

LETTERS

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100+ employees of Iron Triangle working;
 • kept the numerous sub-contractors and their employees working;
 • provided opportunities for other primary contractors working on forest related projects; and
 • all this increasing support employment in Grant County.

We will continue to defend ourselves and the many families who will be affected by job loss if these people continue to tear apart our communities and the good work being accomplished.

They have nothing to lose while the working families in this county do. I only ask that each of you check the facts before believing these lies and accusations leveled against those who are trying to make our county a better place to live.

King Williams
Canyon City

‘Vicious attack’ requires explanation

To the Editor:
 I’m alarmed for what has happened to the Blue Mountain Eagle, its staff and pub-

lisher as reported April 27 under “We stand firmly behind the Eagle.” Steve Forrester and Kathryn Brown, principal owners of EO Media Group, stated a “vicious attack” has occurred to the aforementioned people.

Vicious is defined, “brutal, ferocious, savage, violent, dangerous, ruthless, cruel, cold blooded, inhuman, barbaric, blood thirsty, fiendish, monstrous, murderous, homicidal” (there’s more, but one can grasp the idea that it’s all really, really bad).

What happened? Was anyone assaulted? Injured? The Eagle office vandalized? Are customers in danger? Is it safe to read the paper? Has law enforcement been involved? A vicious attack cannot go unreported.

At the end of two long columns about “True journalism” is the statement, “Opinions are one thing. Facts are another.” So obviously the “vicious attack” is a fact or the owners would not have said so.

For the Blue Mountain Eagle to have the status of a bastion of truth that it is purported to be, then full disclosure about this “vicious attack” must be made.

Ron Ballard
Mt. Vernon

Editor’s note: According to Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary,

“vicious” is defined as “1: having the nature or quality of vice or immorality; 2: defective, faulty; 3: impure, noxious; 4a: dangerously aggressive; 4b: marked by violence or ferocity; 5: malicious, spiteful ...” *The letter from Forrester and Brown explains what it describes as such: The Eagle and staff “have come under vicious attack by some members of the Grant County community. ... The comments — appearing mostly in social media platforms such as Facebook — contain false accusations*

about our actions and motives.” Describing something as “vicious,” as well as most other adjectives, however, is usually a statement of opinion. The fact of the matter is that false accusations have been made.

‘Just Say No’ on Measure 12-58

To the Editor:
 During Ronald Reagan’s presidency, 1981-1989, First Lady Nancy Reagan’s campaign, “Just Say No” to

drugs brought the issue of drug abuse in our country to national attention.

My own daughter’s school adopted the program in the ’90s, with law enforcement coming to speak at her school in Gresham in their snappy Mustang bearing Mrs. Reagan’s slogan on the sides. Statistics show drug use, particularly among the young, dropped nationwide during that era.

Perhaps those were most simplistic times. I’m not sure.

But the “Just Say No” campaign discouraging the use of drugs makes more sense than trying to promote drug production, distribution and ultimately use by young people in our communities!

One way to honor Mrs. Reagan’s noble efforts during her time is to vote no on Measure 12-58! I encourage those who care about Grant County and our local communities to do so May 17.

Leslie Barnett
Long Creek

To the Editor,

“Crony Capitalists” and “Boot Lickers” are just two of my favorite names that have been thrown around to describe myself, my company Iron Triangle LLC, and its employees over the past year or so.

Discussions about truth, facts and simple differences of opinions are healthy but when desperation turned this into personal attacks, lies, and slander towards my company, our contractors, myself and those who support us against my nature, I have decided that enough is enough and I would like to offer some background perspective about what my company does and what we support. This isn’t about politics, it’s not about the sheriff, county commissioners, or recalls, although it seems there is an attempt to pool all these issues together to villainize Iron Triangle. It shouldn’t be too hard to remember the news that Malheur Lumber Company was going to close the doors in 2012 and layoff its 100+ employees if something drastic didn’t happen.

Without question that would have made it very hard for our logging company along with all the others to stay in business. The loss of our natural resource industry infrastructure would have been devastating to all facets of Grant County’s economy. Our congressional delegation in Washington DC, along with several local folks came together with the US Forest Service (USFS) to come up with a plan. It was out of desperation to save this community that the Washington office and Regional office of the USFS came up with the plan for the Malheur 10 Year Stewardship Contract. The contract came with a commitment from the Regional office to increase the timber target on the Malheur National Forest to 75 Million Board Feet (enough to operate the last remaining mill and then some). Iron Triangle along with many others locally weren’t sure that this was the best way to go forward, as it would create the perception of winners and losers. One company was going to get the contract and that sounded scary. In the end this was the option that was put forward. For the sake of my employees and the future of my company, we couldn’t afford not to put in a proposal. Looking back at the five (5) years prior to the stewardship contract, Iron Triangle bought and operated 80-85% of the timber sales on the Malheur National Forest. In the end, we received the contract. I have invested millions of dollars in equipment, increased employment, and overall payroll increases to meet the obligations of the contract and have contracted out to several local businesses to complete portions of the contract.

