

OTEC presents \$5K to fire relief

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Old West Federal Credit Union's Community Fire Relief Fund recently received a \$5,000 boost from Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative. OTEC board member Gary Miller presented the check, issued by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Cooperation, to Old West president Ken Olson on Dec. 9. "I have lived in Grant County all of my life, and it never surprises me the amount of generosity this community has for its neighbors, friends and fami-

lies," Miller said. "When neighbors truly need a helping hand, they will find it here." According to Olson, the fund, established to assist those impacted by the Canyon Creek Complex fire, has distributed approximately \$250,000 in donated funds throughout the community to date. For more information on donating to help Canyon Creek Complex fire victims, visit any Old West Federal Credit Union branch, write to the John Day branch at 650 W. Main St., John Day, OR 97845 or call 541-575-0264.



Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative board member Gary Miller, left, presents Old West Federal Credit Union president Ken Olson with a check for \$5,000 for the Community Fire Relief Fund.

GOP: New laws are economic 'lumps of coal'

Blue Mountain Eagle

With the end of a tumultuous year in Oregon government drawing to a close, Senate Republicans highlighted a number of new laws they believe will harm working families and small businesses in the new year. "Senate Democrats insisted on new laws that increase the cost of living for Oregon families and small businesses,"

said Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day) in a press release. "Oregonians will get 'lumps of coal' in the stocking of Oregon's economy this year because of Democrat leaders who value partisan projects and padding state agency budgets over helping small businesses and families thrive." Bills passed by the Democrat majority absent bipartisan support during the 2015 legis-

lative session going into effect Jan. 1 include:

- A \$55 increase in car insurance premiums for most vehicles (SB 411)
- Increases in hunting and fishing licenses, the first of three between now and 2020 (SB 247)
- New animal nuisance lawsuits against small family farmers (HB 2888)
- Expensive mandatory paid time off for requirements

for small businesses (SB 454)

- New authority for BOLI to issue warrants, liens and garnishments on small businesses (SB 468)

 Senate Republicans also warned of new Democrat proposals coming during the February 2016 short legislative session that will further cripple Oregon's economy, including a minimum wage as high as \$15 per hour and a new cap and trade scheme.

Private lands air fire seeding began last week

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Fire rehabilitation seeding began last week on private land in Grant County. The project planned to seed

4,100 acres affected by the Canyon Creek Complex fire, according to a press release from Grant Soil and Water Conservation District. Grant SWCD was scheduled

this fall to retain an aviation contractor to aerial seed 3,800 acres of state, federal and privately managed lands contained within the Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area affected by the

2014 South Fork Complex Fire. Grant SWCD capitalized on the presence of the aviation contractor and purchased 68.9 tons of seed for the Canyon Creek effort.

Applicants sought for Seneca scholarship

Blue Mountain Eagle

SENECA — The Seneca School Foundation is again offering its annual Seneca Logger Memorial Scholarship. Graduating seniors at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School, who previously attended Seneca School for at least two years and who have a minimum cumula-

tive academic GPA of 3.50, are eligible to apply for the \$1,000 scholarship. Applications will be accepted from Dec. 1 to Jan. 31, and must include a 750-word essay. Those meeting the minimum criteria will be scheduled for a 30-minute interview with the foundation's scholarship selection committee. The most deserving applicant will be

selected from an order of merit list and will be awarded the scholarship at Grant Union's graduation ceremony. Funding for the scholarship is dependent on the generosity of current and former Seneca residents and others in the community. For application forms and more information, visit www.senecakids.org.

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.

Grant County Sheriff
CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Dec. 11-17:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 4
- Average inmates: 11
- Bookings: 3
- Releases: 4
- Arrests: 1
- Fingerprints: 5
- Civil papers: 19
- Warrants processed: 9
- Asst./welfare check: 5
- Craig Graven, 32, Mt. Vernon, cited for dog as a public nuisance.
- John Dunn, 34, John Day, cited for driving uninsured and driving without a license.

