

# POT

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commercial marijuana operations in the county on the November 2016 ballot, as Hermiston and Pendleton recently opted to do. Cities and counties that enact bans are ineligible to receive tax revenue generated from marijuana.

At the Dec. 2 meeting, Britton said he believed the county should enact the ban. When he was younger, he said, he smoked marijuana “vigorously,” but it made him lazy.

The remainder of the hearing, which lasted almost an hour, consisted of various arguments from members of the public who believed commercial marijuana operations should not be banned outright in the county.

Kimberly resident Jerry Russell said he agreed with banning retail operations — the sale of marijuana to users — in the county. He said, however, the county should not prevent him from growing a cash crop that is now considered legal by the state on his own land to ship elsewhere to be sold.

Paul Cooper said he owns 750 acres near Monument but wasn’t making much profit

growing hay. He said he was approached by someone who wanted him to grow marijuana to be processed into an oil outside the county. By doing so, he said, not only would he make more money, the county could also receive marijuana tax revenue. Cooper said he would also have to hire employees to work at the operation, which could reduce unemployment.

Frances Preston, Prairie City, said even if commercial marijuana operations are banned people can still use marijuana.

“It’s not like we’re preventing anything. ... Essentially, what you’re going to prevent is the making of money in the county?” she asked.

Other arguments against the ban included forcing medical marijuana patients to travel outside the county, unnecessary government intervention into personal liberty and the continuance of illegal black market sales.

Britton said the arguments gave him “some things to think about,” but he still believed a ban on commercial marijuana operations should be pursued.

“Your points are well taken,” he said. “... I’m a proponent, but you have given me pause.”

# Rain on top of fire increases concern of landslides

Mountains could see another 2 inches of precipitation

**By George Plaven**  
EO Media Group

Another week of rain and snow could heighten the risk of landslides in forested areas of Eastern Oregon, especially where wildfire has already caused the ground to become less stable.

Ali Ryan Hansen, earth science information officer with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, said landslides are more prevalent west of the Cascades, but have been documented along Interstate 84 through La Grande and the Blue Mountains.

Intense rainfall is a common trigger for landslides, which can easily travel a mile or more down steep hillsides and canyon bottoms. Water and debris can sweep even faster down recently burned areas, like Canyon Creek near John

Day, where water-soaking vegetation has been stripped away by fire.

“You guys do have steep slopes and places where the ground has moved in the past,” Hansen said. “Whatever people are doing on a day-to-day basis, they need to be thinking about the landslide hazard.”

The National Weather Service in Pendleton is forecasting a chance of rain or snow every day this week, with as much as 2 inches of precipitation in the mountains. Hydrologist Marilyn Lohmann said a colder front is expected by Wednesday, which should result in snow accumulating at higher elevations.

The lower elevations could see a half-inch to an inch of additional rain, Lohmann said.

Much heavier rains in northwest Oregon and

southwest Washington have triggered flood warnings through Wednesday afternoon, including the central Columbia River Gorge. Hansen said anyone driving or recreating in the area should take precautions and avoid steep slopes or canyons, if possible.

“Some of it is just knowing the landscape,” she said.

Roy Walker, fire staff officer on the Malheur National Forest, said treatments to stabilize the ground after the Canyon Creek Complex fire so far appear to be holding up as storms have washed over the area.

Helicopters have dumped wood mulch over the burned hillsides to prevent flooding into Canyon Creek, and placed wooden structures known as log jams over portions of Canyon Creek, Vance Creek and Over-

holt Creek to catch debris that might wash down in a storm.

Walker said the staff will continue to monitor those treatments into the spring.

“It might take a little warmer weather and little more rain to really have an effect,” Walker said. “Those early thunderstorms are a big concern too.”

Hansen said people should stay alert for landslides and listen for telltale sounds such as cracking trees or boulders knocking together. Water that suddenly turns muddy, or suddenly changes flow, can also be an indicator of a landslide upstream.

Forest property owners can also check their address for a history of landslides in the area by visiting the Statewide Landslide Information Database website at [www.oregongeology.org/slido](http://www.oregongeology.org/slido).

*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:

- Michael James Cearns, 35, pleaded guilty to harassment. He was sentenced to bench probation for 18 months and 40 hours of community service. He was ordered to have no contact with the victim and fined \$300. The court dismissed one count of menacing.
- Jessica Anne Thomas, 32, pleaded guilty to harassment. She was sentenced to bench probation for 12 months and 30 hours of community service and fined \$200. The court dismissed one count of harassment.
- Patrick Lee Kinsey, 49, pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of intoxicants. He was sentenced to bench probation for 18 months and 40 hours of community service. He was ordered to have no contact with the victim and fined \$300. The court dismissed one count of menacing.

cants. He was sentenced to jail for 10 days, bench probation for 18 months and 40 hours of community service and fined \$1,600. His driver’s license was suspended for one year. The court dismissed one count for refusal to take a test for intoxicants.

**Grant County Sheriff**

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff’s Office reported the following for the week of Nov. 27-Dec. 3:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 6
- Average inmates: 12
- Bookings: 8
- Releases: 10
- Arrests: 2
- Citations: 1
- Fingerprints: 7
- Civil papers: 33
- Warrants processed: 5
- Asst./welfare check: 7
- Regina Scott, 38, John Day, cited for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

**Dispatch**

John Day dispatch worked 142 calls during the week of

Nov. 30-Dec. 6. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- **John Day Police:**
  - Dec. 1: Arrested a man on a Grant County warrant.
  - Dec. 2: Trespassing reported at Riverside Mobile Home Park in John Day.
  - Dec. 3: Arrested a Prairie City man for violation of a restraining order.
  - Dec. 5: Arrested a John Day man for disorderly conduct at the Grubstake Restaurant; cited a Burns man for speeding; arrested a North Powder woman for DUI and cited her for speeding; responded to a report of a bar fight in John Day.
- **Grant County Sheriff:**
  - Nov. 30: Report of an assault in Long Creek.

- Dec. 2: Hit-and-run reported at Grant Union High School.
- **John Day ambulance:**
  - Nov. 30: Responded for a 73-year-old woman.
  - Dec. 2: Responded for a 60-year-old person in Prairie City.
  - Dec. 3: Responded for an 84-year-old man.
  - Dec. 6: Responded for a 40-year-old man; responded for an 85-year-old man.
- **Prairie City ambulance:**
  - Dec. 4: Responded for a 35-year-old woman.

**Justice Court**

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

- Following too closely: Ricky Dale Weickum Jr., 18, John Day, fined \$220.

- Failing to stop for bus lights: Gina Leigh, 49, Mt. Vernon, fined \$370.
- Burning without a permit: Bryan R. Nelson, 67, John Day, fined \$95.
- Violation of the basic rule: Kathleen Proctor Curtis, 52, Powell Butte, 75/55 zone, fined \$135.
- Emily Buell, John Day,

was convicted of endangering the welfare of a minor-violation and fined \$220.

- Matthew T. Smith, Burns, was convicted of violation of travel management and fined \$335.
- Otis W. Smith, Burns, was convicted of violation of travel management and fined \$335.

TIS THE SEASON

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is now accepting donations for the Elderly Food Baskets.

Donations can be dropped off at the Mt. Vernon City Hall.

If you have any questions please call Mt. Vernon City Hall at 541-932-4688

\$1,000 Reward for Rosie, the French Bulldog

If you have any information, please contact the Sheriff's Department at 541-575-1131

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