I have also seen comments made by an individual running for the Grant County Public Forest Commission that he has concerns about companies like Iron Triangle, Grayback Forestry, and King Inc making money on large forest fires. I would challenge that person to look the employees in the face that worked on those fires for those companies and tell them that they wanted their communities to burn to get a paycheck. In reality, any firefighting opportunities pale in comparison to the loss of long term opportunity that is lost when these fires burn and eliminate the ability for long term forest management. Our employees love this community and are good at what they do. They don’t even like going on fires, but they like having a job and in this part of the state we can log until fire season and then we either lay people off or we keep them working. I take considerable offense to the implication that these companies could have done anything more than what they did to help this community not suffer any more losses. Walking into briefing every single morning on the Canyon Creek Complex, I saw the faces of almost all the locals with equipment in Grant County doing their part, and yes, we all get paid for what we do. I would ask, are you opposed to all those loggers and contractors that worked on fires, or just us?

We **DO NOT** trade timber for decommissioning roads; in fact, we are constantly looking closely at the documents used by the USFS to analyze the projects and decommissioning of roads is not what we want. We **DO** work within the process of federal regulations to comment and/or object to these projects on a regular basis. We also have spent considerable time and money to fight for a more beneficial Forest Plan Revision that will allow for the forest to be managed in a way that will work for the people of Grant County.

PROJECTS WE COMMENTED ON AND/OR OBJECTED TO WHERE ACCESS WAS PART OF THE COMMENT OR OBJECTION

PROJECT NAME	ACRES WITHIN PROJECT
Dove Project	43,892
Galena Project	35,790
Jane Project	31,400
Wolf Project	39,465
Elk 16 Project	42,257
Summit Project	38,005
Magone Project	27,087
TOTAL ACRES	257,896

Proposed Action for Malheur Travel Management Plan Blue Mountain National Forests Proposed Land Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

I am sick and tired of being berated by people in this community, who either don’t know what they are talking about or choose to ignore the facts because it doesn’t fit their narrative. Sitting back and offering social media sniper fire towards those that are trying to make this a better community while doing little to nothing to make it better yourself is shameful. We may not have all the answers but our effort and hearts are in the right place. Iron Triangle employs 100 people in this community and we donate significant amounts of money to many local teams, organizations and causes. I will not apologize for being a for-profit business as this is what America is built on, small business. My company will continue to be involved in anything that works to effect change in the policies of the public lands in Grant County; and regardless of the mudslinging that goes on will continue to contribute positively through employment, contributions and public involvement joining with many others in our county who are working to keep Grant County moving forward. In closing, whoever has control of the forests in Grant County, whether it’s federal, state or county, Iron Triangle will be here logging and building roads because that’s who we are and it’s what we do.

Russ Young
 Owner, Iron Triangle LLC



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.

Circuit Court

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

- Susan Lynn Porter, 57, pleaded guilty to menacing, offense date March 26, 2016. She was sentenced to jail for three days, bench probation for 18 months and 80 hours community service, ordered to have no contact with the victims and fined \$450. The court dismissed two counts for harassment.

- Matthew Brian Cafagno, 29, pleaded guilty to harassment, offense date March 15, 2016. He was sentenced to bench probation for 12 months and 40 hours community service, ordered to have no contact with the victim and fined \$600. The court dismissed one count of fourth-degree assault.

Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Sheriff’s Office reported the following for the week of April 22-28:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 10
- Average inmates: 13
- Bookings: 5
- Releases: 5
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 2
- Fingerprints: 10
- Civil papers: 3
- Warrants processed: 1
- Asst./welfare check: 3
- Arden Eby, 81, Camby, was cited on April 25 for having a dog as a public nuisance.
- Cody DeMeritt, 22, Spray, was cited on April 26 for driving uninsured and failure to carry an operator’s license.

Justice Court

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

- Brad Hartwick was charged with violating the terms of his sentence order by not making monthly payments. He was ordered to pay \$200 by May 5, at which time the remaining \$260 will be forgiven.

- An arrest warrant was issued for Gabriel Lee Kyriss, 35, of Lebanon, for failure to appear on a charge of second-degree criminal mischief.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 138 calls during the week of April 25-May 1. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

John Day Police:

April 25: Theft reported at Riverside Mobile Home Park in John Day.

April 26: Burglary reported at Riverside Mobile Home Park.

April 27: Arrested a Baker City man on suspicion of burglary and a Umatilla County warrant.

April 28: Fight reported at Prairie City School; responded to a report of shots fired and injured victims at Riverside Mobile Home Park.

May 1: Arrested a Prairie City woman for fourth-degree assault.

Grant County Sheriff:

April 27: Arrested a Roseburg man on a Grant County warrant.

John Day ambulance:

April 25: Responded for a 50-year-old woman with chest pains.

April 28: Responded for a 64-year-old man with difficulty swallowing.

April 29: Responded for a woman with an infection.

Prairie City ambulance:

April 30: Paged for a four-wheeler accident on Forest Road 2645.

JDRENTS Pro Saw Shop and a Whole Lot More
 AND POWER EQUIPMENT, INC.
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VOTE NO

- Save our children
- Save our communities
- Vote **NO** on drug issues!

Paid for by Dan Morrow