

RUN

Continued from Page A1

The brand Heart of Grant County buys is made in America, and is touted as the safest Holi powder on the market.

There will be six color stations this year – red, yellow, green, bright pink, purple and teal – enough to turn everyone and everything up at the Industrial Park into one big rainbow.

Betty Beil of Canyon City is ready to run with the colors again.

Beil participated in the 2014 “Color Me Free” Fun Run, along with several family members, including her daughter-in-law, Tia Gibson of Vancouver, Wash., and three of her five grandchildren, Teagan, Rae and Gunner.

They are all signed up again for this year’s event.

“It was just fun. You don’t have to worry about running – there was no pressure,” she said.

They especially liked the option of walking – or skipping or hopping – during the route because that was the

pace of the “little legs” they had with them.

The fact that it’s a kid friendly event is a big attraction, too, for Beil.

Her grandchildren had so much fun last year with the powdered paint, she said, “They were even laying in it.”

Beil said she had never participated in a color run before, and likes this one because it “benefits a great cause.”

She added, “We plan to make it an annual thing.”

And yes, there are a lot more goodies this year. The stash includes a backpack, water bottle, white T-shirt, race number, bag of paint to toss, bottle of water, key chain, magnet, nail file, Emergen-C drink packet, granola bar and fruit snacks.

The cost is \$20 a person or \$40 for a three-person family group. Early registration is encouraged to be guaranteed goodies. Forms are available at Triangle Oil, The Corner Cup, The Blue Mountain Eagle, and Java Jungle in John Day and Prairie City, or from Heart of Grant County.

For more information, call Heart at 541-575-4335 or email heartgc@ortel-co.net.



Caleb Sturgill of John Day and his niece Ember Dutcher keep pace together through clouds of colored powder during the 2014 ‘Color Me Free’ Fun Run.

Contributed photo
Tanni Wenger
Photography Studio

Two forensic analysts at state crime lab being investigated

Grant County DA says no local cases have been affected at this time

Blue Mountain Eagle
and Associated Press

The Oregon State Police (OSP) says two forensic analysts at its crime labs are being investigated for misconduct.

The revelation that a second analyst is being investigated comes less than a week after state authorities said evidence in hundreds of criminal cases was being reviewed following accusations a forensic analyst who worked at the agency’s lab in Bend tampered with drug evidence.

The first analyst, identified by The Oregonian as Nika Larsen, 35, was placed on leave earlier this month. She is accused of stealing pills and other drugs and replacing them with over-the-counter pills. The newspaper said Larsen could not be reached for comment.

OSP said Sept. 18 a second analyst,



Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter

identified as Jeff Dovci, who worked at its Central Point lab, overstated evidence during a criminal trial in 2005. Dovci retired in 2013 and shortly thereafter, OSP found materials with

potentially exculpatory information related to the case.

In April 2014, state police alerted 20 of the state’s 36 prosecutors about the second analyst’s work.

State police notified district attorneys across the state about those findings and issued lists detailing the affected cases.

Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter said in a Sept. 21 news release he is not aware of any local cases that were compromised by these alleged actions.

“The Oregon State Police have indicated that they will notify each county affected,” Carpenter said. “As of today, I have not received any such notice, nor do I expect to receive one.”

The discovery puts current cases and convictions in doubt and could cost counties thousands of dollars to retest and retry cases. State police declined to publicly release the number of potentially affected cases, citing their ongoing criminal investigation.

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel said he must retest the evidence in 502 cases dating back to 2012. In Klamath County, District Attorney Rob Patridge said he’s reviewing 328 cases dating as far back

as 2007.

The majority of cases with evidence worked by Larsen are from eastern Oregon. Ulys Stapleton, district attorney in Lake County, said only about a dozen of his cases were affected and two cases remain pending.

Authorities said the problem with Dovci’s work wasn’t that he tampered with evidence, but that he came to too strong of a conclusion based on the evidence.

State police said in reviewing records for a subpoena, forensics staff and an Oregon Department of Justice attorney found material that “potentially cast doubt on Dovci’s future testimony.”

Dovci, now a private forensic consultant, said he did not steal anything, did not falsify results, and the state’s allegations about his interpretation of evidence are a matter of opinion.

The state police operates five labs across the state. Others are in Springfield, Pendleton and Portland.

Lt. Bill Fugate, a state police spokesman, said the forensic labs have very strict policies and procedures in place, including regular audits. But, he said, the disclosures about the analysts are prompting further reviews.

Wolves found dead

WALLOWA COUNTY – According to an OSP statement, two wolves were found dead in Wallowa County the week of Aug. 24. One was a collared female OR-21, the other a male previously observed in her company by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which designated the two the Sled Springs Pair and in January created the Sled Springs Pair Area of Known Wolf Activity.

While Oregon State Police publicly appeal for information about the two dead wolves at Sled Springs, a Senior Trooper investigating the case says it’s not clear their deaths were deliberately caused.

Last month, wildlife officials responded to the scene after the female’s collar emitted a mortality signal.

Paint Drop-Off Event

It's Free!



**Saturday
September 26
9 am - 2 pm**

Bring your old leftover paint for recycling

This event is open to households and businesses from any place in Oregon. Households may bring any amount of latex or oil-based paint, stain or varnish. Businesses may bring latex paint, but there are restrictions on oil-based paint. Contact PaintCare for details.

PaintCare also has over 150 permanent drop-off sites throughout the state (most are paint stores that volunteer to take back paint). For details on what we accept and the amount of oil-based paint accepted from businesses, visit www.paintcare.org/or or call (855) 724-6809.

Recycle your electronics at this event, too!

Reverse Logistics Group Americas, operator of an electronics recycling program funded by electronics manufacturers, will provide environmentally sound recycling for your old electronics. Bring unwanted TVs, computers, monitors, printers, keyboards and mice for free!

Monument City River Park
Cavender Lane off
Kimberly-Long Creek Hwy (402)
Monument, OR

**We accept paint from
BUSINESSES
too!**