



The Eagle/Marissa Williams
A roadside memorial for LaVoy Finicum on Highway 395 where he was shot and killed by police Jan. 26.

Finicum's 9-mm was a gift from stepson

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Authorities have released more than 500 pages of documents related to the investigation of the officer-involved shooting that killed LaVoy Finicum.

Finicum was shot by Oregon State Police officers when they say he reached for a weapon after attempting to elude authorities that set up an operation to arrest the leaders of the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Jan. 26 on Highway 395 north of Burns. Ammon Bundy and other occupation leaders were en route to a community meeting in John Day.

According to the documents, a Ruger SR9 9-mm

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Long Creek voters may decide pot issue

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

The fate of a potential pot-growing operation in Long Creek is still uncertain.

Long Creek City Council members did not take action at last week's meeting on a conditional use permit application from a prospective grower, because the council president was absent for medical reasons, Mayor Don Porter said after the meeting.

Porter said about 30 people showed up at the

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Residents escape house fire in John Day

11 John Day firefighters respond

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — A house fire at a home in the 400 block of Hillcrest Road in John Day March 9 caused thousands of dollars of damage, but John Day Fire Chief Ron Smith said it could have been a lot worse.

The fire was reported at 5:20 a.m., and John Day Volunteer Fire Department responded with two engines and 11 firefighters.

All occupants of the home escaped the blaze without injury. One fire-

fighter sprained his thumb.

Smith said he's fairly certain the fire was caused by an electrical short.

"When we arrived, we had a fire in the north side of the house above a pantry in the area of the water heater," he said. "It did a lot of structural damage to the house, and smoke damage."

He said most of the damage was in the laundry room, pantry and water heater areas. As an early estimate, Smith guesses damage to the home is \$25,000.

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The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

A fire damaged a home in the 400 block of Hillcrest Road in John Day the morning of March 9. John Day Volunteer Fire Department responded with two engines, and all occupants escaped the blaze unharmed.

Red Cross seeks help installing smoke detectors

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The American Red Cross is looking for volunteers to help install free smoke detectors in Grant County homes.

There will be a training meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in John Day. The meeting begins with a potluck dinner.

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SCIENCE FAIR

THEORIES OF EVERYTHING!



Eagle photos/Sean Hart

Dawson Quinton, right, explains his science fair project, "Does Ultraviolet Radiation Affect the Biomass of Green Algae?" to judge Dr. Anthony Tovar, an associate professor of physics at Eastern Oregon University, March 10 at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School.

Grant Union High School students attend science fair

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

The next generation of scientists at Grant Union High School tackled important issues affecting the community for their science fair last week.

From experiments about genetically modified organisms to sage grouse mating rituals, the students delved into real-world issues that impressed the judges.

Jessica Carter, a junior, won best of fair and a gold rating for her experiment, "The Effect of Wildfire on Soil Properties." She said she chose the topic after last year's catastrophic wildfire.

"We recently had the Canyon Creek fire, so the results would be applicable to the people of Grant County, and it was accessible for me to do field work," she said. "I learned that fire does have its drawbacks, but it also has its benefits."

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Jessica Carter, left, explains her science fair project, "The Effect of Wildfire on Soil Properties," to judge Amy Stiner of the South Fork John Day Watershed Council.

May ballot features mostly contested county races

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County voters will determine the outcome of many contested races on the upcoming ballots this year.

Of the open positions, only surveyor, assessor and Public Forest Commission No. 1 will be uncontested. Mike Springer, Prairie City, filed for surveyor, and David Thunell, Canyon City, filed for assessor. Tanya Cates had previously filed for assessor but withdrew from the race. Dave Traylor, a Republican from John Day, is the only candidate for the forest commission No. 1 position.

For county commissioner No. 2, current Commissioner Chris Labhart

will run against Prairie City Mayor Jim Hamsher.

In the race for Public Forest Commission No. 3, current commissioner Tad Houpt, a Republican from Canyon City, will compete against former County Judge and current Blue Mountains Forest Partners Executive Director Mark Webb, an Independent from Mt. Vernon.

Jim Boethin, a Republican from Canyon City, and Howard Gieger, a Republican from John Day, will run for Public Forest Commission No. 5 against current commissioner King Williams, a Republican from Canyon City.

For Public Forest Commission No. 7, Jim Sproul, a Republican from Can-

yon City, will run against current commissioner Larry Blasing, a Republican from Prairie City.

Dave Hannibal, a Democrat from Mt. Vernon, will run against current forest commissioner Mike Smith, a Republican from Prairie City, for forest commission alternate No. 1.

Russ Young, a Republican from Canyon City, and Sam Palmer, a Republican from John Day, will compete for forest commission alternate No. 2.

Four people have entered the race for treasurer: Tandi Merkord, Kimberly; Doug Carpenter, John Day; Mary Weaver, John Day; and Julie Ellison, Canyon City. All four names will appear on the May primary ballot. If one candidate receives a majority of the

votes cast for the office, that candidate alone will be nominated to appear on the November general election ballot. If no candidate receives a majority in May, the two candidates who receive the most votes will be nominated for the November ballot.

Current Sheriff Glenn Palmer will run against former Undersheriff and current Parole and Probation Director Todd McKinley for the sheriff position, but not until the general election in November.

Voters may also see partisan precinct committee person positions on their May ballot, but fewer people applied for these than the number of open positions for both the Democrat and Republican parties.