



The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler

Sean Hart, the new editor of the Blue Mountain Eagle.

Sean Hart hired as Eagle editor

Blue Mountain Eagle

An Eastern Oregon native has been named the new editor of the Blue Mountain Eagle.

Sean Hart, originally from Vale, joined the staff Dec. 1. He replaced Scotta Callister, who left the newspaper in July.

"I'm excited to continue my career reporting the news that matters in Eastern Oregon," he said. "The staff here at the Eagle has been great, and I look forward to getting out into the community."

Hart has worked for three Eastern Oregon newspapers since 2007. He has earned first-place awards from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association for best lifestyle coverage and best graphics and second-place awards for best local column and best personality feature.

Hart, 31, graduated from Vale High School in 2002. He attended Treasure Valley Community College and Portland State University before earning his degree from the University of Oregon with a minor in business administration.

After working as a wildland firefighter during the summers while attending college, Hart began his journalism career at the Argus Observer in Ontario, where he was quickly promoted to lifestyle editor. Prior to starting at the Eagle, he worked for the Hermiston Herald and the East Oregonian.

"Of all the places I have worked, I already think John Day may suit me the best," he said. "I think I will fit right in."

Hart enjoys guns and the outdoors. He owns a yellow Lab named Frank. He is also a musician and songwriter.

The Eagle has been Grant County's newspaper since 1868. In 1979, the paper merged into what is now EO Media Group, which publishes the Wallowa County Chieftain, the East Oregonian and eight other regional newspapers.

Eight opposed, one in favor of pot ban

Final public hearing set for 10:15 a.m. today

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

At the first of two public hearings about an ordinance banning commercial marijuana operations in Grant County, eight people spoke in opposition to the ban, and only one spoke in favor.

At the Dec. 2 Grant County Court meeting, Commissioner Boyd Britton said he pushed for the ban

to be considered, and he was the only proponent of the ban to offer his opinions. The second, and presumably final, public hearing is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. today at the Grant County Courthouse.

The proposed ordinance would prohibit the processing and dispensing of medical marijuana and production, processing, wholesale and retail operations related to recreational marijuana. County Judge

Scott Myers said the ordinance would not prohibit the personal growing, possession and use of marijuana, as approved by Oregon voters in November 2014.

Statewide, 56 percent of voters approved Measure 91 legalizing recreational use of marijuana, but about 65 percent of the 3,322 votes in Grant County were in opposition to the measure. Earlier this year, the Oregon Legislature passed a law allowing cities and counties to ban commercial marijuana activity if

more than 55 percent of the county opposed the measure.

To opt out, the county must enact the ban by Dec. 30. The ban would only affect unincorporated areas of the county, but the cities of John Day, Canyon City, Prairie City, Mt. Vernon and Dayville have already opted out.

The county also has the option to enact a temporary ban and allow voters to decide whether to allow

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CRACKING THE CODE TO GRANT COUNTY HISTORY



Contributed photos

Lead translator Chung So, second from right, points out an interesting detail in a Chinese ledger to the translation team, from left, Chinese medicine practitioner Kyle Cline, Kam Wah Chung curator Christy Sweet and teacher and translator, Micah Sprouffske.

Kam Wah Chung group aims to translate historical documents

By Cheryl Hoefler
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The 10,000 documents left by Chinese businessmen Doc Hay and Lung On as part of the Kam Wah Chung Museum could speak volumes about Grant County's history.

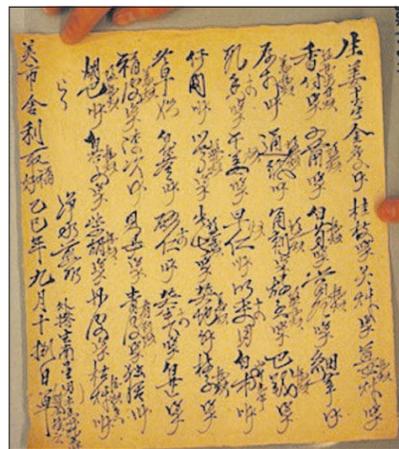
But first they need to be translated.

According to Kyle Cline, local Chinese medicine practitioner, that's just what the Friends of Kam Wah Chung are striving to do, now that they have received grants to survey the Chinese language documents in the museum's archives.

The survey will provide detailed information so the group can apply for larger grants to translate all the documents.

Kam Wah Chung was a local general store and apothecary operated by Hay and On in the late 1800s-1940s.

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This Chinese document and about 10,000 others are waiting to be translated to reveal information about Kam Wah Chung, businessmen Doc Hay and Lung On and the history of Chinese and American communities in our area.



Contributed photo

Connie Wood of John Day enjoyed a crafting day with her two daughters and granddaughter at her home, where the ladies made several wreaths for family and friends.

Christmas crafters make family memories

Project brings mom, daughters together

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Connie Wood and her two daughters set up a Christmas workshop Nov. 21, making several festive holiday wreaths for family and friends at her John Day home.

Wood said her daughter Dovie Bolman of John Day found patterns for the wreaths online.

Her other daughter Michelle Trout of Elkton joined in on their crafting day, as well as Dovie's daughter Preslie Thompson. Wood also has three sons who live out of town.

"We do this every year to decorate our homes," Wood said.

The wreaths are made using brightly colored poly mesh ribbon, which gives a bright, welcoming look to the front door, and the wreaths are waterproof.

The crafters made several different styles, using different colors.

"We do crafts year-round," Wood said. "Spending time with my daughters and granddaughter, visiting and making memories, that's what makes it special for this time of year."

She's already started another craft project.

"I'm making Disney princess aprons for my granddaughters," she said.

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