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

- Violation of the basic rule: Randi Dean Holbrook, 63, Walla Walla, Wash., 70/55 zone, fined \$160.
- Failure to drive within lane: Ashley Cherise Martin, 20, John Day, fined \$260.
- Violation of the speed limit: Matthew Niel Goslin, 48, Eugene, 50/25 zone, fined \$260.

• Driving while suspended-violation: Travis James Freniere, 29, John Day, two counts, fined \$435 for each; Brandon L. Stout, 22, John Day, fined \$435.

- Driving uninsured: Travis James Freniere, 29, John Day, two counts, fined \$260 for each.
- No seat belt: Brandon L. Stout, 22, John Day, fined \$110.
- Travis A. Palmer, Mt. Vernon, was convicted of failure to validate tag. He was sentenced to 18 months probation, fined \$1,275, and his hunting privileges were suspended for 36 months. The court dismissed one count of failure to record transfer of possession.

Dispatch
John Day dispatch worked 106 calls during the week of Dec. 14-21. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

- **John Day Police:** Dec. 14: Report of a possible hit-and-run at Chester's Thriftway; cited a John Day man for driving while suspended.
- Dec. 16: Cited a Meridian, Idaho, man for speeding.
- **Grant County Sheriff:** Dec. 14: Cited a John Day man for driving without a license and insurance.
- Dec. 18: Responded to reports of fraud in Mt. Vernon

and Canyon City.

- **John Day ambulance:** Dec. 16: Responded for an 87-year-old woman.
- Dec. 20: Responded for a 74-year-old woman who passed out; responded for a snowmobile crash near the fire hall.

ELTRUM HISTORIC THEATER
1809 First Street • Baker City • (541) 522-5439
BARGAIN MATINEE IN 10 Adults \$7 ALL FILMS \$6 ON TIGHT WAD TUESDAY
MOVIE SCHEDULE DEC. 25 - 31

STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS PG-13
A continuation of the saga set thirty years after Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi (1983).
FRIDAY (3:45) 6:45 9:35
SAT & SUN (12:45) (3:45) 6:45 9:35
MON-THURS (3:45) 6:45 9:35

DADDY'S HOME PG-13
Comedy. Will Ferrell & Mark Wahlberg. Dad & stepdad compete to prove who is the best dad.
FRIDAY (4:00) 7:00 9:45
SAT & SUN (1:00) (4:00) 7:00 9:45
MON-THURS (4:00) 7:00 9:45

ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS PG
The chipmunks try to stop Dave from proposing to his girlfriend.
FRIDAY (4:10) 7:10 9:40
SAT & SUN (1:10) (4:10) 7:10 9:40
MON-THURS (4:10) 7:10 9:40
\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth

POT

Continued from Page A1

At the third and final day of public testimony Dec. 16, the attendees were more evenly split between proponents and opponents of the ban. Proponents argued that allowing marijuana businesses to generate revenue would be abandoning values. Kimberly resident Theda Phelps said marijuana is "wrong" and "evil." "Is it worth it to compromise your own values?" she asked. "It isn't for me."

After more than three hours in total of public testimony, the commissioners closed the hearing.

Commissioner Chris Labhart said, because the ordinance included language stating it was an emergency and effective immediately upon passage, it would require a unanimous decision. He said he did not intend to sign the ordinance unless the prohibition on marijuana growing was removed.

Commissioner Boyd Britton said, however, he had already consulted the county's attorney, who informed him only two out of the three commissioner signatures were necessary because the ordinance was not enacted in a single day. Labhart said he was un-

aware the attorney had been consulted, and he should have been informed. Britton said he did not intend to contact the lawyer secretly but believed counsel may have been necessary regarding the ordinance before the hearing. Britton and County Judge Scott Myers both said they were in favor of the ordinance as written and later signed it into law.

After the hearing, Kimberly resident Bruce Strange, who spoke in favor of the ordinance, said he believed the ordinance was a positive step for the county.

