fined \$95.

- Violation of the basic rule: Kyle Randal Ro-

din, 30, Redmond, 76/55 zone, fined \$220; Sheila Marie Bruce, 53, John Day, 85/55 zone, fined \$220; Brady W. Lindsay, 27, Halfway, 77/55 zone, fined \$260.

- Driving without headlights: Keatly M. Wyant, 24, Prairie City, fined \$260.

- Driving while suspended-violation: Keatly M. Wyant, 24, Prairie City, fined \$435.

- Driving uninsured: Keatly M. Wyant, 24, Prairie City, fined \$260.

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Our thanks goes out to the fire crews for their work on the fires. We are very grateful to the OTEC, CenturyLink and ODOT crews for prompt restoration of the services. Also, a special thanks to the bridge crew for the prompt bridge restoration.

*Jerry and LaRue Daake*

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**Grant County Regional Airport Master Plan Kick-Off Meeting**

You are invited to attend this public meeting of the Grant County Regional Airport Master Plan project.

This project will help ensuring an effective and optimal development of the Airport. The purpose of this meeting is to present and discuss the master planning process at your Airport.

**When:** Monday September 14, 2015  
At 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Grant County Regional Airport Terminal Building  
72000 Airport Road  
John Day, OR 97845

The Grant County Regional Airport serves as an important transportation link and economic resource to the County, and its residents. This Airport Master Plan will provide with the "Flight Plan" for the future development at the airport for the next 20 years.

Your participation in the process is welcome and appreciated.

For Further Information Contact:  
Kevin Bissell, Project Manager, T-O Engineers  
[kbisell@to-engineers.com](mailto:kbisell@to-engineers.com)  
(208) 323-2288

**T-O ENGINEERS**

Grant County Chamber of Commerce

**Raffle**

The last drawing was held **Sept 8th**

*Proceeds Benefits Fire Victims*

**The results will be in the September 16th edition of The Blue Mountain Eagle!**

**KJDY will also broadcast Winners!**

*We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many Merchants, Donors and Individuals who contributed their products or time and efforts to make this Raffle so successful.*

— Your Grant County Chamber of Commerce