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A FAMILY TRADITION



Patriarch of family influences military path

Pattie Melanson served seven years in Marines; two sons currently on active duty

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY – Patricia Melanson of Canyon City says her dad was a “big inspiration,” influencing her and many family members to follow his footsteps in the military.



Hugh Laurance

“It was the life we grew up in,” she said. Her dad, Hugh Laurance, who formerly lived in Prairie City, was an Army sergeant major, spending his career in the service.

He died in 2012, having served two tours in Korea, one in Vietnam and four in Germany, while raising a family with his wife, Twila, who is also deceased.

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Marine Sgt. Patricia Melanson, right, stands with her co-worker while stationed at Camp LeJeune, NC, in 1985.

Top photo: Brothers Ryan Melanson, left, and Jason Melanson have followed in their parents' and grandfather's footsteps.

Contributed photos

Commission deciding fate of gray wolf status

By Eric Mortenson
Capital Bureau



Courtesy of ODFW

OR-3, a 3-year-old male wolf from the Imnaha pack in Wallowa County.

SALEM — A packed meeting room was expected Monday, Nov. 9, as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Commission decided whether to remove gray wolves from the state's endangered species law.

Livestock producers strongly favor the idea and conservation groups are just as deeply opposed, and a full day of emotional, conflicting testimony is likely. The wolf delisting is the only item on the commission's agenda.

State wildlife biologists recommend delisting wolves. Under the state's wolf recovery plan, the commission can take wolves off the endangered list if they determine:

Wolves aren't in danger of

extinction in any portion of their range; their natural reproductive potential is not in danger of failing; there's no imminent or active deterioration of their range or primary habitat; the species or its habitat won't be “over-utilized” for scientific, recreational, commercial or educational reasons; and existing state or federal regulations are adequate to protect them.

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Students, staff, have local health option

School-based health offers primary care

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – The School-based Health Center located at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School offers health care for Grant County students and school staff.

The health center opened last May, and has their doors open again this school year.

“I'm really excited that it's something we're able to offer to Grant County to provide them with an alternative and help keep them in school,” said coordinator Jessica Winegar. “It's just down the hallway for Grant Union students.”

She wants to let residents know the services are available for all Grant County school-age students and school staff, not just those liv-

ing in John Day.

Winegar is a registered nurse and also manages the Grant County Health Department.

She said the goal of the school-based health center is to work with families to provide health services, regardless of ability to pay.

Family nurse practitioner Karen Triplett is at the school 10 hours a week, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays. She can prescribe medication, if needed.

Registered nurses Winegar or Jenni Workman are available on Tuesdays from 12-5 p.m.

The health center has two new staff members, including Cindy Baker who provides staff support at the health center office at Grant Union.

The office is located at the north end of the school inside the main building.

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ON THE TOWN

Seneca: Small town boasts a golf course, shooting range

By Cheryl Hoefler
Blue Mountain Eagle

SENECA – Whoever coined the saying “Big things come in small packages” just might have had Seneca in mind.

Not many towns with a population of 200 can boast having their own 9-hole pasture golf course and shooting range, not to mention a handful of businesses – offering gas, food, groceries and lodging – and a spacious commu-

nity park with a variety of amenities and features.

All this, plus some of the most picturesque scenery and prime hunting grounds Oregon has to offer.

Seneca Mayor Andrea Combs grew up on a ranch in Bear Valley and attended Seneca School. She returned to the area in 1998 with her husband, John, and knows what a special place it is.

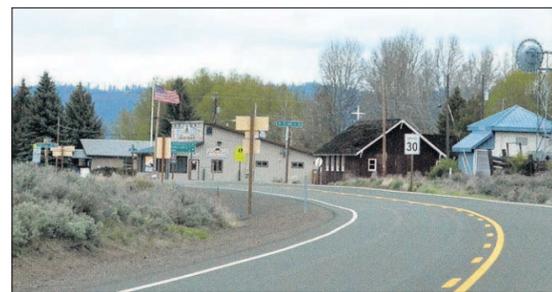
“I love this town and the people in it,” Combs said.

“We, John and I, have

worked to make a life here not because we were stuck and didn't have any other options, but because we knew there was no better place to raise our children than in this small town,” she said.

City recorder/manager Josh Walker spent much of his youth in Seneca, and moved his family back there to make their home after he and his wife, Mindy, finished their careers in the military.

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Eagle file photos

The small but active community of Seneca boasts a school, several businesses, a park, shooting range and 9-hole golf course.

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to those who have **courageously**
risks their lives fighting for our
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