



THE EASTER ELK

An elk joined the fun at Dayville's Bunny Hop 5K Saturday. He completed the course on South Fork Road, keeping pace with the other participants, all the way into Dayville City Park but stopped just short of crossing the finish line. See the full story and more photos on Page B1.

The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler

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From Cambodia, with love

Young Canyon City woman offers hope to orphan children

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — Emily Mosley spent time holding hands of orphaned children in the slums of Cambodia, sharing songs, games and a gospel message.

The 2015 home school graduate from Canyon City said the two-month mission to the third-world country was an eye-opening experience.

While encouraging the poverty-stricken and mistreated children she met, Mosley said she also discovered who she is.

She began her service attending Youth With A Mission (YWAM), a discipleship training school in Lakeside, Montana.

The school is a worldwide program, which the YWAM website says includes "Christians from many cultures, age groups, and Christian traditions, dedicated to serving Jesus throughout the world."

The five-month program included three months of training in Montana and two months, Dec. 7 to Feb. 7, overseas. She joined the team of 11 traveling to Cambodia.

"Our main purpose was children's ministry, working with a lot of kids, teaching music, games, skits and dancing," Mosley said.

She spent the first three weeks in the capital city Phnom Penh, working with at-risk children in a building where they were welcome every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Two nights a week, they held a program attended by 200-300 children.

"Some kids were orphans running around in the street. Some were mistreated by their families," Mosley said.



Contributed photos

A young Cambodian girl, nicknamed "Pearl," enjoyed holding Emily Mosley's hand. Mosley, who served a mission in Cambodia from Dec. 7 to Feb. 7, called her "saatna," meaning beautiful girl.

They visited with the children, made crafts with them and also served lunch to 40 children which the organization sponsored to attend public school.

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Palmer deputizes man awaiting trial on felony theft charges

Court date moved to August for former fire chief who pleaded not guilty

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle



Sheriff Glenn Palmer

One of Grant County's newest deputies is awaiting trial on felony charges.

On March 1, Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer deputized Roy Peterson, who was set to begin trial March 28 in Grant County Circuit Court on theft charges stemming from the acquisition of equipment for a fire district. However, state prosecutors requested a continuance for a family emergency, and the trial is now scheduled to begin Aug. 22.

The state's attorney, Senior Assistant Attorney General Daniel P. Wendel, mentioned that Peterson had been deputized at a pretrial conference March 24. Wendel said he wanted an order prohibiting Peterson from arriving to court with a firearm or in uniform.

Peterson's attorney, D. Zachary Hostetter of Enterprise, said if such a motion were filed, he would want a hearing on the matter, because Peterson was part of the county search and rescue team.

Palmer's official deputy appointment of Peterson mentions "Search & Rescue" and "Radio Tech/Communications," though the document also says Peterson is appointed "to do and perform any act which (Palmer) might perform as Sheriff."

At a hearing March 18, Wendel brought up a potential conflict of interest in that Hostetter's firm represents Palmer, who was also listed as a potential witness in the case. Wendel said he did not plan to call Palmer to the stand as a witness, as the Oregon Department of Justice is investigating a complaint filed against the sheriff.

Hostetter said he did not intend to call Palmer as a witness and that there was no possibility of a mistrial due to a conflict.

At the same hearing, Wendel said the state's case against Peterson was down to four counts, instead of the original 10 in the grand jury indictment Feb. 18, 2015.

At a hearing Aug. 6, 2015, Peterson pleaded not guilty to all of the original charges: two counts of first-degree aggravated theft and one count each of first-degree theft, unauthorized use of a vehicle and possession

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Emily Mosley, back center, with her Youth With A Mission team which served orphan children in several areas of Cambodia from Dec. 7, 2015, to Feb. 7, 2016.

County unemployment decrease best in state

February rate best since 1990

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

The labor market in Grant County has improved significantly since last year.

The unemployment rate improved more than any other county in the state, from 10.2 percent in February 2015 to 8 percent in February 2016, according to information released Monday from the Oregon Employment Department.

Grant County Economic Development Coordinator

Sally Bartlett said when she came to the county about eight years ago, the unemployment rate was close to 20 percent. She said the new numbers are encouraging.

"I think it's a good sign that we can rely on for now," she said. "It gives us hope for the future."

Grant County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was the best for the month since 1990, according to the employment department.

The county gained an estimated 30 jobs over the year. Private sector gains and losses balanced out for

no net change. The public sector added about 30 jobs from local and state government.

Although Grant County is still among the highest unemployment rates in the state — and much higher than the statewide rate of 4.8 percent and the national rate of 4.9 percent — Bartlett said rural economies differ from larger areas.

"These little rural communities like we're in don't pop back as quickly as urban areas do with a lot more opportunities," she said. "That's why Oregon's unemployment rate is down, and that's why we can't

compare ourselves to urban areas or more populated places, because it's just different out here."

Other Eastern Oregon counties also improved. Harney County's unemployment rate fell from 8.3 percent to 6.6 percent, and Malheur County's rate fell from 6.9 percent to 5.6 percent.

Bartlett encouraged anyone with business ideas to stop by the Economic Development office for help with business plans and financing or technical assistance. The office is at 530 E. Main St., Suite 4, John Day.



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