"I'm pleased with Scott Myers. I'm pleased with Boyd Britton," he said. "I'm actually ashamed of Commissioner Labhart's decision."

Jerry Russell, who argued at each opportunity for testimony that he should be allowed to grow marijuana on his property near Kimberly, said the people in favor of the ban failed to provide compelling arguments. "I think it was a foolish decision," he said. "They didn't do a very good job of representing the Grant County residents."

Russell said discussions would continue among opponents of the ban about pursuing a citizens' initiative to overturn the ban by a vote of the people.

BREAKING NEWS ALERTS
myeaglenews.com/breakingnews

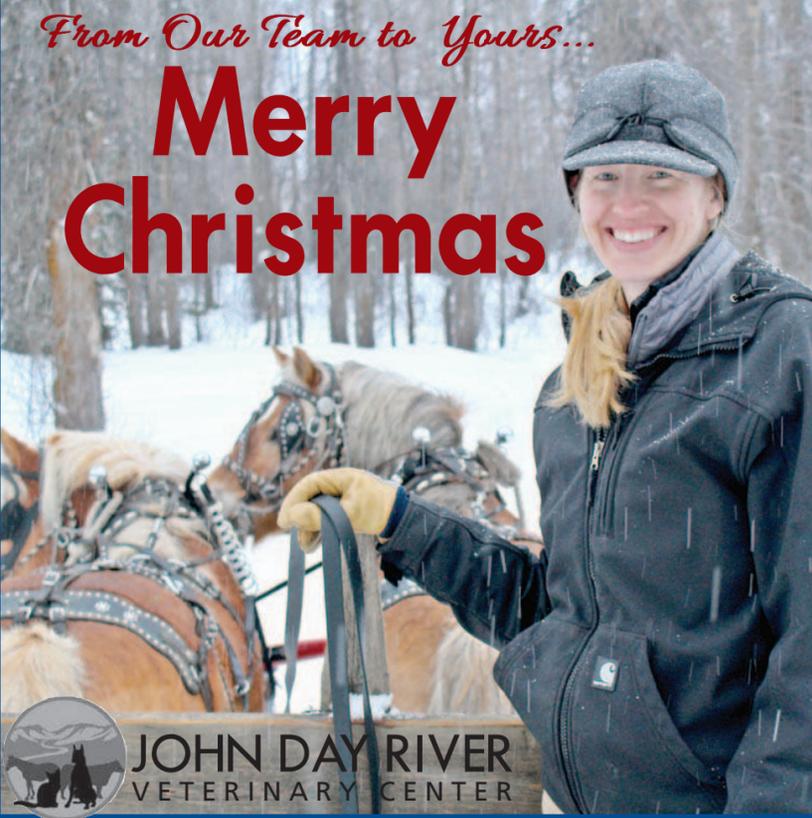
JDRENTS Pro Saw Shop and a Whole Lot More
AND POWER EQUIPMENT, INC.
727 W Main St., John Day • 541-575-1156


Michael Rushton, DPM
Podiatric Physician and Surgeon
Treatment and Surgery of the Foot and Ankle
In-grown Nails • Bunions • Warts • Gout • Corns & Callouses
Diabetic Foot Screening • Foot Odor • Athletes Foot
Treatment for pain in feet, shins, heels, knees, lower back.
Custom molded orthotics.
Dr. Rushton is a Preferred Provider for Lifewise and Blue Cross/Blue Shield and a Medicare participant.
2830 10th St., Baker City, OR
541-524-0122
EVERY OTHER TUESDAY
The doctor speaks Spanish— El doctor habla Español.

Best Wishes
this holiday season, from all of us at the
Law Office of Daniel L. Cronin

Happy Holidays

From all of us at **Ferguson Surveying**

From Our Team to Yours...
Merry Christmas

JOHN DAY RIVER VETERINARY CENTER
59989 Hwy. 26, John Day • 541-932-4428
Colleen Robertson, DVM • Laura Meadows, DVM